

National Science Month Logo Competition Terms and Conditions



The banner features a central image of a glowing, colorful brain with sparks emanating from it. To the left, the text 'National Science Month Logo Competition' is displayed in white. To the right, a hexagonal grid contains the following information: 'WIN R20 000', 'Department of Science, Technology and Innovation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA', 'COMPETITION OPENS: 14 May 2026', and 'COMPETITION CLOSES: 31 May 2026'. At the bottom right are the NRF and SAASTA logos. A blue banner at the bottom reads 'Create the logo. Inspire a nation. Your idea. Our future. Let Science Shine!'.

National Science Month Logo Competition

WIN R20 000

Department of Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

COMPETITION OPENS:
14 May 2026

COMPETITION CLOSES:
31 May 2026

Create the logo. Inspire a nation. Your idea. Our future. Let Science Shine!

NRF SAASTA
National Research Foundation South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement

Organised by:	South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (NRF-SAASTA), a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF), established in terms of the National Research Foundation Act 23 of 1998. Physical Address: 211 Nana Sita Street, Pretoria Central, Pretoria, South Africa. Competition enquiries: nsmcompetition@saasta.nrf.ac.za
Competition Period:	14 May 2026 - 31 May 2026
Prize:	R20 000 (Twenty Thousand Rand) cash prize
Open to:	South African citizens registered at HEIs or TVET Colleges within the Republic of South Africa

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The National Science Month (NSM) Logo Design Competition invites creative and innovative students from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges across South Africa to design the official logo that will represent National Science Month.

This national competition, coordinated by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) and South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (NRF-SAASTA) seeks to create a distinctive visual identity that captures the spirit of science, innovation, inclusivity, and national participation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

Through this initiative, DSTI and NRF-SAASTA aims to harness the creative talent of South Africa's student community to develop a logo that will become a recognisable national symbol of science engagement and public participation in science.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By entering this competition, you agree to the following Terms and Conditions. Please read them carefully before submitting your Entry.

1. INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

In these Terms and Conditions, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- **"Competition"** means the National Science Month (NSM) Logo Competition led and administered by NRF-SAASTA.
- **"Competition Host"** means the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (NRF-SAASTA).
- **"Promoter"** means the National Research Foundation (NRF), being the parent entity of NRF-SAASTA and the entity responsible for the overall governance and legal accountability of the Competition.
- **"Closing Date"** means 31 May 2026, or such other date as communicated by the Competition Host pursuant to Clause 3.2.
- **"Entry"** means a logo design submitted in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.
- **"Judging Panel"** means the panel of independent judges appointed by the Competition Host to evaluate Entries and select the Winner in accordance with Clause 9.
- **"Participant"** means any person who submits an Entry in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.
- **"Winner"** means the Participant whose Entry is selected by the Judging Panel in accordance with Clause 9.
- **"IP Assignment Agreement"** means the formal intellectual property assignment agreement to be executed by the Winner pursuant to Clause 8.2.

2. HOST DETAILS

- 2.1 The Competition is organised and conducted by NRF-SAASTA, a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF), established in terms of the National Research Foundation Act 23 of 1998.
- 2.2 Physical Address: 211 Nana Sita Street, Pretoria Central, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa.
- 2.3 Competition enquiries may be directed to: nsmcompetition@saasta.nrf.ac.za - Website: www.saasta.nrf.ac.za.

3. COMPETITION PERIOD

- 3.1 The Competition commenced on 14 May 2026 and will close on the Closing Date of 31 May 2026.
- 3.2 The Competition Host reserves the right to extend, shorten, or otherwise amend the Competition period at its sole discretion. Any such amendment will be communicated to registered Participants via the official competition submission platform with reasonable advance notice.

4. ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 The Competition is open only to:
 - South African citizens; and
 - Registered students at recognised Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or TVET colleges within the Republic of South Africa.
- 4.2 The following persons are NOT eligible to participate:

- (a) Employees, contractors, and service providers of the Competition Host (NRF-SAASTA) or the Promoter (NRF);
 - (b) Members of the appointed Judging Panel;
 - (c) Immediate family members (spouse, life partner, parent, sibling, or child) of any person referred to in (a) or (b) above;
 - (d) Any associated agencies or persons who, in the reasonable opinion of the Competition Host, hold a material conflict of interest in relation to the Competition.
- 4.3 The Competition Host reserves the right to request proof of eligibility at any time. Failure to provide such proof may result in disqualification.
- 4.4 Judging Panel members shall be required to sign a conflict of interest declaration prior to commencement of judging.

5. SUBMISSION PROCESS

- 5.1 Participants must submit entries via NRF-SAASTA website and participants may be requested by the competition host to submit via a third-party platform such as google form. Please note that the use of Google Forms involves the transfer of personal data to Google LLC's servers, which may be located outside the Republic of South Africa. By submitting an Entry, Participants consent to such transfer in accordance with Clause 15.4.
- 5.2 Only one (1) Entry per Participant will be permitted.
- 5.3 Entries must be received on or before the Closing Date.
- 5.4 Late, incomplete, illegible, corrupted, or non - compliant Entries will not be considered.
- 5.5 Participation in the Competition is free of charge. No entry fee is required.
- 5.6 The Competition Host will confirm receipt of a successfully processed Entry. Where a Participant does not receive confirmation within 48 hours of submission, the Participant should contact nsmcompetition@saasta.nrf.ac.za to verify receipt. NRF-SAASTA accepts no responsibility for Entries lost due to technical failure of the submission platform.

6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

- 6.1 Each Entry must:
 - Be the sole, original work of the Participant;
 - Not have been previously published or used for any purpose unrelated to the National Science Month;
 - Not contain any third-party intellectual property, including copyrighted or trademarked material.
- 6.2 Team entries, collaborative submissions, or entries submitted on behalf of another person are strictly prohibited.
- 6.3 The use of computer aided design (CAD) tools and graphic design software is permitted, subject to Clause 6.4 below.
- 6.4 The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to generate, produce, or substantially create an Entry is strictly prohibited. Participants may use AI - assisted tools solely for minor refinements such as colour correction, background removal, or format conversion, provided that the creative concept, overall composition, and design execution are entirely the Participant's own original work. Participants must declare, as part of the submission process, that the Entry was not substantially generated by AI tools. Entries found to have been substantially AI generated will be disqualified in accordance with Clause 12.

7. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

7.1 Image Quality

- High - resolution suitable for both digital and print use;
- Minimum recommended resolution of 300 DPI.

7.2 Format Requirements

Participants must submit both of the following:

- A JPEG or PNG file (preview version); and
- The competition host may request the participant to submit editable source file(s) (AI, PSD, or SVG format) where necessary.
- Maximum file size per upload: 5 MB per file. Files exceeding this limit may not be processed successfully.

7.3 Design Requirements

- The design must be scalable and suitable for use across:
- Digital platforms and websites;
- Print media;
- Event branding;
- Promotional merchandise;
- Social media campaigns.

A transparent background and floating design format are preferred.

8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

8.1 By submitting an Entry, the Participant warrants that:

- They are the sole creator and owner of the Entry;
- The Entry is original and has not been substantially generated by artificial intelligence tools;
- The Entry does not infringe the rights of any third party; and
- They have the full legal capacity and authority to assign the rights in the Entry as contemplated herein.

8.2 Upon selection as Winner and as a condition precedent to receiving the Prize, the Winner shall execute a formal Intellectual Property Assignment Agreement in a form acceptable to the Competition Host. By executing such agreement, the Winner irrevocably assigns to the Competition Host all rights, title, and interest in and to the winning Entry, including all copyright and other intellectual property rights therein, with effect from the date of such assignment. The Competition Host shall not publish, reproduce, adapt, or exploit the winning Entry prior to execution of the IP Assignment Agreement.

8.3 To the extent permissible under applicable law, the Winner waives all moral rights in the winning Entry in favour of the Competition Host.

8.4 The Competition Host shall have the unrestricted, perpetual, and royalty free right to use, reproduce, adapt, publish, and exploit the winning Entry in any manner and in any media, following execution of the IP Assignment Agreement.

8.5 Non - Winning Entries: All Entries not selected as the winning Entry remain the intellectual property of their respective creators. The Competition Host shall not use, reproduce, adapt, or exploit any non -winning Entry. Submission files for non - winning Entries will be deleted within 60 days of the announcement of the Winner.

9. SELECTION OF WINNER

- 9.1** The Winner will be selected by the Judging Panel appointed by the Competition Host. The Judging Panel shall consist of persons with relevant expertise in design, science communication, or related fields, selected by the Competition Host to ensure independence and impartiality.
- 9.2** Judging will be based on the following criteria, with indicative weightings:
- Creativity and Innovation - 30%;
 - Originality and Authenticity - 25%;
 - Relevance to National Science Month - 25%;
 - Technical Execution - 20%.
- 9.3** The decision of the Judging Panel is final and binding in respect of the merits of the Entries, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the judging outcome. Nothing in this clause shall be construed as limiting any statutory rights a Participant may have under applicable South African law.
- 9.4** The Competition Host reserves the right to disqualify any Entry at any stage of the judging process if it does not comply with these Terms and Conditions.

10. PRIZE

- 10.1** The Winner will receive a cash prize of R20 000 (twenty thousand rand).
- 10.2** The prize is non-transferable and non-exchangeable and may not be deferred or redeemed for any alternative benefit.
- 10.3** The Competition Host reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of equal or greater value if circumstances require.
- 10.4** Tax Liability: The Winner is solely responsible for any income tax or other fiscal liability arising from receipt of the Prize in terms of the Income Tax Act 58 of 1962. NRF-SASTA shall not be responsible for any tax payable by the Winner and will not supplement the Prize to account for any tax withheld or payable. The Winner is advised to seek independent tax advice.

11. WINNER NOTIFICATION

- 11.1** The Winner will be notified using the contact details provided at the time of entry.
- 11.2** The Winner must respond within 5 (five) business days of notification to claim the Prize. If the Winner cannot be contacted or fails to respond within this period, the Competition Host reserves the right to select an alternative Winner.

12. DISQUALIFICATION

The Competition Host reserves the right to disqualify any Participant who:

- Fails to comply with these Terms and Conditions;
- Provides false, inaccurate, or misleading information;
- Submits an Entry that was substantially or wholly generated by artificial intelligence tools in contravention of Clause 6.4;
- Engages in conduct that is unlawful, fraudulent, or that objectively brings the Competition into disrepute.

13. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Competition Host shall not be liable for:

- Any indirect, special, consequential, or unforeseen loss or damage arising from participation in or inability to participate in the Competition;

- Technical malfunctions or platform failures beyond the reasonable control of the Competition Host;
- Lost, delayed, incomplete, or corrupted Entries.

Nothing in these Terms and Conditions shall exclude or limit the Competition Host's liability for direct loss or damage caused by its own gross negligence or wilful misconduct.

14. INDEMNITY

The Participant indemnifies and holds harmless the Competition Host and the Promoter against any claims, damages, losses, or liabilities arising from:

- Any breach of these Terms and Conditions by the Participant;
- Any infringement of third - party intellectual property rights in relation to the Entry, including claims arising from AI - generated content.

15. DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY

- 15.1** NRF-SAASTA, a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF) established in terms of the National Research Foundation Act 23 of 1998, is the responsible party for purposes of the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013 (POPIA). Data protection enquiries may be directed to: Madelaine Meyer, the NRF deputy Information Officer M.Meyer@nrf.ac.za.
- 15.2** Personal information collected in connection with this Competition (including name, contact details, institutional affiliation, and submission data) will be used solely for the purposes of administering the Competition, notifying the Winner, and fulfilling NRF-SAASTA's statutory reporting obligations.
- 15.3** Submission of an Entry is voluntary. Failure to provide required personal information will result in the Entry being ineligible for consideration.
- 15.4** Entries are submitted via Google Forms, a platform operated by Google LLC, whose servers may be located outside the Republic of South Africa. By entering the Competition, Participants consent to the transfer of their personal information to Google LLC in accordance with Section 72 of POPIA, on the basis that Google LLC is subject to binding data protection obligations that are comparable to POPIA standards under its standard contractual commitments.
- 15.5** Personal information will not be shared with third parties except as required for the administration of this Competition or as required by law.
- 15.6** Participants have the right to: (a) access their personal information held by NRF-SAASTA; (b) request correction of inaccurate information; and (c) object to the processing of their personal information in certain circumstances. Such requests may be directed to: Madelaine Meyer, the NRF deputy Information Officer M.Meyer@nrf.ac.za.
- 15.7** For further information, please refer to NRF-SAASTA's Privacy Policy available at: www.saasta.nrf.ac.za/privacy-policy.
- 15.8** All processing of personal information shall be conducted in accordance with POPIA and the POPIA Regulations 2021.

16. GOVERNING LAW

These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Republic of South Africa, including the Consumer Protection Act 68 of 2008 and the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 25 of 2002, where applicable.

17. GENERAL

- 17.1** The Promoter reserves the right to amend, suspend, or terminate the Competition at any time, where reasonably necessary. Any material amendments will be communicated to Participants via the official competition submission platform.

- 17.2** In the event of any dispute relating to the conduct of the Competition or the selection of the Winner, the decision of the Promoter shall be final, subject to any statutory rights a Participant may have under applicable South African law.
- 17.3** These Terms and Conditions constitute the entire agreement between the Promoter and the Participant in respect of the Competition and supersede all prior representations and understandings.
- 17.4** Should any provision of these Terms and Conditions be found to be invalid, unlawful, or unenforceable, such provision shall be severed and the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.
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PARTICIPANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By submitting an Entry, I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions in their entirety, including the intellectual property assignment provisions in Clause 8 and the data protection provisions in Clause 15.

<input type="checkbox"/> I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/> I confirm that the Entry submitted is my own original work and was not substantially generated by AI tools.
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