

SALES REPRESENTATIVE: GREG STOCK

WRITER: LORAIN TULLEKEN

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## The NSTF 25th Anniversary



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

THE National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Executive Director, Jansie Niehaus, says the umbrella body represents stakeholders that are crucial to mitigating and finding solutions to the perfect storm created by COVID-19, and other equally urgent challenges – including South Africa's economic and social woes, and water and power supply.

She says, "Ours is the largest, most longstanding and most representative stakeholder body of its kind and represents more than 100 organisations, councils and institutions in the private and public sectors. We also represent South Africa in the global science, engineering and technology (SET) arenas. Much is being said and written about triple helix collaboration – a set of interactions between academia, industry and government, to foster innovation, economic and social development. Our structure already operates within this sphere – more correctly, in the quadruple helix which includes civil society. And, while collaboration isn't simple or easy particularly when there are many role players, we are a non-partisan

and neutral player - a civil society forum that has outlasted the fashion of stakeholder forums of more than 25 years ago."

The individual representatives of the forum's membership include researchers in various disciplines, scientists, engineers in all branches, entrepreneurs, innovators, small, medium and large businesses, technologists, as well as administrators, educators and the legal fraternity.

Niehaus adds, "Their contribution is invaluable to our vision which is a transformed country, an active democracy, wherein science, engineering and technology are coupled with innovation to contribute to a high quality of life for all who live in South Africa. It is a vision aligned to the vision of the Constitution, and a democratic South Africa, stated in various ways by the government, since President Nelson Mandela's time. At this critical moment in our nation's history, our efforts over the past 25 years must not only be commemorated, but pursued with new vigour."

"The NSTF is an instrument of democracy, en-



Executive Director, Jansie Niehaus

couraging free speech and critical voices and has been about transformation from its inception. It

has enjoyed continuous support from the Ministry and Department of Science and Technology (now known as the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology; and Department of Science and Innovation, respectively), as well as stakeholders at all levels, including businesses, academic institutions, a wide variety of professional and non-governmental organisations, science councils, and statutory bodies.

"Essentially, the NSTF draws them together around critical issues related to government policy. We are a platform for interaction and for making voices heard. Policies around pertinent issues such as energy, education, infrastructure, food security, technology advancement, and water are informed by research and the experience of practitioners as our discussion forums bring stakeholders together."

The forum is a registered non-profit company and its activities range from regular two to three day discussion forums, seminars, science talks and monthly newsletters. Not least are its annual awards in partnership with South 32. Often referred to as the 'Science Oscars', they are the only national science

awards where nominations are open and the entire process is collaborative. Of particular importance is the youth outreach through the annual Share 'n Dare Programme and Briliants Programme.

Niehaus concludes, "It is more important than ever before to debate the linkages between science, technology and society, the various causes and effects, the unintended consequences, and whom it benefits. We must keep the public, decision makers, scientists and engineering and technology professionals informed and enthused. NSTF is in a unique position to do so within a complex system. This is because we differ from government agencies in that NSTF was not established by an Act of Parliament, nor do we have a statutory duty to report to government. As such our independence places us uniquely in a SET and innovation space that increasingly demands multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration to overcome the challenges ahead. The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and South Africa's National Development Plan also recognise the urgency to work together to meet these goals."

## Science awards with a difference

BESIDES being the largest and most comprehensive national awards of their kind the prestigious annual NSTF-South32 Awards differ from others in that the nominations process is open to everyone, including the public. Moreover, the adjudication panel is represented by all sectors notably from academia, industry, business and other stakeholders.

Popularly referred to as South Africa's 'Science Oscars', in this its 22nd year, the theme is Plant Health. A Special Annual Theme Award is being made for

Research and development and innovation in plant health, in recognition of the International Year of Plant Health declared by the United Nations.

To a large extent, the awards recognise the different processes needed for a system of innovation. Pure and applied research is recognised, as well as research and development leading to product and

process development. Other essential role players are the science communicators and NGOs who work in science and technology related fields.

The collaborative effort recognises outstanding contributions to science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation by related professionals and organisations in South

Africa. This includes experienced scientists, engineers, innovators, science communicators, engineering capacity builders, and organisational managers/leaders, as well as data and research managers.

South32, NSTF's awards partner, is a mining company that de-merged from BHP Billiton in 2016 and assumed the co-branding sponsorship agreement. Chief Operating Officer Mike Fraser says, "We believe there is great potential for South Africans to influence the world through SET and innova-



Veteran Head Adjudicator since 1998, Denis Hunt



Vice-Chairperson of Adjudication Panel Sibusiso Manzini

tion, which is why we sponsor the NSTF awards. Advances in these areas provide the opportunity to

improve the lives of millions of people in developing countries."

### The chairman



THE FIRST chairman, Prof. Malegapuru William Makgoba served until 1999. He was followed by Dr Steve Lennon (1999-2003); John Marriot (2003-2007) Prof Brenda Wingfield (2007-2012); and Prof Ali Dhansay (2012 to now)

## HISTORY AND MILESTONES

**1991** A new South Africa in the making: The precursor of the NSTF, the National Science and Technology Initiative (NSTI), participated in South Africa's landmark Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), a major event marking the end of the apartheid era and planning towards a democratic national system of innovation.

**1995** NSTF is born: As a result of the findings and recommendations of the NSTI, government with key stakeholders founded the NSTF to oversee the establishment of the national science system. It contributed and provided input into the White Paper on Science and Technology and other policy and planning processes within government. Initiated the discussion that led to the declaration of South Africa's first Year of Science and Technology (1998).

**1998** The Year of Science and Technology and year of the NSTF Awards' founding: 1998 is declared the Year of Science and Technology by the South African government and NSTF establishes the prestigious annual NSTF Awards to honour role models and reward excellent achievements in science, engineering and technology (SET). Participated and added considerable value to initiatives and processes relat-

ing to the establishment of the National Research Foundation.

**2002** An important policy role: played an active role in the evaluation, review and implementation processes of the National Human Resource Development Strategy, the National Development Research Strategy and the National Research and Technology Foresight Exercise.

**2002** Ethics discourse: Initiated debate and discussions on Ethics in SET in South Africa that produced a discussion document and a charter that aimed to establish a National Consultative Council on SET Ethics in South Africa.

**2002** DST: Participated in the lobbying for the establishment of a separate government department that would focus entirely on SET in SA. The structure and plans for the new Department of Science and Technology (DST) were presented to the NSTF and its members for comment.

**2003** Growth and innovation: Commissioned a joint study between the NSTF and NACI (National Advisory Council on Innovation): Growth and Innovation Report on the interaction between economic growth, science, technology and human capital.

**2003** NEPAD: Substantially contributed to the development of the science and technology division of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to ensure that SET plays its rightful role on the African continent.

**2003** proSET: Created a new membership group, known as SETAG (Science, Engineering, Technology and Associated Group), consisting of professional bodies and learned societies. Some of the membership of the Associated Scientific and Technological Societies of South Africa (AS&TS Trust) joined the NSTF under SETAG which was renamed proSET (Professional in Science, Engineering and Technology) in 2009. This sector accounts for about 40 percent of NSTF member organisations.

**2004** STEM education: Aspired to change the face of education in South Africa by initiating discussions and leading national consultations that resulted in the formulation and implementation of the National Strategy for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education.

**2005** The Awards Communications sub-committee is established (currently known as the NSTF Awards Committee)

**2006** DST policies: Discussion of and stakeholder feedback on the National System of Innovation (NSI) and the DST's Ten Year Innovation Plan. DST presented their plans for the Technology Innovation Agency, Human Capital Development, the Youth into Science Strategy and the Hydrogen Economy.

**2007** NSTF registers as a "Section 21" company under the Companies Act. Legislation was subsequently amended and all Section 21 companies were since referred to as "non-profit companies"

**2007** DST projects: NSTF managed the National Youth Service on behalf of DST for 5 years, benefitting 330 young unemployed graduates with diplomas and degrees. The Programme provides science graduates with additional skills to enable them to find suitable employment, (currently run by SAASIA/NRF).

**2007** Bursary programme: NSTF managed the DST's 'Incentive' Bursary Scheme for eight years to the benefit of more than 70 students.

**These two programmes were formally evaluated and the reports are available on request.**

**2007/2008** Science Councils and Statutory Bodies sector gets a Sub-committee of their representa-

tives in NSTF.

**2008** NSTF Awards - 10th anniversary

**2008** Briliants Programme initiated to recognise top matric performers in physical science and mathematics (previously called the Education Recognition Programme).

**2011** HP Billiton becomes co-branding sponsor of the NSTF Awards

**2015** The new NSTF Awards' trophy, manufactured from titanium and using additive manufacturing (3D printing) was launched to celebrate the NSTF's second decade, and the UN's International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies.

**2016** South32 becomes co-branding sponsor of the NSTF Awards

**2016** Carl and Emily Fuchs Foundation sponsorship for their flagship 50th Anniversary programme, is awarded to NSTF, as one of 12 beneficiaries, for all NSTF youth outreach programmes.

**2018** Organised DST consultations and the launch of DST's new Science, Technology and Innovation White Paper

**2018** NSTF Awards - 20th anniversary

**2020** NSTF is 25 years old

**THE NSTF VISION:** A transformed country where science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation contribute to a high quality of life for all who live in South Africa, where the profile of SET professionals is representative of the population's profile and where the education system is effective, particularly in terms of

performance in SET subjects and promoting innovation.

**THE NSTF MISSION:** To promote SET and innovation: network stakeholders and engage all Government departments around SET-related issues; and liaise with Government at all levels on behalf of stakeholders.  
*S.E.T. for socio-economic growth*

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf),

(Prof Jonathan Jansen, President,  
the ASSAf Council and its Members)

congratulate the

National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)

on its 25th Anniversary.

As the largest multi-stakeholder forum for science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa, NSTF is a non-profit company that promotes SET and innovation and engages with related government policy issues.

This speaks directly to the ASSAf mission to investigate and provide evidence-based solutions to problems; inspiration in science and technology, applied for the benefit of society; international connectedness at the highest level of knowledge and insight; and facilitation of public understanding of the nature, scope and value of the scientific and technological enterprise.

ASSAf Contacts:

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Central University of Technology, Free State

SOUTH AFRICAN CHEFS ASSOCIATION

FEDHASA  
Federation of Hospitality Associations of Southern Africa

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## Youth programmes inspire and encourage SA youth to persevere into SET careers

THE NSTF promotes science, engineering, technology (SET), including mathematics and innovation, to South African youth primarily through its Brilliants and Share 'n Dare programmes which are linked to the NSTF Awards.

The forum also maintains a database on its website to keep learners and students updated with available SET-related bursaries. This includes career information, and youth as well as professionals are profiled online as role models. Moreover, proSET, the professional associations sector of the NSTF, allocates financial contributions towards projects, especially those that promote SET education and awareness.

Niehaus says, "Sadly many school leavers and even graduates struggle to find appropriate work and direction in their

lives. This is a concern for SET industries, professionals and for the NSTF. So we are acutely aware of the need to encourage our youth into SET careers and the appropriate studies. To this end our youth outreach programmes have been created.

The Brilliants programme celebrates the top performers in matric maths and science. A young man and woman are chosen from each of the nine provinces who have received top marks (more than 90 percent) in mathematics and physical science in the National Senior Certificate Examinations (grade 12) of the previous year. The lists of top performers are requested from the Provincial Education Departments and the selection is done by the NSTF according to strict criteria.

The aim is to inspire and motivate them



On tour

through attendance of the NSTF-South32 Awards, workshops and tours of science related sites and facilities where potential role models and mentors advise and in-

spire them to complete their studies and opt for SET career paths.

Niehaus adds, "It is also important to recognise and honour top performers, some of whom have received very little acknowledgement, especially in disadvantaged areas and schools. This includes publicity for the Brilliants Programme, the students and their schools and provinces. The winning students are also part of the annual NSTF Awards 'Who's Who' booklet and rewarded with sponsored travel and accommodation."

### Share 'n Dare

This programme creates platforms for top researchers and other SET professionals who have won NSTF Awards, to inform and inspire high school learners

and university students. More than 20 such Role model events are held annually, in various places across the country. Thousands of learners are reached, informed and inspired.

### Bursary directory and SET Career fields

The Bursary database for SET-related studies collects bursary information so that SET-related study funding can be found in one place for easy access. The online directory of bursaries is kept updated so that the information is always fresh. The SET Career fields (about 100) described on the website, inform learners and students of the many possibilities for study and careers, while the stories of role models provide inspiration.

## Discussion Forums of cross-cutting relevance to the science and innovation community

CONDUCTED like short conferences, usually over two days and involving 12 to 15 speakers, NSTF Discussion Forums raise awareness and engage with issues of public science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation-related policies.

They include officials from Government departments, researchers, member employees, and other stakeholders and have since the founding stages addressed topics as varied as cannabis research, skills for the water sector, recycling vs

substitution for plastics, chemical elements for South Africa's future as well as implications of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) for SET, industry, society, and education.

The discussions are often bolstered by physical (and in one case virtual) tours of SET-related facilities.

Last year, for example, the forums unpacked issues related to minerals. The Periodic Table was used as a window on minerals and materials in relation

to new technologies, mining, nutrition, safety from poisonous minerals, energy, water, food security and education. The United Nation's sustainable development goals were added to the mix as an additional lens through which to see critical issues. The shared knowledge ranged from well-established facts and practices, to cutting-edge technological research and ideas.

In September 2018 a NSTF discussion forum on the 4IR addressed its implica-

tions for science, industry, society, and education. Notably, parliamentary researchers were in attendance to learn more and raise awareness among members of parliament. At the time very few people seemed to know about the 4IR. Since President Cyril Ramaphosa put the 4IR firmly on the country's agenda soon after almost every political speech included the key phrase '4th Industrial Revolution',

The forums address a spectrum of rel-

evant issues. For instance, the December event which discussed career paths for researchers in a changing world while acknowledging that research is critical to advancing the SET and innovation output goals of a country, its development, and its global competitiveness. Suitably skilled scientists, lecturers, engineers, and related professionals are vital yet there is no longer a standard career path for researchers, a challenge even for highly qualified people.

## ASSAf calls for proactive evidence-led defence against false COVID info

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) is calling for rumours and false science regarding COVID-19 to be countered by evidence-led initiatives. Prof Himla Soodyall, Executive Officer, cautions against the misuse of information from untrustworthy sources in creating hype and the potential for widespread social and economic stress.

She adds, "The Academy supports the proactive stance already adopted by the Department of Health, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and other stakeholders in managing the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and in preventing the spread of the infection. We welcome the increased investment by Government in surveillance and their timely response in identifying suspected cases of COVID-19 and their contacts, as well as increased support for the public healthcare service to facilitate effective management of cases."

"It is also essential that the significant training of healthcare workers already undertaken be expanded and reinforced on infection control practices in general."

Elaborating on ASSAf, she adds, "ASSAf was inaugurated as the national academy in May 1996 by President Nelson Mandela with the mission of using science for the benefit of society. The Parliament of South Africa passed the Academy of Science of South Africa Act (Act 67 of 2001), as amended, which came into operation in May 2002 and our mandate encompasses all fields of scientific enquiry and includes the full diversity of South Africa's distinguished scientists."

As the country's official national Academy of Science, ASSAf represents South Africa in the international community of science academies and its strategic priorities are closely matched to those of the nation.

Prof Soodyall assures, "Those priorities focus particularly on the need for the greatly enhanced availability of high-level human capital and an increased use of the country's best intellectual expertise in generating evidence-based science advice in support of policy development."

## CUT innovations assist with COVID-19 medical needs

AS THE WORLD fights an immense battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT) is assisting with its vast and innovative technological expertise.

Its Centre for Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing (CRPM), the Product Development Technology Station (PDTs), the Centre of Quality of Health and Living (CQHL) and CUT Innovation Services (CUTIS) are currently involved with government in different processes related to the challenges.

Prof Henk de Jager, Vice-Chancellor and Principal says, "Our rapid research and innovative response to assist government is proof of our commitment to work together in solidarity and unity to restrain spread of the virus and reduce the risk related to the community transmission phase. Furthermore, a CUT COVID-19 Research and Innovation Grant of R1 million will support these entities in their endeavours."

A lack of appropriate personal protective equipment for hospital staff in the "hot zones", and the need for non-invasive ventilation helmets/masks that provide patients with positive pressure and reduce the spread of the virus in the hospital are two major problems. Hence the university's assistance with 3-D printing masks for non-invasive ventilation for use by COVID-19 patients. This project works on the concept of continuous positive airway pressure or bilevel positive airway pressure systems.

To increase hospital capacity the PDTs and CRPM are also manufacturing much-needed hospital equipment, such as oxygen connectors and splitters. There is a severe shortage of ventilators and some hospitals have requested assistance with possible spare parts. Several old ventilators have been sourced from Universitat and Groote Schuur hospitals to be reverse-engineered.

Several other hospital items, such as connectors, splitters and mouthpieces/masks, have been developed and manufactured by the CRPM and PDTs teams. Many of them are manufactured through a novel approach of rapid tooling for injection moulding in appropriate polymers, which is not possible in additive manufacturing because of the material or quantities needed.

Ongoing projects to assist hospitals in the Central Free State include clinician personal protection equipment, including non-invasive ventilation helmets, oxygen connectors ("Christmas tree connectors"), oxygen splitter connections and flutter devices.

## CALL TO ACTION

BY JOINING the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), your organisation will enhance the voice of your sector; engage with government on policy issues, network and find opportunities for collaboration within the community, support the development of youth through outreach, as well as promote careers and bursaries in science, engineering and technology (SET).

By joining the existing 113 memberships, your organisation would strengthen and enhance the collaborative efforts of a credible, trustworthy non-profit company committed to a democratic national system of innovation.

Let us work with you to create an active democracy - S.E.T for socio-economic growth! Apply online: [www.nstf.org.za](http://www.nstf.org.za)

## CSIR and YES join hands to create job opportunities for SA youth

AS PART of its commitment to the inclusive advancement of society through youth empowerment in South Africa, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has entered into a partnership with the Youth Employment Service (YES) to prepare young people for employment by providing them with technical skills and relevant work opportunities.

They recently signed a Sponsored Host Placement Agreement that would see them working closely together in addressing the pressing issue of equipping South African youth with skills that will prepare them for the workplace.

The YES initiative, which is a busi-

ness-led collaboration with government and labour to create job opportunities for the youth, was launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa, in March 2018, to combat youth unemployment in the country.

The two organisations believe the collaboration will also accelerate South Africa's transition into a knowledge-based economy. The partnership, which will run for one year, will see the creation of 66 job opportunities by the CSIR for the youth.

Some will be based at the CSIR others will be hosted through Youth@Work, a vetted YES implementation partner. They will be employed in various roles, including as mathematics and science teaching

assistants; IT assistants in digital learning laboratories; computer coding facilitators; and digital learning facilitators at schools and municipal institutions, such as local libraries.

YES CEO Dr Tashmia Ismail-Saville says, "What is particularly exciting about these jobs is that they dovetail perfectly with our goal of preparing South Africa for the fourth industrial revolution."

Dr Thulani Dlamini, CSIR CEO, says, "It is in our best interest to invest in the development of the youth in our society. Unfortunately, South Africa has a very high level of unemployed youth, which does not bode well for the future of our country. Young people are the future."

## Improving mathematics education

THE SOUTH AFRICAN Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) aims to create a mathematically enabling environment, which provides opportunities for all learners to develop to their fullest potential, according to Executive Director, Prof Kerstin Jordaan

The a non-profitable company, was founded in 2004 by the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa and the South African Mathematical Society and he shares, "Our vision is to play a leading role in expanding the base of mathematics excellence in South Africa by contributing towards professional development of mathematics educators, promoting the advancement of

mathematics through creating awareness of and developing skills in mathematics, research, advocacy and identifying and nurturing of mathematically talented youth towards an innovative landscape in South Africa for science, business, finance and engineering."

SAMF is well known for two national competitions, the Old Mutual South African Mathematics Olympiad for grades 8-12 learners and the Nestlé Nespray South African Mathematics Challenge for grades 4-7 learners. Almost 180 000 learners throughout the country participated in the first rounds of these two events earlier this year.

Jordaan says unqualified mathematics

teachers are a huge concern and despite various efforts it will take years to improve their content knowledge and pedagogical approaches of teachers especially in rural South Africa and to close the gap between previously disadvantaged communities and others with respect to transition rates into mathematics and science careers for learners later on in life.

SAMF in partnership with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences' Schools Enrichment Centre see the training courses offered by the latter as making a crucial difference to the skills and content knowledge of mathematics educators in South Africa.

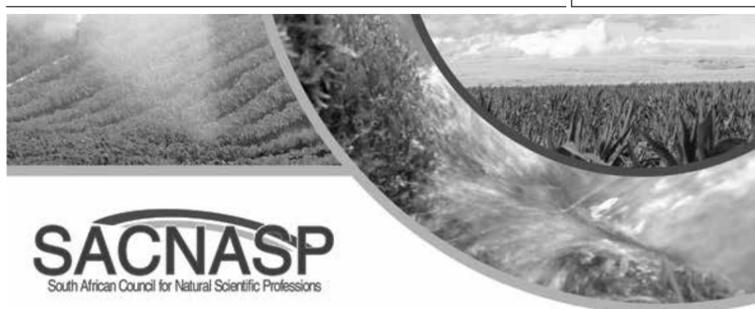


"Looking back over my journey thus far, the South African Mathematics Olympiad was the starting block of my success. It played a huge role to unearth my mathematical gift."

Musa Nalovu, qualified Chartered Accountant CA(SA)

**Unearth your mathematical gift. Participate in the South African Mathematics Olympiad (Grades 8 - 12) and the South African Mathematics Challenge (Grades 4-7).**

Visit [www.samf.ac.za](http://www.samf.ac.za) for more information or contact us on 012 392 9372.

**SACNASP**  
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) this year celebrates its 25th year as umbrella stakeholder body for organisations with an interest in science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation.

Launched in 1995, NSTF represents more than 100 organisations, councils and institutions, spanning both the private and public sectors. It is the largest, most influential and most representative stakeholder body of its kind boasting an impressive array of expertise and experience.

Member organisations from all spheres and sectors include:

- researchers and scientists (in various disciplines)
- engineers
- entrepreneurs and business people
- technologists and technicians
- administrators
- academics and teachers.

As proud member of the NSTF, the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) conveys its congratulations to the NSTF and for the many milestones it achieved since its inception. These range from establishing the highly acclaimed annual NSTF Awards to honour role models and reward excellent achievements in SET, the Brilliants Programme to recognise top matric performers in physical sciences and mathematics, its valuable participation in the National System of Innovation (NSI) and the 10-Year Innovation Plan.

SACNASP was established under the Natural Scientific Professions Act (No. 77 of 2003) and is the regulatory body for all natural scientists working in South Africa and sets the standards by which a natural scientist must comply.

SACNASP's mandate is to:

- register natural scientists
- regulate natural scientists
- enable and advance natural scientists
- advise the Minister on key issues related to the natural sciences
- advise of key educational aspects related to the natural sciences in South Africa.

Registration at SACNASP sets a baseline for professional training, skills and competence which is determined and evaluated by their peers. It is a mark of excellence, success, quality, confidence, innovation, recognition, and individual professionalisation. Registered natural scientists are expected to remain relevant in their fields of practice by engaging in a managed programme of lifelong learning which includes attending industry fora, conferences, training, and self-learning during their careers as natural scientists.

For more on NSTF [www.nstf.org.za](http://www.nstf.org.za) and SACNASP click [www.sacnasp.org.za](http://www.sacnasp.org.za)



**CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE CSIR!**

**The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) would like to congratulate the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) on the significant milestone of its 25 years of influencing science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa.**

This year's celebration occurs at a pertinent time globally, when the spotlight is on innovation and science, and their role in contributing to alleviating the current pressing challenges. Institutions like the NSTF, which is the largest, longest-standing and most representative stakeholder body of its kind for both the private and public sectors, are a formidable gathering of expertise and experience from which society can draw insights.

The NSTF stands as one of the most resolute institutions established post democracy and has continued to contribute to the strengthening of the National System of Innovation by promoting South Africa's excellent work in science, engineering, technology and innovation. Through the years, the CSIR has benefited from the shared knowledge from the NSTF on policies that allow the SET community to keep track of the changing regulation environment.

The CSIR is proud of the over two-decade long association with the NSTF and has a particular affinity to it, as one of the CSIR's alumni, the late Dr Xolani Humphrey Mkhwanazi, was its founding Chief Executive Officer. On this 25th anniversary, we also honour his legacy.

In 1998 the NSTF-South32 Awards were established. These awards are a collaborative effort to recognise outstanding contributions to science, engineering and technology and innovation by SET-related professionals and organisations in South Africa. Over the years, some of the CSIR's employees have been acknowledged in their fields through the NSTF Awards.

As the CSIR, we have seen the impact of the contribution of the NSTF in advancing transformation in the science, technology and engineering sectors. We trust that the NSTF will continue to be a beacon of excellence. We look forward to the next 25 years and a continued fruitful relationship. May the NSTF continue to grow from strength to strength.

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