



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

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## **Media Release**

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**For immediate release:**

### **National Science Week goes virtual for the first time**

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) in collaboration with the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) will be hosting the annual National Science Week (NSW) running from 1 to 7 August. NSW has a packed online programme celebrating science.

This year, NSW will explore and celebrate the theme of “Making It Possible Through Science” at various events across multiple platforms, such as Zoom, You Tube and Facebook.

NSW is South Africa’s annual celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). NSW features multiple events around the country, including those hosted by universities, science councils and science centres in order to bring awareness to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and innovation (STEMI).

Since its inception, the NSW programme has attracted thousands of participants, including members of the public, learners and members of the science community, to science shows, exhibitions, lectures and workshops, in order to popularise STEMI as attractive and accessible and enhance scientific literacy among South Africans from all walks of life. NSW has been successful in raising the profile of STEMI in the country and also promoting awareness and interest in relevant careers in STEMI fields.

The Department of Science and Innovation and the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement will be partnering with various stakeholders to bring science to

the homes of the South African citizens. Activities include online webinars, Morning Drive shows, documentaries, and virtual exhibitions.

With the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the importance of science engagement, platforms such as National Science Week continue its key objectives of raising science awareness among citizens and inspiring the South African youth to take up careers in the fields of STEMI. The week's programme aims to showcase what is possible through science.

**Ends**

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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.

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 programmes within the NRF please visit [www.saasta.ac.za](http://www.saasta.ac.za)

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (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](http://www.nrf.ac.za)

