



Message from NSTF Executive Director

Read about the outcomes of the NSTF-CSIR National Laser Centre discussion forum on innovation in the field of light-based technologies; a call for nominations for a very prestigious science prize; and how to celebrate the world's greatest pulse dishes. [Read More](#)



Nominees for the 2015/2016 NSTF Awards, in partnership with South32, to be announced later this week

In the year of our 21st anniversary, the NSTF, in partnership with South32, is pleased to confirm that the [NSTF Awards](#) nominees for the 2015/2016 round will be announced later this week. This year's NSTF Awards proudly present the following new features:

- The Capacity Development Awards now include new awards in engineering. Eskom's sponsorship will support two awards, one male and one female, in capacity development in the engineering space. The NSTF will make one additional award for capacity development in other disciplines.
- The NSTF is making a special award for a contribution in crop science and food security this year, in honour of the 2016 International Year of Pulses, as declared by the United Nations.

Watch your mailbox for the announcement later this week!

Brilliant – investing in our future innovators

How do SA's best and brightest maths and science learners achieve such remarkable results, often under difficult circumstances? [Roneva Ndou](#) from Limpopo is currently studying BSc (Electrical and Computer Engineering) at the University of Cape Town, and believes you can achieve anything as long as you have faith in yourself and stay focused on the important things in life..

Share h Dare activities– Engaging communities through science

[Click here](#) to read more about NSTF Award winners Professors Deon de Beer and Nigel Bennett motivating and encouraging students and learners in Gauteng and the Eastern Cape during the month of March.



Featured SET policy: White Paper on National Environmental Management of the Ocean (2014)

The 2014 White Paper on the National Environmental Management of the Ocean, also known as Nemo, aims to govern activities and marine stakeholders to ensure optimal and sustainable use of SA's marine environment. The paper identifies six ocean governance objectives, the successful implementation of which "...will allow South Africa, in the next five years, to complete the move from sectoral ocean planning and management towards coordinated sectoral environmental management" [Read More](#).

Other SET-related policies currently open for public comment

- [Special Economic Zones Act: Intention to designate South African Energy and Metallurgical Special Economic Zone in Musina/Makhado in Limpopo](#) Comments by 11 Apr 2016
- [National Sanitation Policy: Draft: Extension of deadline](#) Comments by 11 April 2016
- [Auditing Profession Act: Code of professional conduct for registered auditors: Amendments](#) Comments by 22 Apr 2016
- [Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act: Codes of good practice: Information and Communications Technology](#) Comments by 14 May 2016
- [Marine Spatial Planning Bill: Draft](#) Comments by 23 May 2016
- [Spatial Data Infrastructure Act: National standard on land cover classes and definitions](#) Comment by 24 May 2016

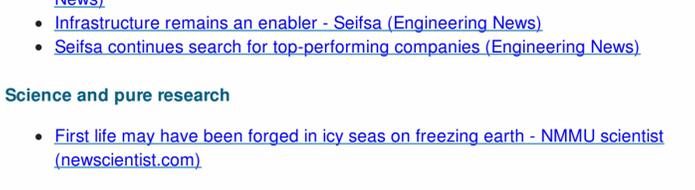
Other SET-related policy news

- [Localisation can be game-changer for SA - dti](#) (Polity.org)
- [Thorny issue of university autonomy and transformation](#) (University World News)
- [What is the purpose of the new Sovereign Innovation Fund?](#) (Sowetanlive)
- [Africa explores its power to influence technology: Next EinsteinForum](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [Why SA is finding it difficult to wean itself off coal](#) (Polity.org)
- [Nuclear regulator confirms receipt of Thyspunt, Duynefontein applications](#) (Engineering News)
- [French showcase nuclear localisation model as they eye SA programme](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA to issue request for proposals on nuclear build by month's end](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA's new nuclear programme to stimulate coastal industrialisation](#) (Polity.org)



Upcoming SET Events

- [Southern African Research & Innovation Management Association \(SARIMA\) Annual Conference: Umhlanga, KZN: 16-20 May 2016](#)
- [7th World Nano Conference: Cape Town, 20-22 June 2016](#)
- [International Conference on Mining and Metallurgy: Cape Town, 27-29 June 2016](#)
- [5th International Conference on Agriculture & Horticulture: Cape Town, 27-29 June 2016](#)
- [International Bat Research Conference: Durban, 31 July- 5 August 2016](#)
- [35th International Geological Congress: Cape Town, 27 August-4 Sept 2016](#)
- [Celebrating a Centenary of Geography in SA: Stellenbosch, 25-28 Sept 2016](#)
- [Science Forum SA: Pretoria, 6-7 December 2016](#)
- [1st International Conference on Sustainable Materials Processing & Manufacturing: Kruger National Park, 23-25 January 2017](#)

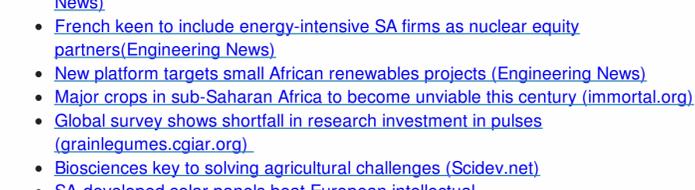


Engineering

- [New report delivers mixed verdict on water-management progress](#) (Engineering News)
- [Infrastructure remains an enabler - Seifsa](#) (Engineering News)
- [Seifsa continues search for top-performing companies](#) (Engineering News)

Science and pure research

- [First life may have been forged in icy seas on freezing earth - NMMU scientist](#) (news.scientist.com)



SET Community News

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

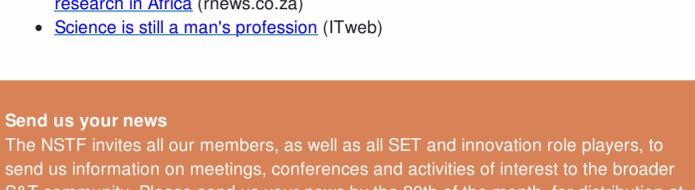
- [Science meets farming to reveal Africa's best bean](#) (Scidev.net)
- [Indigenous knowledge and ICT fighting drought in SA](#) (indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com)
- [Small, safe and simple modular nuclear reactors offer potential](#) (Engineering News)
- [French keen to include energy-intensive SA firms as nuclear equity partners](#) (Engineering News)
- [New platform targets small African renewables projects](#) (Engineering News)
- [Major crops in sub-Saharan Africa to become unviable this century](#) (immortal.org)
- [Global survey shows shortfall in research investment in pulses](#) (grainlegumes.cgiar.org)
- [Biosciences key to solving agricultural challenges](#) (Scidev.net)
- [SA-developed solar panels beat European intellectual property challenge](#) (Engineering News)
- [Abalone spearheading SA's aquaculture sector](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA regulator finalising shale-gas exploration applications](#) (Polity.org)

Resources and opportunities

- [Call for assistance: Can you help to send UP's team of talented synthetic biologists to represent SA at the 2016 iGEM Boston Jamboree?](#)
- [Isolomso Fellowships for Early-Career African Researchers](#)
- [Stellenbosch incubator LaunchLab opens applications for 10k-pitching platform](#) (disrupt-africa.com)

Higher Education

- [Record number of doctoral degrees for Maties](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [UCT makes top-10 in world subject rankings](#) (IOL)
- [Outstanding students honoured with top NMMU scholarship](#) (www.rnews.co.za)



People in SET

- [Top young SA scientists selected for prestigious meeting](#) (dst.gov.za)
- [Dr Kelvin Kemm to lead new nuclear board](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA's future could be written in the stars - Prof Amanda Weltman](#) (IOL)
- [NMMU pharmacy professor helps establish group to pioneer medicines utilisation research in Africa](#) (rnews.co.za)
- [Science is still a man's profession](#) (ITweb)

Send us your news

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SET and innovation role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader S&T community. Please send us your news by the 20th of the month, for distribution at the beginning of the following month, to enquiries@nstf.co.za.

Feedback

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

About the NSTF

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

The NSTF Awards are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation.

The science bursaries page <http://www.nstf.org.za/bursary/> provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

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.

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Non Profit Company Registration Number: 2007/029165/08

NPO Registration Number: 92042

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