



SAASTA

**South African Agency for Science
and Technology Advancement**

Call for interest: Nanotechnology Outreach and Awareness Project

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) is a business unit of the National Research Foundation. SAASTA's mission is to promote broad public awareness, appreciation and understanding of science, engineering and technology in South Africa. SAASTA was mandated to implement and administer the Public Engagement with Nanotechnology programme on behalf of the Department of Science & Technology (DST). The aim of this programme is to promote public understanding of and engagement with this new scientific field.

Nanotechnology, unlike other technologies, can find applications in virtually all areas of human life. In spite of being an infant at its evolution, some of the known issues related to nanotechnology suggest a wide spectrum of potential societal impact. It is for that reason that the cultivation of a climate of public discourse is essential to provide an opportunity for a society to switch from a merely passive, observational role to an active participating one.

Just like in every technology, consumer acceptance is the key when it comes to commercially developed nanotechnology products, because ultimately it is the end-users who will influence the trajectory of nanotechnology. It is inevitable that public perception of nanotechnology will be shaped by the news and information the public receives about the technology, informing their attitude and behaviour towards it. This makes it necessary that adequate information about the technology is timeously provided to educate and enable the public to make informed decisions about it. Their involvement at this early stage is thus, imperative

SAASTA would like to invite Science Centres to indicate their interest in potentially submitting a proposal for Outreach and Awareness Programmes in the field of Nanotechnology.

Call for interest

It is required that outreach and awareness in the area of Nanotechnology be carried out or implemented by the Science Outreach and Awareness sector. It is the purpose of this call for interest to identify parties who would be interested in undertaking Outreach and Awareness Programmes in the area of Nanotechnology.



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SAASTA intends to roll out grants to successful candidates for this purpose. SAASTA will shortlist 15 applicants to further partake in the selection process.

To qualify to be considered as a grant holder, interested parties who make the shortlist will be required to attend national nanotechnology facilities visit organised by SAASTA, as well as attend the Nanotechnology Fundamentals School organised by the Department of Science and Technology. The nanotechnology facilities visit will take place in the week of 9 to 13 November 2009, and the Nanotechnology Fundamentals School will take place from the 22nd of November to the 2nd of December 2009. Please note that there is only space for 15 grant candidates to attend both the nanotechnology national facilities visit, as well as for the Nanotechnology Fundamentals School.

A closed call for proposals will follow the call for interest, and subject to attending both the national nanotechnology facilities visit, and the Nanotechnology Fundamentals School, shortlisted candidates will be requested to submit proposals to be considered for funding. The deadline for submission of proposals is **24 December 2009**, which means that proposals from shortlisted candidates will have to reach SAASTA within two weeks after Nanotechnology Fundamentals School. Proposals will be reviewed and grants awarded by the end of January or February 2010.

Requirements

In order to identify and shortlist interested candidates, the following information is required from applying parties:

- Name of organisation
- Information on the organisational structure
- Audited financial statements for the organisation, dating back two (2) years
- An indication of any prior engagements with SAASTA funded projects/ programmes
- Information relating to grants awarded to the organisation by SAASTA in the past, where / if applicable (If the organisation have been a SAASTA grant holder in the past, a detailed discussion of the grant(s), the amount(s) awarded, the amount(s) returned to SAASTA, the levels of success in reaching the objectives of project(s) previously undertaken
- Organisation's target audience(s) and geographical reach
- The name of the person(s) who will be responsible for implementing the project. List the individual who will represent the organisation at the national facilities visit, as well as the Nanotechnology Fundamentals School (Please note that there will only be space for ONE representative from each shortlisted organisation)



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Closing Date

All responses to this call for interest from parties wishing to be considered should reach SAASTA no later than end of business on **22 October 2009**. Applications should be delivered electronically via email or fax, or delivered by hand. No late applications will be considered. No incomplete applications which fail to provide adequate information on all the requirements stated in the previous section shall be considered.

Enquiries

Enquiries should be directed to

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