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NSTF-South32 Awards

Today's research ... tomorrow's innovation



Call for nominations: 2021/2022 NSTF-South32 Awards

Register nominations online by 10 December 2021!
#NSTFawards2021

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) calls for [nominations](#) for the 24th [NSTF-South32 Awards](#). These prestigious awards focus on science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa (SA). [South32](#) is the co-branding sponsor for the past six years. As such the name of the awards is the NSTF-South32 Awards.

Special Annual Theme Award: The NSTF's theme for 2022 is 'Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development', in support of the international year as proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The [Special Annual Theme Award](#) for 2021/2022 will be made for an outstanding contribution to SET and innovation from research and development in the basic sciences for sustainable development. The basic sciences are defined here as the scientific disciplines of mathematics, physics, chemistry, life sciences, earth sciences and astronomy.



Contributions recognised: Register nominations for individuals, teams, partnerships and organisations for an **outstanding contribution to SET and innovation in SA**. The [contributions recognised](#) are in the following broad areas:

- Scientific research
- Management of SET and innovation and related activities
- Capacity building in engineering research
- The Green Economy
- Water management solutions
- Data for research
- Innovations and their research and/or development
- Communication and creating awareness of SET and innovation
- Non-governmental organisation activities, which could include technology transfer, and education and training activities
- Basic sciences for sustainable development

What's new this year?

There are no changes to the criteria of categories, apart from the following:

1. **Special Annual Theme Award:** The NSTF is making a special award this year for an outstanding contribution to SET and innovation arising from research and development in the [basic sciences for sustainable development](#). This is in support of sustainable socio-economic growth in SA.
2. **Engineering Research Capacity Development Award:** This award (sponsored by Eskom) is broadened this year to allow for teams to be nominated, as well as for engineering capacity development that led to [engineering research capacity development](#). The framework of the award remains the same.
3. **Data for Research Award:** The NSTF under the guidance of a team of experts through the Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) and the Network of Data and Information Curation Communities (NeDICC) re-modelled this category last year. This category continues, acknowledging an individual or a team (including data scientists, data stewards, innovators, as well as repository and data centre managers) for the generation, preservation, sharing and/or re-use of a valuable scientific output – the [research data set](#).

Data products, data repositories and data centres are also eligible for team recognition. The intention is to recognise the value of a data set that is of national interest or for the public good, and that is openly available to be re-used and/or re-packaged in products that are of public good and interest, or that could be integrated into products that contribute to the development of South Africa.

4. **Green Economy Award:** This award is re-established as a vital area for innovation, research and development in [environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation and a greener economy](#).

5. **Participation of past NSTF winners (1998-2021):** To clarify the interpretation of the [terms and conditions](#) of section 2, sub-paragraph 2, note 1 has been added. This note spells out category by category how previous winners might approach a further nomination. This has particular relevance to teams where a member of the team has been a previous winner.

Remember previous changes that are continued:

6. **Communication Award:** A special call is made to [professional science communicators](#) to apply.

7. **Innovation Awards:** A major change to this category was introduced in 2017 with greater emphasis on 'innovation'. Hence the name changed to 'Awards for [innovations and their research and/or development](#)' over the last 5 to 10 years through either a small, medium or micro enterprise (SMME) or a corporate organisation.

8. **Research Awards:** All research categories are open to anyone involved in research. Previously, it was implied that a PhD qualification was a pre-requisite. This is clearly no more the case, and the focus on the further development of outputs towards innovation was strengthened. The periods are now clearly anchored to the commencement of the research.

The NSTF's vision

A transformed country where 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 Awards are one of the ways in which the NSTF strives to realise its [vision](#).

Awards nomination process

This is a *two-stage* [nomination process](#):

Stage 1 – Register a nomination by Friday 10 December 2021

1. Please note that registering a [nominee](#) is only the *beginning* of the two-stage nomination process. When you register a nominee, the NSTF Office will respond with the official category nomination form, to be completed by 1 March 2022 (Stage 2).

2. Notify the nominee that you intend to nominate him/her/them (team/organisation). *Ensure that you receive their agreement to participate.*

3. Complete and submit the online [registration](#). The *nominee* will receive an email notification from Awards@nstf.org.za confirming receipt of your registration of their contact details. *Please alert the NSTF Office at awards@nstf.org.za should the nominee not receive this notification and the relevant forms (the subject line says: ‘Subscription Confirmation’).*

Stage 2 – Submit completed nomination documents by Tuesday 01 March 2022

- Ensure that the fully completed [nomination form/s](#) are emailed to the NSTF before the final deadline and that you receive a confirmation from the NSTF Office.
- Please note that planning and time are required to complete the nomination document. Hence there is a two and a half months period (December to March) provided for this preparation.

Awards categories

Full title of categories: All the awards are ‘for an outstanding contribution to science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa...’ *(The complete title of each award starts with this wording in place of “contribution”).*

1. Individual Awards	<p>a) Lifetime Award – contribution over 15 years or more</p> <p>b) TW Kambule-NSTF Award: Researcher – contribution through research and its outputs over a period from 6 years up to 15 years of research work from the commencement of the research career, predominantly in SA</p> <p>c) TW Kambule-NSTF Awards: Emerging Researchers – contribution through research and its outputs over a period of up to 6 years of research work from the commencement of the research career, predominantly in SA (Prize Sponsor: proSET)</p> <p>d) Management Award – contribution through management of SET and innovation and related activities over the last 5 to 10 years in SA</p>
2. Engineering Research Capacity Development Awards – contribution by an individual or a team over the last 5 to 10 years (Sponsor: Eskom since 2003)	
3. Green Economy Award – contribution by an individual or an organisation towards achieving biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability and a greener economy over the last 5 to 10 years	
4. NSTF-Water Research Commission (WRC) Award – contribution by an individual or an organisation towards sustainable water management, knowledge generation and solutions over the last 5 to 10 years (Sponsor: WRC since 2017)	
5. Data for Research Award – contribution by an individual or a team for advancing the availability, management and re-use of research data	
6. Innovation Awards : for innovations and their research and/or development	<p>a) Corporate Organisation – contribution by an individual or a team over the last 5 to 10 years</p> <p>b) SMME – contribution by an individual or a team over the last 5 to 10 years</p>
7. Communication Award – contribution for outreach and creating awareness of SET and innovation by a team or individual over the last 5 years	
8. Non-governmental Organisation Award – contribution by a NGO including technology transfer, and education and training activities over the last 5 to 10 years	
9. Special Annual Theme Award : Basic sciences for sustainable development (Awarded according to criteria in any of the categories above.) For 2021/2022 this Award is made for	

research and development in the basic sciences for sustainable development in SA. Basic sciences are defined as the scientific disciplines of mathematics, physics, chemistry, life sciences, earth sciences and astronomy.

Partnerships and sponsorships

Organisations are invited to join hands with the NSTF to widen the reach and impact of the NSTF-South32 Awards and youth programmes. Partnerships are available for new and existing [award categories](#) and the [youth outreach programmes](#). Contact [Ms Wilna Eksteen](#) for more information.

Please forward this email to your colleagues, business contacts and all interested persons. Help to find and acknowledge the [who's who in SET and innovation](#) in South Africa!

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.

[STEMulator.org](#) attracts learners and students to the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It provides a virtual world full of stimulating content to excite and inform the youth, including STEM career guidance. Established under the auspices of the [NSTF proSET membership sector](#) (Professionals *in science, engineering and technology*).

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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