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# NSTF e-Newsletter

*S.E.T. for socio-economic growth*

## An Octopus for October

*Message from the NSTF Executive Director, Ms Jansie Niehaus*

An octopus star is born in a new documentary. Do we need to be concerned about the sustainability of octopus species? It has been shown that the effects of, among others, noise pollution can be devastating for these fascinating creatures. [Read the message.](#)



## NSTF News

### 25 years of serving the science, engineering, technology and innovation community in SA

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) is celebrating 25 years of its existence this year. This [stakeholder body](#) draws together more than 100 organisations, councils and institutions involved in science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa. Its core vision is a transformed society where SET contributes to improving lives, the demographic profile of SET professionals is reflective of that of SA's population, and where the education system functions properly, especially in SET subjects. Watch the [video](#) on the NSTF's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organisation.

### The NSTF structure

#### Executive Committee and Board

The NSTF's Executive Committee (Exco) includes the directors of the non-profit company. There are currently five directors on the Board of the NSTF. The seven sectors of membership each elect or appoint representatives to the Exco, which meets regularly during the year. Some of these Exco representatives are also Directors. Members of Exco and directors do not receive any remuneration for their services and serve voluntarily as employees of member organisations.

The government sector is represented on Exco by the Department of Science and Innovation with additional representation from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, as well as the National Advisory Council on Innovation. However, the NSTF engages with all government departments responsible for policies that relate to

SET and innovation. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition has been a long-standing sponsor of the NSTF Awards and remains of particular importance to the NSTF.

To see who the current Directors and other members of the Executive Committee are, click [here](#).

### **Membership sectors**

NSTF members participate under the following sectors:

- Business: Small, medium and large businesses, including business associations
- Civil society and labour, including non-governmental and community based organisations
- Government
- Higher education
- Professional bodies and learned societies – known as proSET (Professionals in SET)
- Science councils and statutory bodies
- State-owned enterprises

To see which organisations are currently members of the NSTF, click [here](#).

### **proSET Sector**

[proSET](#) is a sector of the NSTF that consists of professional bodies and learned societies representing professionals in various fields. This [sector of NSTF](#) comprises 36 members, many of these since the founding of the NSTF. proSET focuses especially on the following:

- facilitating cooperation among professional organisations regarding SET and education
- facilitating and contributing to improved SET education
- Promoting the image of all SET practitioners

proSET is not a separate legal entity, and it is governed by the [Memorandum of Incorporation](#) of the NSTF. proSET decides on its own activities and reports these to the NSTF Exco. These activities are funded (some partially) by the proSET fund.

### **Science Councils and Statutory Bodies**

The NSTF Science Councils and Statutory Bodies sector is for organisations created by an act of Parliament and substantially supported by government. There are 17 members in this [sector](#). NSTF member organisations in this sector comprise of state agencies for research, innovation, the funding thereof, and the regulation of sectors related to SET and innovation. The majority of these members are founding members of the NSTF. The sector has a committee consisting of representatives appointed by these member organisations. It is also represented on the NSTF Exco.

### **Secretariat**

The Secretariat currently consists of:

- Executive Director, Ms Jansie Niehaus
- Office Manager and Financial Manager, Ms Wilna Eksteen
- Human Resources and Financial Administration Manager, Mr Matome Mphela
- Outreach Officer for the NSTF Brilliants and the NSTF Share 'n Dare Programmes, Ms Mosima Mabitsela
- Knowledge Management and Communications Officer (which includes IT & web management), Ms Jane Mokgwatshane

Strengthen your voice by becoming part of this diverse and influential non-profit organisation, the NSTF, and its non-profit activities. To become a member, e-mail [enquiries@nstf.org.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.org.za) and Mr Matome Mphela will respond with more information.

## ***S.E.T. for socio-economic growth***

### **New NSTF Vice-Chairperson appointed**

We are pleased to announce the newly appointed Vice-Chairperson of the NSTF – Dr Mpho Lekgoathi, senior scientist at Necsa. Dr Lekgoathi has been serving on the NSTF Exco for more than two years. He also faithfully served on the NSTF Awards Adjudication Panel for the past three years.

Dr Lekgoathi holds a PhD degree in Applied Science, specialising in Chemical Technology from the University of Pretoria. He was trained for leadership at various schools. He has published several international peer reviewed papers, and holds patents in the USA, EU, China, Japan, Canada and many more.

### **Congratulations to the CSIR on its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

The NSTF wishes to congratulate the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for reaching a major milestone on 5 October 2020 - the 75th year of its existence. The CSIR is a founding member of the NSTF and was kind enough to host the offices of our organisation in its beginning years. It also seconded the NSTF's first Chief Executive Officer, the late Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi, to our organisation. The CSIR won the NSTF Award in the Corporate Organisation category in 1999/2000 and was a Gold Sponsor of the NSTF Awards from 2003 – 2017.

Established in 1945, the CSIR has, for seven and a half decades, dedicated its resources to improving the quality of life of South Africans through ground-breaking research, development and innovation. [Read more.](#)

### **New NSTF members**

The NSTF welcomes its new member:

- [Science Stars](#) under the Business Sector (SMMEs)

If you are interested in becoming a member, visit the [Membership](#) section on the website for more information about the NSTF and request the membership application form from: [enquiries@nstf.org.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.org.za).

### **Share 'n Dare programme**

This programme, affords [NSTF-South32 Award winners](#) the opportunity to encourage and inspire the youth to pursue studies and [careers](#) in science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation. It is sponsored by the [Fuchs Foundation](#).

In the past month, both [Prof Michèle Ramsay](#), winner of the 2020 NSTF-South32 Lifetime Award and [Prof Mike Wingfield](#), winner of the Special Annual Theme Award: Plant Health, gave of their time to record videos for the Share 'n Dare programme. Watch the interviews of these amazing people who are also top-class scientists.

### **NSTF 2020 AGM**

The [NSTF AGM](#) will take place on Zoom on Friday 13 November 2020 from 10:00-11:30.

#### **How to participate in the NSTF Zoom AGM:**

The NSTF office acquired a Zoom license that provides a secure electronic meeting place to protect members, the organisation and any confidential matters that might be discussed.

The representatives of member organisations and committee members are asked to register for the meeting. They will then receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The meeting will be recorded and the proceedings minuted.

A letter has been sent to members with more information and a request for a written response on whether the member or alternate would be able to connect and participate in the Zoom AGM.

Member representatives should treat this as a priority and remember to respond by

**“I got completely hooked on research. I knew I wanted to discover new things, build new knowledge and understand things at a deeper level. And that is how I became a research scientist.” Prof Michèle Ramsay**

**“Find something you love and do that. To be successful you have to love what you do” – Prof Mike Wingfield.**

You will find a wealth of information and inspiration in these talks. To assist young people in their decision to study and follow careers in SET and innovation, please spread the word by sharing these videos with them, as well as with educators.

***Young people are our future leaders, scientists, engineers and innovators***

## **Meet our 2020 NSTF-South32 Award winners**

### **TW Kambule-NSTF Award: Researcher**

Prof Christine Lochner, Co-Director: South African Medical Research Council Unit on Risk and Resilience in Mental Disorders, Department of Psychiatry, Stellenbosch University was awarded for her research into neuropsychiatric disorders. She has made important contributions in the area of obsessive-compulsive and related disorders. Her research aims to link the significant clinical aspects of these conditions with their neurobiological underpinnings. [Read more.](#)

### **TW Kambule-NSTF Award: Emerging Researcher**

Prize sponsor: proSET (Professionals in Science, Engineering and Technology), a sector of the NSTF representing professional bodies and learned societies.

- Dr Vhahangwele Masindi, Research Scientist: Magalies Water; and Principal Researcher: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and Research Fellow: University of South Africa; and Part-time Lecturer: University of Venda. He has made significant contributions in the field of environmental monitoring and wastewater treatment. His emphasis is on waste streams valorisation and beneficiation to attain a circular economy. [Read more.](#)
- Prof Richard Walls established the Fire Engineering Research Unit (FireSUN) at Stellenbosch University, where he is an associate professor. His research aims to develop fire safety engineering education while pursuing methods to improve informal settlement fire safety and structural fire design. [Read more.](#)

Read about all the winners in the *Mail & Guardian* [special report](#) on the 2020 NSTF-South32 Awards. *Mail & Guardian* is a media sponsor of the NSTF Awards.

***Today's research ... tomorrow's innovation***

return email to the notification with all the details of the member, alternate or nominated person as requested in the letter.

## **NSTF Discussion Forums**

The NSTF [Discussion Forums](#) for the rest of 2020 will all take place as interactive webinars as follows.

- Plant health: October/November 2020
- Risks and benefits of 5G communication: last week of October
- South Africa's preparedness for outbreaks of human and animal disease: first week in December

Look out for the email invitation to these events

## Bursaries available

Find the latest news on bursaries in science, engineering and technology (SET) in the NSTF [Bursary Directory](#). Currently available are:

- [Hulamin](#) (Deadline: 30 October 2020)
- [ISFAP](#) (Deadline: 31 October 2020)
- [Limpopo Department of Public Works](#) (Deadline 31 October)
- [SAWISE Angus Scholarship](#) (Deadline: 15 November 2020)
- [BBD Software Development](#) (Deadline: 30 November 2020)
- [Hexagon Trust](#) (Deadline: 31 December 2020)
- [PSG](#) (Deadline: 31 December 2020)
- [FMCSA Ford Bursary](#) (Open)

Visit the directory for information on bursaries, SET [career](#) guidance and inspirational [role models](#).

If your company/institution provides bursaries to undergraduate students in SET-related courses, please send us information on these bursaries to [enquiries@nstf.org.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.org.za) for inclusion in the directory.

The Bursary Directory is sponsored by the [Carl and Emily Fuchs Foundation](#).

## S.E.T. for life

### DSI e-book on SET careers

The Department of Science and Innovation launched an e-book featuring 73 science, engineering and technology (SET) careers. It will inspire young minds with stories of role models, study paths, exciting new features such as robotics, nanotechnology, unmanned aerial vehicles, etc., and how to get financial aid.

Find this e-book [here](#) and tell your friends and family about it.

## The STEMulator.org

The STEMulator 1.2.4, has been launched. It has now been expanded to:-

- 10 zones with the addition of 'Nature', and 'Satellite/Space';
- over 50 pages of animated content – from pumping hearts to jet engines;
- guidance on over 65 career options.

The 'Mine' tile has been added and is currently being populated.

Look out for a rewarding competition with great prizes to attract new and improved content. Visit [stemulator.org](http://stemulator.org) to **explore – discover – learn!** Please help to promote the STEMulator by liking/following/sharing on your social media platforms.



## Mzansi Bright Sparks

The NSTF [Brilliants Programme](#) recognises the top female and male learners in each of the nine provinces based on their marks in physical science and mathematics in the National Senior Certificate Examinations (grade 12), and their choice to study science-related courses. 19 first-year students were recognised in 2019/2020.

Keanu Canto is one of these outstanding students. He is studying civil engineering at the University of Pretoria.

**“Do not be afraid to dream – your future is entirely up to you. With the right mindset you will be able to turn your dreams into reality, no matter what anyone else says.”**  
– Keanu Canto

[Sihle Zuma](#) is another first-year student who was recognised in the 2019/2020 NSTF Brilliants Programme. He is studying chemical engineering at the University of Cape Town.

**“You must have someone to talk to whenever you feel demotivated, you need a mentor.”** – Sihle Zuma



proSET (Professionals in science, engineering and technology) is a sector of the NSTF representing about 40 professional and learned societies. This section shares news about [members](#) of the [proSET sector](#).

- **Grassland Society of Southern Africa (GSSA)**

The new issue of the [Grassroots](#) has been published. Subscription to Grassroots is free and will keep you up to date with the latest on rangeland ecology, pasture management, and more.

- **The South African Council for Automation and Control (SACAC)**

[SACAC](#)'s Online Control Systems Open Day will take place on 5 November from 13:00-23:00. To read more and register, click [here](#).

- **Institute of Municipal Engineering of South Africa (IMESA)**

The September issue of [IMIESA](#), the official magazine of [IMESA](#) is available. Highlights in this issue include: New geospatial possibilities explored; A road investment prioritisation model for SA; A new addition to Joburg's inner city.



## SET-related policies currently open for public comment

Policies open for comment allow the science, engineering and technology (SET) community to keep track of the changing regulation environment.

- [Cannabis for Private Purposes Bill](#): The deadline for public comment on the Cannabis for Private Purposes Bill expired on Friday, 9 October, but those wishing to make submissions to Parliament now have until the end of November to do so. The extension of the deadline was decided by Parliament's justice committee on Thursday night, 8 October.
- [National Education Policy Act: National Policy: Programme and promotion requirements of National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12](#) (Comment by 14 October 2020)
- [National Qualifications Act: Occupational qualifications for registration on the qualifications sub-framework for trades and occupations](#) (Comment by 16 October 2020)
- [National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act: Regulations: Management of the Aliwal Shoal Marine Protected Area: Draft](#) (Comment by 17 October 2020)

- [Pension Funds Amendment Bill: Explanatory summary](#) (Comment by 17 October 2020)
- [Pharmacy Act: Rules relating to good pharmacy practice: Amendments](#) (Comment by 28 October 2020)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act: Regulations for Hazardous Biological Agents](#) (Comment by 31 October 2020)
- [Standards Act: Standards matters](#) (Comment by 6 November 2020)
- [Medicines and Related Substances Act: Dispensing fee to be charged](#) (Comment by 14 November 2020)
- [Medicines and Related Substances Act: Regulation: Transparent pricing for medicines and scheduled substance: Draft Dispensing fee pharmacists](#) (Comment by 21 November 2020)
- [Health Professions Act: The Ethical Rules of Conduct: Amendment](#) (Comment by 21 November 2020)
- [Health Professions Act: Regulations: Scope of profession of radiographers](#) (Comment by 21 November 2020)

## SET-related policy news

*Some articles included in the section below are opinion pieces. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSTF Executive Committee, Directors, Secretariat or Members.*

### Department of Science and Innovation

- [Science partnerships key to addressing global challenges](#) (dst.gov.za)
- [South Africa to advertise more top science jobs](#) (researchprofessionalnews.com)
- [South Africa urged to redouble efforts to improve its innovation trajectory](#) (dst.gov.za)

### Competition Commission Strategy Document

- [10 things you should know about the Competition Commission's strategy document – Competition in the Digital Economy](#) (werksmans.com)

### Energy

- [DMRE confirms Eskom as buyer of renewable energy under REIPPPP Bid Window 5](#) (engineeringnews.co.za)
- [Eskom adding an additional capacity to the national grid](#) (eNCA)
- [Additional generation "essential to end load shedding"](#) (energize.co.za)
- [Renewables focus on upskilling to empower and drive SA's economic development](#) (energize.co.za)
- [Wind power procurement unlocks investment and indicates governments reforms](#) (energize.co.za)

### Environment

- [South Africa's land reform policies need to embrace social, economic and ecological sustainability](#) (theconversation.com)
- [A keen eye on facts saved this biodiverse wetland for now: threats to be aware of](#) (theconversation.com)

### Agriculture

- [SA livestock and poultry industry faced with rising input costs](#) (wandilesihlobo.com)

### Education

- [Do Masks Impede Children's Development?](#) (nytimes.com)

- [Science Policy, Science Literacy: post-COVID education for the developing world during the Fourth Industrial Revolution](http://assaf.org.za) (assaf.org.za)
- [High demand for specialist skill creates new career opportunities](http://energize.co.za) (energize.co.za)
- [Future teachers often think memorization is the best way to teach math and science – until they learn a different way](http://theconversation.com) (theconversation.com)

### Infrastructure

- [Building Profitable and Sustainable Community Owned Connectivity Networks](http://assaf.org.za) (assaf.org.za)
- ['Recovery of construction industry will require collaboration and insight'](http://infrastructurenews.co.za) (infrastructurenews.co.za)
- [Economic growth through large infrastructure projects](http://energize.co.za) (energize.co.za)
- [Building efficiencies into the water cycle](http://infrastructurenews.co.za) (infrastructurenews.co.za)

### Medicine and Health

- [WHO commends SA on declining Covid-19 infections](http://news24.com) (news24.com)
- [South Africa is 'extremely unlikely' to have COVID vaccine results before next year](http://bhekisisa.org) (bhekisisa.org)
- [Addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in low- and middle-income countries](http://assaf.org.za) (assaf.org.za)
- [Mobile clinics to boost health care services for disadvantaged students in KZN](http://dst.gov.za) (dst.gov.za)
- [Healthcare's 'toxic' working conditions exposed in student's documentary](http://uct.ac.za) (uct.ac.za)



*The events posted below are correct as far as we could establish at the time of preparing this newsletter. Please check the relative websites for changes to dates and venues.*

- [SAAO 200 Virtual Symposium "Beyond 200 Years of Astronomy"](#): 20-23 October 2020
- [IMESA Conference](#): This conference has been postponed to 2021. It will take place at the Cape Town ICC and rescheduled dates will be confirmed soon.
- [The Water Show Africa](#): Johannesburg, 4-5 November 2020
- [Online Control Systems Open Day 2020](#): 5 November 2020
- [World Engineering Education Forum - Global Engineering Deans Council Conference](#) (WEEF-GEDC): Engineering for the Sustainable Development Goals, Cape Town, 15-20 November 2020
- The [Triple Helix Association](#), [University of Bologna](#) and [ART-ER](#), the organisers of the [III International Triple Helix Virtual Summit](#), are working hard to offer this year a stimulating and engaging Summit, which will be delivered Online on 24-26 November 2020 on the theme "Designing globally connected regional innovation ecosystems: overcoming barriers and opening pathways".



- [2nd International Multidisciplinary Information Technology and Engineering Conference \(IMITEC\)](#): Kimberley, 25-27 November 2020
- [Water Institute of South Africa 2020 Conference](#): Johannesburg, 5-9 December 2020
- [Manufacturing Indaba](#): Midrand, 9-10 December 2020
- [WasteCon2020](#): Johannesburg, 9-11 February 2021
- [The Sixteenth Annual Public Health Conference \(PHASA2020\)](#): Tshwane, 15-17 February 2021
- [Inaugural South African Clinician Scientists Conference](#): Cape Town, 25-26 February 2021
- [Agbiz Congress 2020](#): Building resilient and sustainable agri-food ecosystems: Sun City, 7-9 April 2021
- [Second International Congress of Biological Control \(ICBC2\)](#): Davos, Switzerland, 26-30 April 2021
- [16th International Conference on Space Operations](#): Cape Town 3-7 May 2021
- The 7th [World Conference of Research Integrity](#) is to be hosted by UCT in 2021
- [23rd International Congress of Zoology](#): Cape Town, 21-25 November 2021



*Some articles included in the section below are opinion pieces. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSTF Executive Committee, Directors, Secretariat or Members.*

### Universities and higher education

- [ProLabs enables campus network upgrades for online learning](#) (engineerit.co.za)
- [UCT MOOCs in the top 200 – again](#) (uct.ac.za)
- [Wits PhD students take leadership roles at the European laboratory CERN](#) (wits.ac.za)
- [UCT launches milestone Khoi and San Centre](#) (uct.ac.za)
- [UP and partners awarded EU grant to study South Atlantic microbiomes](#) (up.ac.za)
- [South Africa's social welfare net in need of reinforcement, say panellists at Centre of Excellence in Food Security UP webinar](#) (up.ac.za)

### Science Councils and Statutory Organisations

- [SAMRC Postdoctoral Fellow - a real example of research resilience in the time of COVID-19](#) (samrc.ac.za)
- [Quest Vol. 16 No. 3 is now available](#). The coldest places on Earth are explored in this issue of the ASSAf magazine. (questonline.org.za)
- [Adaptors pose a danger to consumers](#) (sabs.co.za)

## Palaeontology, Archaeology and Anthropology

- [The study of tiny fossils reminds us that museums are key to advancing science](#) (theconversation.com)

## Biology

- [Eco-friendly magnetic shark barrier developed in South Africa could be boost for tourism and jobs](#) (dailymaverick.co.za). This article highlights the work of the current NSTF-Lewis Foundation Green Economy Award, Sharksafe (Pty) Ltd.
- [Critical to Scientific Discovery and Innovation, Biological Collections Need Strategy, Action Center, and Increased Investment](#) (nationalacademies.org)
- [Research dives deep to understand climate impacts on whales](#) (sun.ac.za)
- [Impact of solar towers on birds investigated](#) (dst.gov.za)

## Space Science and Astronomy

- [South African space sector set to grow with new Space Infrastructure Hub](#) (sansa.org.za)
- [Astronomy Photographer of the Year \(2020\) winners](#) (theguardian.com)
- [SA astronomer found a new comet – and it's named after him](#) (busniessinsider.co.za)
- [The Universe Might Be Too Thin](#) (theatlantic.com)
- [Blue clouds on Mars](#) (engineerit.co.za)

## Medicine and health

- [Coronavirus: SA scientists look to identify potential of medicinal plants](#) (health24.com)
- [Antibody testing 101: Unpacking the what, where and how](#) (bhekisisa.org)
- [Amid a Global Pandemic, Designers Aim To Reimagine PPE](#) (undark.org)
- [Any COVID-19 vaccine must be safe, efficacious and accessible to everyone](#) (assaf.org.za)
- [COVID-19 solutions coming from South, conference hears](#) (scidev.net)
- [The poisonous history of chemotherapy](#) (nature.com)
- [Keep focus on emerging infections, Disease X: analysts](#) (scidev.net)
- [Plans afoot to bring accredited food testing to rural South Africa through mobile laboratories](#) (csir.co.za)
- [Can we use African Indigenous Knowledge to tackle COVID-19?](#) (ufs.ac.za)
- [UCT professor's research offers hope of treatment for sickle cell anaemia](#) (groundup.org.za)
- [Russian scientist behind COVID-19 vaccine defends 'wartime' roll-out](#) (reuters.com)
- [The major genetic risk factor for severe COVID-19 is inherited from Neanderthals](#) (nature.com)

## Environment, climate change and energy

### Environment

- [Entrepreneur has solutions | SA's Water Crisis](#) (eNCA.com)
- [Cadmium levels in waste pickers 'four times higher'](#) (scidev.net)
- [Experts warn greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere are at record highs](#) (eNCA.com)
- [Humanity at crossroads, biodiversity report cards warn](#) (scidev.net)
- [Arctic sea ice hits second-lowest level on record](#) (nature.com)
- [New super-enzyme eats plastic bottles six times faster](#) (theguardian.com)
- [SA paper recycling industry sees increase in demand for paper fibre](#) (infrastructurenews.co.za)

## Energy

- [How to measure energy consumption](#) (energize.co.za)
- [Green hydrogen economy growing rapidly – Hatch](#) (engineeringnews.co.za)
- [Solar puts North West on the green power map](#) (energize.co.za)
- [Manganese market fundamentals reaffirmed at Tesla Battery Day](#) (engineeringnews.co.za)
- [Once a saviour for the electricity industry, now a pariah](#) (energize.co.za)
- [Energy storage technology will make blackouts in Africa ancient history](#) (energize.co.za)

## Women in Science

- [Where are Africa's women in STEM?](#) (scidev.net)
- [Women Scientists in the Forefront against COVID-19](#) (assaf.org.za)

## Infrastructure

- [Green building offers solution to construction crisis](#) (infrastructurenews.co.za)

## Agriculture

- [SA is flush with barley and needs to find new export markets for it](#) (businesslive.co.za)
- [Joint effort keeps South Africa's agricultural sector thriving during the pandemic](#) (702.co.za podcast)
- [Repurposing of mining land could help create farming jobs at scale](#) (engineeringnews.co.za)

## Science engagement

- [Understand motivations to fight fake news – debate](#) (scidev.net)
- [Decolonisation: why science language matters](#) (researchprofessionalnews.com)
- [How to give a science flash talk](#) (scidev.net)
- [COMMENT: We need science journalists not press release cheerleaders](#) (africacheck.org)
- [GUIDE: How to craft accurate science journalism out of press releases](#) (africacheck.org)

## Technology and the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution

- [Defy production of ventilators a global engineering feat](#) (engineerit.co.za)
- [Local specialist expertise critical to greater Cloud uptake](#) (engineerit.co.za)
- [Where data meets sustainable growth, the protection of information should be inherent](#) (bizcommunity.com)
- [Panel discussion: AI for good – for good business](#) (engineerit.co.za)

## Opportunities

- [Applications Open - Fulbright South African Research Scholar Program](#) (nrf.ac.za)
- Chevening Scholarships for studies in the UK in 2021/2022: Fully funded one-year master's degrees in any subject and at any UK university. In order to submit an eligible application, you must: be a citizen of South Africa; already have an undergraduate degree (an honours degree for most courses); have at least two years' work experience; not have previously received UK government funding to study in the UK; and agree to return home for two years after your scholarship. Chevening focus areas in South Africa: governance; sectors that

promote economic recovery; science and innovation; climate change and natural resource management. Deadline for applications: 3 November 2020. Find more information at [www.chevening.org/apply](http://www.chevening.org/apply).

- [Innovation Challenge for Africa's Top Space-Tech Ideas](#): An Africa-wide innovation challenge is seeking the best ideas in the downstream application of space technology. The Space-Tech Innovation Challenge 2020 will identify and provide business development support, as well as exposure to investors and markets, for the top 10 African innovators who are using geospatial intelligence to service African industries including agriculture, insurance, retail and conservation. Entries are now open at <https://spacetech.africa/>. Entries close on 16 October 2020.



- [Dr Pillay re-appointed as Vice-Chair of IIASA \(nrf.ac.za\)](http://nrf.ac.za)
- [Felix Reinders is the new Chair of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture \(WASAG\) \(fao.org\)](http://fao.org)
- [Wits scientist on global commission that cautions against using gene-edited embryos for pregnancy \(wits.ac.za\)](http://wits.ac.za)

### About the NSTF

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (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

[www.nstf.org.za](http://www.nstf.org.za)

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