



Hosting of Basic Biotechnology Workshops for Learners by Science Centres in South Africa

CLOSED CALL FOR INTEREST AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

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.

The Public Understanding of Biotechnology (PUB) programme, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), is implemented by SAASTA's Science Communication Unit across all sectors of society. The PUB programme was launched in 2003 and the aim is to promote credible, fact based understanding of biotechnology through awareness, dialogue and education to enable informed decision making on biotechnology innovations to improve the quality of life.

During the course of the 2009/10 financial year, a pilot phase of the Basic Biotechnology (BBT) Workshops for learners was executed by one of the South African Science Centers – Old Mutual MTN ScienCentre. This project proved to be successful and therefore the PUB programme would like to extend a call to interested Science Centers to be part of the 2010/11 roll out of such BBT workshops.

The PUB programme at SAASTA has ear-marked a certain amount of funds to support the roll out of Basic Biotechnology Workshops for learners in partnership with Science Centers.

2. OBJECTIVES

A pilot phase of the BBT Workshops for learners was carried out by OM MTN ScienCentre in Gateway, Durban. The PUB programme would like to invite Science Centers to be part of this project. The overall objectives of this project are to:

- Utilize the BBT Workshop model used in the pilot phase by OM MTN ScienCentre as a guideline to roll out similar workshops at Science Centers across South Africa.
- Introduce the concept of Biotechnology to learners in a workshop setting.

- Expose learners to scientists working in the field of biotechnology during sessions dedicated to role modeling.

3. BRIEFING/WORKING GROUP SESSION

Successful respondents are invited to a working group session where guidelines around the standardization and duplication of the BBTs locally using Science Centers will be discussed in detail. A presentation that covers the latest developments in biotechnology will also be given. In addition, the resources available from PUB that can be used by the Science Centers will be showcased. It is intended that this session will assist Science Centers in the development of their proposals.

Date: **28th July 2010**
Venue: **SAASTA**
Time: **10h30 – 13h00**

****Please note that travel will be covered by the PUB programme and that only one (1) person per Science Centre will be permitted to attend the working group session.**

****RSVP: 22 July 2010**

4. CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Successful respondents who participated in the working group session are requested to submit proposals for hosting BBT Workshops for learners with an indication of who will be involved from their science center, time frames, names of the schools to be targeted, number of learners to be reached, possible biotechnology role models etc.

Only one proposal per applicant should be submitted. Only proposals submitted with a clear outline of the proposed deliverables and budget breakdown will be considered.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

- Adherence and contribution to achieving the objectives of the proposed call
- Quality and relevance of the proposal for the content of the proposed call
- Relevance and inclusion of targeted audience
- A strong focus on interactive training
- Cost effectiveness of the proposal
- Budget

6. CLOSING DATE

All proposals must be submitted to SAASTA electronically/ by fax or hand delivered. An application form will be given to the successful respondents at the working group session.

The deadline for submitting proposals is at the close of business on **31st of August 2010**. Submissions received after this date will not be considered.

7. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries should be directed to Dr Manjusha Sunil
PUB Programme Head
SAASTA
Tel: 012 392 9314
Fax: 012 320 7803
Email: manjusha@saasta.ac.za

Physical Address: Didacta Building
211 Skinner Street
Pretoria Central
0001

Postal Address: P.O. Box 1758
Pretoria 0001