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National Science and
Technology Forum

Media Release

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Ms Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director, elected as Chairperson of COHORT

The [National Science and Technology Forum](#) (NSTF) Executive Director, Ms Jansie Niehaus has been elected to the Executive Committee (Exco) and as Chairperson of the Committee of Heads of Organisations of Research and Technology (COHORT) for the 2022 to 2024 term. She takes over from Dr Val Moonsamy who was until recently, the CEO of the South African National Space Agency (SANSA).



The vision of COHORT is to be recognised as a national forum for the heads of organisations of science, research, and technology, in order to leverage their collective strengths in developing a culture of innovation and science for society in South Africa. Commenting on Ms Niehaus's appointment as the Chairperson of COHORT, Dr Melusi Thwala of the Secretariat said, "We look forward to your continued commitment and participation in a more focused and cohesive COHORT, which has achieved much in contributing to policy and establishing a sense of purpose beyond the needs of members".

The newly elected Exco of COHORT consists of:

- Prof Himla Soodyall, CEO of the [Academy of Science of South Africa](#) (ASSAf)
- Prof Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, CEO of the [National Research Foundation](#) (NRF)
- Ms Jodi Scholtz, Acting CEO of the [South African Bureau of Standards](#) (SABS)
- Dr Litha Magingxa, CEO of the [Agricultural Research Council](#) (ARC)
- Ms Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director and Chairperson of COHORT

Jansie Niehaus says: “I am grateful for the trust that COHORT has put in me and look forward to working with COHORT as chairperson. These are both troubling and exciting times. Increasingly humanity is able to solve problems through research, science and technology. The challenges our country faces are enormous and cannot be addressed without science, technology and innovation. South Africa also has excellent capacity in this regard, and the organisations in research and technology should be involved in creating solutions to problems we face as a country”.

The NSTF provides neutral collaborative platforms where issues and sectors meet

- One of the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) functions is to hold [Discussion Forums](#), bringing the private and public sector together to address important issues and engage with government policy.
- Feedback from these [Discussion Forums](#) is given to role players and stakeholders.
- [Recommendations](#) are put forward to government as part of the SET community's (science, engineering and technology) efforts to make input into SET-related policies and implementation.
- The NSTF [represents over 120](#) member organisations participating as key stakeholders of the SET and innovation community.

Prof Ali Dhansay, NSTF Chairperson, says: “Ms Jansie Niehaus represented the NSTF on COHORT since 2009. The [NSTF Exco](#) and I am extremely pleased at the honour bestowed on Ms Niehaus with her appointment as COHORT Exco member and as Chair. Congratulations, Jansie, you have made the NSTF proud!”

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- Twitter: [@NSTF_SA](#)
- Instagram: [@nstf_sa](#)
- LinkedIn: [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#)
- YouTube: [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#)
- TikTok: [nstf_sa](#)

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, teams and organisations 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*).

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