



National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Message from Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director

The [NSTF Discussion Forum on Information and Communication Technologies \(ICT\) Security and Privacy Issues](#), held on 15 May 2015 in Gauteng, was extremely interesting and imparted cyber-safety information that everyone should know. [Click here](#) to read the media release, view individual presentations and video clips, and read a summary and the complete proceedings of the discussions. In his keynote address, Prof Basie von Solms of the University of Johannesburg pointed out that South Africa has the third-highest prevalence of cybercrime in the world after Russia and China. He said that the State Security Agency had scheduled a meeting of stakeholders in the near future to encourage cooperation between government and the private sector in the development of a national cybersecurity programme. Participants agreed that a multi-layered approach is necessary to combat cybercrime and should address, *inter alia*, policy and legislation development, the establishment of entities with a specific mandate to identify and remediate problems, coordination of activities, training of law-enforcement agencies, judiciary and government officials, and development of future cyber professionals.

In our monthly Policy Brief (see below under SETI Policy News) we focus on the controversial Protection of State Information Bill (B6-2010).

For innovative people - do take part in the Inventors Garage and Pitching Den Competitions at the annual SA Innovation Summit in August! (See more info towards the end of this newsletter, under Resources and Opportunities.)

We hope to see many of you at the Awards Gala Dinner on 9 July!

Finalists announced: 2014/15 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards - Today's research ... tomorrow's innovation

Congratulations to the finalists! The awards gala dinner date has been set with the patron, Ms Naledi Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology, for Thursday, 9 July 2015 in Gauteng. The event is a prestigious community affair attended by the 'who's who' of SETI to honour the finalists, and hear the announcement of the 2014/15 NSTF-BHP Billiton Award winners. Organisations wishing to associate/network with this select audience of over 40 different organisations and stakeholders, and support the promotion of science and technology through the NSTF, are invited to contact us to arrange your tailor-made sponsorship or complete the [online booking form](#) to book tables/seats. Contact Makwena Ramaru at +2712 841 3987/2632 or enquiries@nstf.co.za.

SET for socio-economic growth: proSET invests in capacity building - maths and chemistry teachers, as well as research

Issue: June 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.

in education

Last year the NSTF proSET Executive Committee resolved to invest a portion of the funds of the AS&TS Trust annually to support worthy member projects and activities. proSET represents the Professional Bodies and Learned Societies sector of the NSTF. Though managed by the NSTF, the AS&TS Trust funds are specifically reserved for projects on behalf of proSET members. The latest project to be granted funding by the proSET Exco is the Secondary Teachers Problem-Solving Course, developed by the SA Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) and facilitated by members of the SA Mathematics Olympiad Committee. [Click here](#) to read more about this initiative.

proSET is also currently supporting the Southern African Association of Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education [13th Annual Research School](#), which takes place from 23–26 June 2015; and the [South African Chemical Institute](#)'s series of workshops on activity-based chemistry teaching for high-school teachers (in Durban from July 1-3, Pretoria 6-9 July and Cape Town 13-15 July 2015) which will be presented by Jerry A. Bell, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, and Senior Scientist (retired) of the American Chemical Society.

[Getting to know the 2013/14 NSTF-BHP Billiton Award winners](#)

Professor Arnaud Malan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Cape Town, and founder and head of [Elemental Numerics](#). He led the development of Elemental software, a giant leap for technology that uses novel mathematical models and equations in the field of computational fluid dynamics. Elemental Software won the 2013/14 NSTF-BHP Billiton award for an outstanding contribution to SET through research leading to innovation. To introduce the award winners to our readers, we highlight one winner every month. [Read more](#).

Latest activities: NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards [Share 'n Dare outreach programme](#)

This programme profiles NSTF-BHP Billiton award winners as ambassadors and role models of science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI). During May, Prof Anne Grobler, Director of the Preclinical Drug Development Platform established jointly by the Department of Science and Technology and North-West University, addressed learners at the Wiggins Secondary School in Mayville, KwaZulu-Natal, on the drug development process. Earlier in the month, Lesedi FM conducted an interview with Makwena Ramaru, NSTF Communications Coordinator, about the NSTF, the NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards and the Share 'n Dare programme. [Read more](#).

Organisations are invited to join hands with the NSTF and broaden the reach of the programme by inviting award winners (through the NSTF Office) to relevant outreach programmes. Contact Ms Fulufhelo Gelebe (+27 12 841-3987 or enquiries@nstf.co.za) to make the necessary arrangements.

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

- [Policy Brief 4/2015: Protection of State Information Bill \(B6-2010\)](#)
The Protection of State Information Bill, formerly named the Protection of Information Bill and commonly referred to as the Secrecy Bill, is a highly controversial piece of proposed legislation which aims to regulate the classification, protection and dissemination of state information, weighing state interests up against transparency and freedom of expression. We provide background to recent developments and useful links to related media reports.
- [Science and technology budget vote speech: Minister Naledi Pandor, 21 May 2015](#) (www.gov.za)
- [Budget vote speech: Minister of Higher Education and Training, 13 May 2015](#) (www.gov.za)
- [Manufacturing recovery requires laser-like focus on industrial strategy and collaboration](#) (Polity.org)
- [SA energy policy informed by entrenched mining interests - NPC commissioner](#) (Engineering News)
- [Plans being developed to increase funding for SA science and technology](#) (Engineering News)
- [Infrastructure maintenance, water technology in DWS crosshairs](#) (Engineering News)
- [dti explains rationale for changes to flagship manufacturing incentive](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA to launch nuclear procurement in second quarter](#) (Polity.org)
- [DTPS allocates R200m for first-phase broadband roll-out](#) (Engineering News)



Fracking news

- [Molewa launches strategic environmental assessment of shale gas development](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [TKAG wants Karoo exploration delayed until conclusion of environmental assessment](#) (Polity.org)
- [Portfolio committee asks for clarity on fracking](#) (Engineering News)

Upcoming SETI events

- [Manufacturing Indaba: Ekurhuleni, 29-30 June 2015](#)
- [Power-Gen Africa 2015: Cape Town, 15-17 July 2015](#)
- [9th Annual Skills Development Summit: Pretoria, 4-5 August 2015](#)
- [Geomatics Indaba 2015: Ekurhuleni, 11-13 August 2015](#)
- [8th SA Innovation Summit: Cape Town, 26-29 August 2015](#)
- [7th International Design Education Forum of Southern Africa \(Defsa\) Conference: Ethics and accountability in Design: Do they matter? Gauteng, 2-4 Sept 2015](#)
- [Online course in Science Communication: An introduction to theory, best practice and practical skills: Stellenbosch University, 5 October – 15 December 2015](#) (*Applications close 31 August 2015*)
- [9th Annual UKZN Teaching & Learning Conference: Durban, 21-23 September 2015](#)
- [8th Annual SATN International Conference 2015: Entrepreneurship Education for Economic Renewal: Vaal University of Technology, 19-21 October 2015](#)
- [16th Annual International Conference: Rapid Product Development Association of SA \(RAPDASA\): Pretoria, 4-6 November 2015](#)
- [Smart and Sustainable Built Environments: University of Pretoria, 9-11 December 2015](#)
- [35th International Geological Congress: Cape Town, 27 August-4 Sept 2016](#)



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

- [Vital partnerships on horizon for science and technology](#) (*Mail & Guardian*)
- [Fynbos soil could provide new antibiotics - researcher](#) (*News24*)
- [New scanner can help diagnose cancer earlier](#) (*News24*)
- [10th International Conference on Cyber-War and Security co-hosted by CSIR](#) (*csir.co.za*)
- [Two new studies of rocks show earliest forms of life in Antarctic ice caves and SA lava](#) (*scripps.ucsd.edu*)
- [DST to set up forum for HIV research](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)
- [SA Agulhas II returns from Marion Island](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)



Innovation

- [SA invention wins African Innovation Foundation grand prize](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Teamwork, creative setting and freedom to fail seen as key innovation ingredients](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Great new SA innovations](#) (*mybroadband.co.za*)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Seifsa reiterates concerns on energy constraint, costs](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [SA firm launches revolutionary energy-storage technology](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Energy firm expects to explore Karoo in parallel with shale-gas risk assessment](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Africa has hidden wealth in groundwater](#) (*BD Live*)
- [Waste has economic value - Minister](#) (*Engineering News*)

Higher Education

- [Improved maths and science results crucial to technology entrepreneurship](#) (*Mail & Guardian*)
- [Higher education institutions in Eastern Cape to get free WiFi](#) (*www.southafrica.info*)
- [Bridging the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and mathematics](#) (*Scidev.net*)
- [SA academia edging towards demographic cliff, says Pandor](#) (*Mail & Guardian*)

Resources and Opportunities

- Inventors Garage and Pitching Den Competitions: SA Innovation Summit (*closing date: 30 June 2015*)
The 8th Annual SA Innovation Summit takes place from the 26th to the 29th of August this year, at the Cape Town Stadium. We would like to invite you or your team to enter the SA Innovation Summit Competitions 2015. [Read more](#)
- [Online course in Science Communication: An introduction to theory, best practice and practical skills: Stellenbosch University, 5 October – 15 December 2015](#) (*Applications close 31 August 2015*)

SETI people in the news

- [University of Free State academic wins chemistry award](#) (*Mail & Guardian*)
- [Iziko palaeontologist awarded A-rating by NRF](#) (*Artlink.co.za*)
- [TIA appoints Barlow Manilal as new CEO](#) (*tia.org.za*)

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.

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