



National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Message from Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director

Welcome back to all our readers! I hope you all had the opportunity to relax and spend time with your families during the festive season (although the holiday already feels like a distant memory!). Looking at our usual round-up of science, engineering, technology and innovation news, it seems January has been a busy month. This issue includes links to articles dealing with the energy crisis; innovative finds by young SA scientists; SA's chances of surviving climate change, and much more.

I wish to draw the attention of our readers to the extension of the deadline for nominations for certain categories of the 2014/15 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards (see item below). Please participate in order to ensure robust competition.

[2014/15 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards: Call for nomination: Deadline extended for some categories](#)

The deadline for nominations for the 2014-15 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards for some categories has been extended to 6 February 2015. More participation is called for, from businesses, specifically SMMEs for commercialising inventions flowing from scientific research done in South Africa, as well as non-governmental organisations for South African innovation, including Technology transfer activities contributing to the dissemination and application of scientific and technical knowledge; and Scientific and technical education and training work. [Read more.](#)

First NSTF Discussion Forum for 2015: Ethics and Professional Integrity in Science, Engineering and Technology: Week of 16-20 March

In the first NSTF Discussion Forum of 2015 we will be discussing whether existing measures to ensure research ethics at research and tertiary education institutions are sufficient. Other topics of discussion include whether existing codes of conduct in professional societies are sufficient; whether such measures are sufficiently enforced, whether they cause unnecessary delays because of red tape, and whether professionals are sufficiently aware of critical issues. Watch your mailbox for the invitation.

[2013/14 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards winners](#)

Outstanding contributions to scientific research, technological innovation, management, education, capacity building and science communication were announced in July 2014, at the 16th Annual NSTF Awards Gala Dinner, celebrated in partnership with BHP Billiton since 2011. We are introducing each of the twelve winners to our readers through a series of articles. This month we feature [Professor Anne Grobler](#), Director of the DST/NWU Preclinical Drug Development Platform at North-West University. The

Issue: February 2015



Jansie Niehaus

SETI Policy news

Upcoming SETI events

Community News

Share your organisation's bursary information -
www.sciencebursaries.org.za - S.E.T. for life!

The [NSTF Science Bursaries website](#) allows bursary providers to register and upload the bursaries they are offering, with total control over their bursary information. The site also provides career guidance in SETI-related fields, and regularly profiles young SETI achievers, as well as accomplished senior role models in the field.

Do let us know if you are planning a youth outreach event; we will be more than happy to arrange for one of the NSTF-BHP Billiton Award winners to be present at your event.

Contact us at enquiries@nstf.co.za for more information.

PCDDP focuses on pre-clinical studies and an intellectual property portfolio around Pheroid technology for use in health and agriculture. Prof Grobler won the award for an outstanding contribution to SET through management and related activities over the last 5 to 10 years.

Remember to share your organisation's bursary information and reach out to SA's youth – www.sciencebursaries.org.za – S.E.T. for life! We also encourage you to refer learners and students to this portal for career guidance and to be inspired by stories of role models and the experiences of young talent in the field. Contact us at enquiries@nstf.co.za for more information or to request posting of your bursary information.

SETI Policy News

- [Parliament concerned over insufficient tertiary funding](http://www.gov.za) (www.gov.za)
Also read:
 - [NSFAS increases allocation for 2015 loans, bursaries](http://sanews.gov.za) (sanews.gov.za)
 - [Zuma says universities are too costly - Nzimande disagrees](http://m.mg.co.za) (m.mg.co.za)
- [Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act sent back to National Assembly](http://Polity.org) (Polity.org)
Also read:
 - [Parliament free to decline changes to MPRDA bill](http://Engineering News) (Engineering News)
 - [New minerals bill may undermine BEE - Zuma](http://Fin24) (Fin24)
 - [Statement](#) issued by the Presidency
 - [Media release](#) issued by the Chamber of Mines
 - [Oil and gas legislative certainty expected soon - Minister](http://Polity.org) (Polity.org)
- [War room to address electricity challenges](http://sanews.gov.za) (sanews.gov.za)
Also read:
 - [DoE tests market for near-term power-demand reduction offers](http://Engineering News) (Engineering News)
 - [Minister of Energy meets with energy-intensive users group](http://www.energy.gov.za) (www.energy.gov.za)
 - [Private sector has critical role to play in alleviating power crunch](http://Polity.org) (Polity.org)
 - [Sacci seeks members' input on possible solutions for country's electricity woes](http://Engineering News) (Engineering News)
- [Study holds up policy certainty as key green technology enabler](http://Polity.org) (Polity.org)
- [Treasury unlikely to raise, amend mining taxes in 2015/16](http://Engineering News) (Engineering News)
- [SA stands to be world leader in production of high-grade titanium powder, says Pandor](http://www.gov.za) (www.gov.za)
- [Pandor emphasises need for resource-rich countries to diversify economies](http://Mining Weekly) (Mining Weekly)
- [Red steenbras and recreational fishing: Missing the point](http://dailymaverick.co.za) (dailymaverick.co.za)



Upcoming SETI events

- [11th International Tribology Conference: Pretoria, 10-12 March 2015](#)
- [2nd Annual Wind Energy Summit: Cape Town, 16-17 April 2015](#)
- [South Africa International Conference on Educational Technologies 2015 \(SAICET 2015\): Pretoria, 19-21 April 2015](#)
- [ACU SARIMA Conference 2015: Research and Innovation for Global Challenges: Johannesburg, 11-14 May 2014](#)
- [Power-Gen Africa 2015: Cape Town, 15-17 July 2015](#)
- Eding! International Science Festival (*supported by the Department of Science and Technology/SAASTA*): 20-24 April 2015 at Polokwane Showgrounds and 21-24 July 2015 at North-West University, Mafikeng Campus. Contact Bushy Moabelo at 081 333 4930 for more information.
- [CTBT: Science and Technology 2015 Conference: Vienna, Austria, 22-26 June 2015](#)
- [9th Annual UKZN Teaching & Learning Conference: Durban, 21-23 September 2015](#)
- [First Call for Abstracts: Smart and Sustainable Built Environments: University of Pretoria, 9-11 December](#)



2015

Send us your news

The NSTF invites you to send us information on news, meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader SETI community. The deadline for all items is the 20th of every month, for publication in the NSTF eNews that is distributed at the end of the month. Send your contributions to enquiries@nstf.co.za.

Community News

Science

- [Read the latest issue of SAASTA's newsletter](#)
- [Probing the universe with the Square Kilometre Array](#) (tracker1.co.za)
- [17 startling facts about the state of science and research in Africa](#) (mgafrica.com)
- [Sappi to launch pilot plant for low-cost CNF production by end 2015](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [What kind of water is on the comet?](#) (bbc.com)
- [Could the next lunar mission come from SA?](#) (edition.cnn.com)



Innovation

- [Early-warning system to prevent devastating shack fires](#) (howwemadeitinafrica.com)
- [Without innovation there is little hope for growth](#) (*BD Live*)
- [Young scientist heading to Chicago](#) (*News24*)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Renewable energy benefits SA - CSIR](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)
- [Joburg named SA's greenest metro](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Solution to Africa feeding itself is clear-cut](#) (*Mail&Guardian*)
- [What are SA's chances of surviving climate change?](#) (htxt.co.za)
- [SA top renewable energy investment destination, says global firm](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Two new massive solar plants for SA](#) (mybroadband.co.za)
- [In blackout-hit SA, could hydrogen be the answer?](#) (africanbrains.net)
- [NASA finds good news on carbon dioxide and forests](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)
- [Wanted: Equity in climate financing](#) (*Daily Maverick*)
- [Cost of connecting renewables to grid often overlooked, says French utility](#) (*Polity.org*)

Higher Education

- [TUT partners with TVET colleges](#) (africanbrains.net)
- [Infrastructure expenditure high on DHET priority list](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Matric mystery: What happens to all the girls who get bachelor passes?](#) (*News24*)
- [SA's nanosatellite: One year, 250 million kilometres](#) (*Mybroadband*)
- [Major research boosts data collection in universities](#) (*University World News*)

Resources and opportunities

- [INSPIRE: Applications invited: Full scholarship to study in Europe](#) (*Closing date: 15 March 2015*)

What do you [think of this newsletter?](#)

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please email the NSTF Secretariat at enquiries@nstf.co.za

Send us your news

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SETI role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader S&T community. We require one month's notice to communicate your news to all stakeholders on our database, and publish it in our newsletter. Contact Wilna Eksteen (details below) for more information.

Disclaimer:

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. The NSTF reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary. Contact details submitted by individuals for subscription purposes will be treated confidentially.

The **National Science and Technology Forum** (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all SETI organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The **NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards** are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SETI.

www.sciencebursaries.org.za - SET for life! This exciting web portal is a 'one-stop shop' for learners and students who are interested in pursuing a career in the sciences, engineering or technology.

Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers.

For more information, contact the NSTF Secretariat at:

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Non Profit Company Registration Number: 2007/029165/08

NPO registration nr. 92042

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