Company Research

1) Company Research: Takealot

Quick Facts

- **Industry:** E-commerce Technology

- **Company Size:** 1000+ employees

- **Location:** Cape Town, South Africa

- **Research Date:** may 2025

Takealot is South Africa's leading online retailer, operating in the e-commerce technology sector. Their main platforms include Takealot.com for general products, Superbalist for fashion, and Mr D for food delivery. Recently, the company has expanded its same-day delivery service and is growing its technology teams significantly.

I'm interested in Takealot because their tech stack aligns with my skills. They use Java for backend services and React for frontend development, and my experience with MySQL databases fits well with their e-commerce operations. My Automated Traffic System project demonstrates that I can work on complex web applications, similar to what Takealot requires.

Culturally, Takealot appeals to me because of their fast-paced, innovative environment, tech hubs, and opportunities for women in tech. I feel it would be a great place to learn, grow, and contribute meaningfully.

Key Highlights:

- Technology Stack: Java, React, AWS

- Company Values: Customer-focused, innovative, collaborative

- Questions I Would Ask:

    1. How does your team handle the scale of thousands of daily transactions?

    2. What opportunities are there for junior developers to learn and grow?

    3. How do you incorporate AI and machine learning in your platform?

2) Company Research: Amazon

Quick Facts

- **Industry:** Global Big Tech & Cloud Computing

- **Company Size:** 1.6+ million employees globally

- **Location:** Cape Town, South Africa (AWS Engineering Hub)

- **Research Date:** June 2025

Amazon is a global leader in e-commerce, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence. Their Cape Town AWS Engineering Hub develops services like Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) and contributes to generative AI tools such as Amazon Bedrock. Amazon has been recognized for innovation in AI and has a massive global scale in cloud infrastructure.

I'm interested in Amazon because their Cape Town team explicitly uses Java, React, and AWS, which matches my skills perfectly. My experience with MySQL also aligns with their database systems. Additionally, their structured programs for women in tech, such as AWS She Builds, make the company attractive to me. I would get exposure to cutting-edge technologies and the opportunity to work on projects at a global scale, which would greatly enhance my learning and growth.

Key Highlights:

- Technology Stack: Java, Python, React, AWS, Generative AI
- Company Values: Innovation, global impact, inclusion for women in tech

Questions I Would Ask:

1. How does the Cape Town EC2 team collaborate with other global AWS teams?
2. What opportunities are there to work with Generative AI tools like Amazon Bedrock?
3. How can I get involved with the AWS She Builds program as a new hire?

3) Company Research: Woolworths

Quick Facts

- **Industry:** Retail & Digital Transformation

- **Company Size:** Major South African employer

- **Location:** Cape Town headquarters (Woolworths House)

- **Research Date:** August 2025

Woolworths

Woolworths is a major South African retailer focusing on food, clothing, and financial services, while also investing heavily in digital transformation. They are currently implementing next-generation retail technology platforms and expanding their data engineering and AI capabilities.

I'm interested in Woolworths because their technology stack includes **React for frontend development** and uses **AWS services** in some of their data engineering roles. My skills fit well with their projects, and the chance to upskill in technologies like **C#.NET** is appealing. I also admire their strong presence in Cape Town's tech community and their commitment to supporting women in tech.

Key Highlights:

- **Technology Stack:** C#.NET, React/Angular, SQL Server, AWS/Azure

- **Company Values:** Customer experience, operational efficiency, community development

- **Questions I Would Ask:**

    1. How does the team balance using both AWS and Azure cloud platforms?

    2. What are the biggest technical challenges in transforming retail operations?

    3. How does Woolworths support women in technology leadership?

4) Company Research: DataBalk

Quick Facts

- **Industry:** Technology/Software Consultancy

- **Company Size:** 51-200 employees

- **Location:** Utrecht, Netherlands (with data centers in Cape Town)

- **Research Date:** October 2025

DataBalk is a software consultancy based in Utrecht, Netherlands, with data centers in Cape Town. They provide client-focused technology solutions based on industry-standard

tech stacks. There is limited public information about their operations, which makes it harder to assess culture, team structure, and career progression.

I'm cautiously interested in DataBalk because working for a smaller company might provide **faster growth opportunities and exposure to diverse projects**. My experience with **Java, React, and MySQL** is likely to be useful, but I would need to confirm whether there are software development roles available in Cape Town. It's also important to understand mentorship opportunities and how the company supports junior developers, especially women in tech.

Key Highlights:

- **Probable Technology Stack:** Java, React, MySQL

- **Unknown Factors:** Company culture, project details, Women in Tech initiatives

- **Questions I Would Ask:**

    1. Do you have software development roles based in Cape Town?

    2. Can you provide details about your current projects and tech stack?

    3. What mentorship or growth opportunities exist for junior developers?