



## Science, engineering, technology are key to SA's current challenges

A Business Report special feature  
#NSTF25yrs

Appropriately, April is the month of celebrating South Africa's democracy, which officially began with the first democratic elections on 27 April 1994 – now celebrated annually as Freedom Day. Our democracy is 26 years old this month. As the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) marks 25 years, it is good to look back at the beginnings of the NSTF, the reasons for establishing this umbrella body and the milestones achieved.

**Extra! Extra! Read all about it:** Buy your copy of the 30 April Business Report newspaper to celebrate with the NSTF 25 years of standing together as members to influence science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa (SA). This special feature will not only elaborate on how SET are key to SA's current challenges but also reminisce on milestones achieved through collaborative efforts with members (36% from founding stages) and stakeholders of the community.



Business Report is a NSTF Awards media partner since 2010 and is carried nationwide by The Star, Pretoria News, Cape Times and The Mercury newspapers. This NSTF 25 year anniversary feature is made possible by the following member organisations – the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR – founding member), Central University of Technology (CUT), South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) and South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP). We thank them for their participation in the celebration of a quarter of a century.

NSTF would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all 113 member organisations across seven sectors, and the Department of Science and Innovation and Ministry for their support of NSTF initiatives, for striving to realise the NSTF's vision of a transformed country.

- Uniting behind the drive of the pre-cursor of the NSTF, the National Science and Technology Initiative (NSTI) that participated in South Africa's landmark CODESA (Convention for a Democratic South Africa) in 1993. This was part of the events that marked the end of the apartheid era. The outcome, among others, was to establish this national broadly representative stakeholder body.
- Utilising the formidable expertise and professional experience of your employees and organisation, spanning both the public and private sectors, to influence the formulation and delivery of SET and innovation public policy through NSTF Discussion Forums
- Engaging with government on SET-related policy and facilitating the publishing of the outcomes through media releases
- Making it possible to unpack the National Development Plan (NDP) from a science and technology perspective in a series of articles that were published in the monthly NSTF e-Newsletter to facilitate alignment of stakeholders within the SET community
- Identifying nominees for recognition, awarding and celebrating of their outstanding contributions to SET and innovation since 1998 through the NSTF Awards
- Promoting SET and innovation to the youth and the general public through the NSTF Share 'n Dare Programme
- Recognising and inspiring the top physical science and mathematics matriculants studying SET-related courses to develop their potential to thrive and become future innovators through the NSTF Brilliants Programme
- Joining us in providing information on current and available SET-related bursaries and descriptions of 100 SET career fields through the NSTF Bursary Directory

Your input and contributions have made it possible for NSTF to achieve the milestones it has over the past 25 years, and increase awareness of the issues raised through discussion. Your expert advice and professional opinions have made it possible for NSTF to share knowledge and insights that everyone should know, decision makers have taken note of, the public was informed by, and youth have been inspired and motivated by.

**Please note:** The NSTF does not gain financially from this supplement. The intention is to increase awareness among the public of the non-profit activities, and further the aims of the NSTF – *SET for socio-economic growth*.

### 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 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.

#### 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

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