

SOUTH AFRICA – SPAIN JOINT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

First Call for Project Proposals 2006

DUE DATE: 05 MAY 2006

In May 2003 an agreement on science and technology between the governments of South African and Spain was signed. This was followed two years later by a protocol aimed at its implementation. The protocol also sought to facilitate scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries in the fields of natural sciences and engineering through supporting collaboration between South African and Spanish researchers from universities, universities of technology, science councils and public research institutes on an equal and mutually beneficial basis.

Cooperative activities covered by the protocol include:

- the organization and realization of joint research projects;
- the exchange of researchers;
- joint seminars and workshops;
- any other form of cooperation as may be determined through mutual agreement.

Under the terms of the protocol, joint research project proposals shall be submitted to the relevant authorities in both countries for evaluation (the National Research Foundation in South Africa and the Education and Science Ministry in Spain), with evaluation done according to the following criteria:

- scientific excellence;
- impact on bilateral science and technology relations;
- potential for creating research and development capacity;
- quality of project presentation;
- research capacity development for previously disadvantaged South Africans in order to facilitate and promote redress and equity as well as research excellence. As a result, proposals and projects with strong elements of research capacity development at historically disadvantaged institutions shall enjoy favourable consideration, while joint projects that involve researchers from both historically disadvantaged and historically advantaged institutions are encouraged.

For the purposes of this call, research projects falling within the following areas/disciplines will be considered:

- Bioinformatics and biodiversity;
- Advanced manufacturing technologies;
- Information technologies;
- Water management;

- Oceanographic research;
- Astronomy;
- Nanotechnology;
- Mining and minerals technology.

The joint application for funding must include two principal investigators, one in South Africa and another in Spain. The principal investigators bear the main responsibility for the scientific and financial reporting, as well as the technical and administrative co-ordination of the project.

Ideally, both principal investigators should hold a Ph.D. and both must be affiliated to a recognized higher education institution, science council or public research institute in Spain and South Africa respectively.

Only applications forwarded via the research office or its equivalent at universities, universities of technology, science councils and public research institutes from both countries will be considered for evaluation.

Funding will be available for two years, from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008, with a possible extension to 31 March 2009 upon request, should extra time be required for project completion.

Application forms for project proposal submission may be obtained from the National Research Foundation in South Africa and the Education and Science Ministry in Spain, or downloaded directly from either agency's website (see contact details below). Proposals must be submitted simultaneously in South Africa and in Spain, and include a detailed project description containing methodology and science and technology objectives. This description should be written in English and must be identical in both proposals submitted in South Africa and Spain.

In addition, South African applicants will be expected to submit the following:

- a list of all investigators, both South African and Spanish, to participate in the project;
- a detailed *curriculum vitae* of both principal investigators;
- an indication of the South African research team's experience in the proposed field of research over the past five years;
- a detailed budget giving categorical account of the proposed use to be made of funding received.

Applications must be submitted by 05 MAY 2006.

Applications received after this date, either in Spain or South Africa will not be considered for funding.

For further information, please contact:

- In South Africa:

National Research Foundation
International Science Cooperation Grants
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