



SAASTA
South African Agency for Science
and Technology Advancement

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Media Alert

To all Media

15 September 2017

Nanotechnology Facility Tour: 20 September 2017

The University of the Free State (UFS) in-collaboration with the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) would like to invite the media to the Nanotechnology Facility Tour at the University of the Free State (Bloemfontein) on 20 September 2017.

The aim of the tour is to:

- enable journalists to interact, discuss and establish connections with the nanotechnology researchers, expose them to the work that the researchers are doing at the UFS Nanotechnology Facility. Journalists and delegates will have access to nine stations where they can learn more about the synthesis and characterisation of various nanostructures.
- create awareness on nanotechnology research and enhance journalist's understanding of the field.
- encourage industry to be involved in the development of nanotechnology and to collaborate with researchers in nanotechnology innovation.

Presentations from the Department of Science and Technology (Innovation Priorities and Instrument Directorate), University of the Free State's Physics and Astronomy Department and the National Research Foundation will be included.

The tour will be structured in two parts:

- (a) an audio-visual presentation, which aims to familiarise delegates and journalists with the science of nanotechnology, its origins, potential applications and risks.
- (b) a physical tour, will be conducted in the laboratories, with the aim to encourage engagement and to look for opportunities to support or collaborate with the work done at the centre. Journalists will have an opportunity to interview scientists and identify potential nanotechnology stories.

Venue: Equitas Auditorium, Bloemfontein Campus, University of the Free State

Dates: 20 September 2017

Time: 09:00 to 15:00

Ends

For interviews contact:

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About the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA)

SAASTA is a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF) with the mandate to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, engineering and technology in South Africa.

SAASTA's contribution to the NRF's vision is to grow the pool of quality learners today who will become the scientists and innovators of tomorrow.

It aims to be the leading science advancement agency in the country by promoting and communicating the value and impact of science, technology and innovation in a dynamic knowledge economy. It also intends to contribute significantly towards building a science, engineering and technology (SET) human resource base. For more information on the operations and programs within the NRF please visit www.saasta.ac.za

About the NRF: The National Research Foundation (NRF) was established on 1 April 1999 as an independent statutory body in accordance with the National Research Foundation Act. The NRF is a key public entity responsible for supporting the development of human resources for research and innovation in all fields of science and technology. The organisation is one of the major players in educating and training a new generation of scientists able to deal with South African and African needs. The organisation encourages public awareness and appreciation of science, engineering and technology, and facilitates dialogue between science and society. Its vision is to contribute to a prosperous South Africa based on a knowledge economy. For more information on the operations and programs within the NRF please visit www.nrf.ac.za