



SAASTA

South African Agency for Science
and Technology Advancement

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH NANOTECHNOLOGY

Development of supporting material in order to assist educators to include nanotechnology in the school curriculum

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 (PEN) 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.

Developments in nanotechnology can be used to evoke interest among the youth to study Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI). Profiling careers in this field may assist in inspiring South African youth to conduct research in this new and emerging research area. It is for this reason that the PEN programme wishes to assist educators to evoke this interest among our youth by aligning the discipline to areas of the currently practiced school curriculum where relevant.

SAASTA wishes to invite the submission of proposals for the development of resource material which is aligned to the currently practiced school curriculum. These resource materials would be in the form of an educator's manual that would contain **Lesson Plans, Rubric Evaluation, and Data Sheets**. All these resources should be aligned to the current academic curriculum.

Call for Proposal

It is the purpose of this call for proposal to identify parties who would be interested in undertaking writing of an educator's tool in the area of nanotechnology. This should cover the following Grade 10-12 learning areas.

1. Physical Science
2. Agricultural Technology/Science
3. Civil Technology
4. Electric Technology
5. Information Technology
6. Life Sciences
7. Computer Applications Technology to name but a few

The deadline for submission of proposals is **31 May 2010**.

Requirements

Organisations or individuals wishing to respond to this call, need to have the following information accompany their proposal.

- ❖ Name of organization
- ❖ Information on the organizational structure
- ❖ Audited financial statements for the organization, dating back two (2) years
- ❖ An indication of any prior engagements with SAASTA funded projects/programmes
- ❖ Information relating to grants awarded to the organization by SAASTA in the past, where / if applicable (If the organization 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
- ❖ Organization's target audience(s)
- ❖ The name of the person(s) who will be responsible for implementing the project.



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Closing Date

All responses to this call for proposal from parties wishing to be considered should reach SAASTA no later than end of business on **31 May 2010**. 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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OR to:

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