



science
& technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DST PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT GRANT INTERVENTION
FOR SCIENCE CENTRE
2009/10**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

&

TERMS OF REFERENCE



SAASTA

South African Agency for Science
and Technology Advancement

PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT GRANT INTERVENTION

1 INTRODUCTION

The role of science centres in bridging the gap between science and society, as well as in complementing formal classroom learning of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) has made them (science centres) an integral part of the implementation of some of the DST's strategic interventions. These are mainly interventions which promote participation of youth in and raising public awareness of STEM. As a result, the DST seeks to contribute to the creation of an environment which enables science centres to operate optimally.

In the above context, the DST established in 2004, Programmatic Support Grant funding facility to benefit existing science centres. The DST's National Roll-out Plan for a Network of Science Centres in South Africa details how the Department intends to provide operations support to science centres. However, implementation of the operational support package defined in the National Roll-out Plan cannot take effect at this stage as the DST has not yet secured necessary funding from the National Treasury. Under the circumstances, the DST will continue to provide Programmatic Support grants to existing science centres.

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA), a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF), has been mandated to implement the PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT GRANT INTERVENTION (PSGI) OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD. The 2009/10 phase will be a closed call made to Science Centres which collaborate with the DST in the Youth in Science Strategy. SAASTA would like to invite all Science Centres in the Science Centre network database and those that participated in the Project and Report Writing Proposals to respond to this call by sending a creatively crafted proposal for the 2009/2010 funding.

2 OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the Programmatic Support Grant Intervention is to contribute to an environment which enables Science Centres to respond to the following objectives:

- promotion of science and technology literacy among youth and general public;
- enhancement of learner participation and performance in science, technology engineering and mathematics (STEM);
- identification and, nurturing youth talent and potential in STEM; and
- promotion of STEM career education.

3 BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries include but not limited to:

- ✚ Learners and educators;
- ✚ University students, ranging from undergraduates, to encourage them to remain in the SET system and pursue careers in science and research;
- ✚ The general public.

4 CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

DST has earmarked a certain amount of funds to support projects and activities proposed and implemented by various Science Centres around South Africa. SAASTA is inviting you, through a closed call to submit innovative and creative proposals for organising and implementing programmes during the 2009/10 financial year, which will contribute towards the growth of the science sector in South Africa.

Proposals for programmatic support are invited from Science Centres, with attention to the following requirements:

- ✚ Greater participation of learners from all types of schools;

- ✚ promotion of science and technology literacy among youth and general public;
- ✚ enhancement of learner participation and performance in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);
- ✚ identification and, nurturing youth talent and potential in STEM;
- ✚ promotion of STEM career education;
- ✚ Increased reach, especially in rural areas;
- ✚ Use of visitor surveys to assess 'impact' of the programme;

Suggested deliverables may include, but are not limited to¹:

- ✚ ensure that programmes ignite the passion for and interest in science, engineering, technology and mathematics;
- ✚ ascertain that the targeted participants are reached and attendance to all planned activities is satisfactory;
- ✚ change the attitudes of participants (especially learners and teachers) in all grades and the public towards science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
- ✚ record and report attendance of learners, educators and all target groups;
- ✚ monitor and evaluate all activities of programme;
- ✚ sufficiently profile the Department of Science and Technology;

5 SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be considered in the selection of projects:

- ✚ Adherence and contribution to achieving the objectives of the Youth into Science Strategy;
- ✚ Demonstration of how the centre will achieve the four goals of the norms and standards of the Network of Science Centres;

¹ **Note:** Wherever possible, profiling opportunities should be provided to enable the participation of the DST Ministry i.e. speech opportunities for Minister and Deputy Minister of S&T

- ✚ Relevance and inclusion of target audiences as outlined in Section 3;
- ✚ Innovativeness and creativity of approach;
- ✚ Focus on public participation through dialogue and debate (two way communication);
- ✚ Inclusion of monitoring and evaluation measures to demonstrate success of project;
- ✚ Clear timelines indicated;
- ✚ Cost-effectiveness of the project, including integration into other events and sharing of costs; and
- ✚ Race and gender sensitivity² of the proposal

6 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

All proposals must be submitted to SAASTA electronically or by post through a fully completed application form. Proposals submitted not using this form will not be considered.

7 REPORTING STRUCTURE

SAASTA reserves the right to apply reporting requirements in terms of corporate policy. Details of this will be specified in the document agreement between the successful applicants and SAASTA.

8. CLOSING DATE

Appropriate deadlines are given to ensure that all administration around transfer of funding to successful applicants is completed well in advance of implementation.

The deadline for submitting proposals is **13 November 2009**.

²**Gender sensitivity:** Recognition between the differences and inequalities between women's and men's needs, roles, responsibilities and identities and be fair, equitable and gender responsive for the mutual benefit of women and man. Visit www.womeninscience.org.za for more information.

9. ENQUIRIES

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