



**SOUTH AFRICAN – SPAIN  
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME:  
MARCH 2006**

**NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (NRF) AND  
THE  
SPANISH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND  
SCIENCE**

**Guidelines for Applicants**

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**Appendices available at [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)**

## **GENERAL BACKGROUND**

In May 2003 an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation was signed between the South African and Spanish governments. The agreement covers the areas of the natural sciences and engineering, and supports 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. *In the case of Spain the call for proposals include the following countries (apart from Spain and South Africa), Germany, Austria, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Portugal.*

The main objective of the bi-national South African – Spain Research Partnership Programme is to encourage research co-operation between researchers in South Africa and Spain by supporting joint projects of scientific excellence. The aim is to contribute to scientific and socio-economic development of both countries. The basic condition of the programme is that South African and Spanish researchers should submit joint applications simultaneously in South Africa and Spain.

The principles of mutual benefits, equity and fairness as well as criteria relating to intellectual property rights shall apply throughout the research co-operation. In particular, this programme aims at achieving a balanced representation of male and female scientists participating in this research partnership programme.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To produce new knowledge and enhance the understanding in fields of mutual concern and relevance
- To promote research excellence and quality
- To establish a basis for long-term research co-operation between researchers in South Africa and Spain
- To maintain a balance between basic/fundamental and applied/problem-solving research
- To contribute meaningfully to research capacity development
- To encourage the internationalisation of South African and Spanish higher education institutions

## **PRIORITIES**

In order to facilitate and promote redress, equity and research excellence within the South African science system, with particular reference to historically disadvantaged individuals and researchers, proposals and projects with strong elements of research capacity development, shall enjoy favourable consideration. Joint projects that involve researchers from historically disadvantaged backgrounds as well as those reflecting principles of gender equity in South Africa, are encouraged.

## **SCIENTIFIC AREAS**

**Research projects within the following areas or disciplines will be considered:**

- Bioinformatics and biodiversity;
- Advanced manufacturing technologies;
- Information technologies;
- Water management;
- Oceanographic research;
- Astronomy;
- Nanotechnology;
- Mining and minerals technology.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS/WHO MAY APPLY**

- The joint application must include two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in Spain.
- Principal investigators must be in possession of a PhD and affiliated with an accredited research center in South Africa or Spain
- Both principal investigators have the main responsibility for the scientific and financial reporting, as well as the technical and administrative co-ordination of the project.
- Other investigators must also be affiliated with an accredited research center and perform such a function in the project as requires a higher education degree or diploma.
- Only project proposals submitted via research offices (in South Africa) or the Heads of Departments (in Spain) at universities, university colleges and technikons from both countries will be considered.

- *Funding will not be provided to a Spanish research team who has already received funding under this program and has retained its composition, continuing work on the previously-funded project.*
- *Any modification of the Spanish research team must be authorized by their research institution.*

## **WHAT MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION**

- An application form which includes the details of both principal investigators.
- A project description which is limited to a maximum of 10 pages.
- Curriculum Vitae (maximum 5 pages focusing on the most important research projects and publications) of the principal investigators and of other participating researchers in the project.

## **THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The following are required headings for this section:

### **1. Detailed description of the project**

Provide a project title and details of the principal investigators who will be participating.

### **2. Scientific and technological background**

Give a brief summary of the theoretical framework of the **collaborative** study and indicate the relation of the project to previous and ongoing research in the field concerned in the past 5 years. Include a brief literature review of the proposed research field or area.

### **3. Specific objectives and expected significance of the research**

State the overall purpose and the specific objectives of the **research collaboration**, expected contribution to new knowledge, expected societal and institutional impact and other potential benefits of the project.

#### **4. Methodology and work-plan**

Provide a detailed description of the research plan and indicate which tasks will be carried out by the South African researcher(s), the Spanish researcher(s) or by both. The research plan should include detailed information on how the project is to be conducted. Methodology, techniques, processing, time-table, state of research, etc.

#### **5. Record of preliminary results**

Define the major outputs expected from the project and outline the plans for the dissemination or implementation of the findings of the proposed research. (Reports, presentations, seminars, workshops, conferences, etc.)

#### **6. Mode of co-operation between the Spanish and South African researchers**

Describe the co-operation between the Spanish and South African institutions and researchers involved in this project.

#### **7. Budget description**

Specify the budget for the project using the format as indicated in the application form. Funding from other sources must be listed.

## **CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT**

The applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- **relevance** - is the project relevant in relation to the objectives established for this programme
- **scientific quality** - in relation to the research standards currently applicable within the field or discipline
- universities involved in the project - priority will be given to applications involving *historically disadvantaged* researchers from *South Africa*. *Spain gives preference to projects involving young investigators having less than 10 years post-doc research experience and projects involving more than two countries.*
- **competence** of the applicants in relation to the proposed research assignment and in relation to their respective academic standing and track record
- **gender-related issues** should be specifically outlined in the project proposal, if relevant to the research to be conducted
- **environmental issues** should be specifically outlined in the project proposal, if relevant to the research to be conducted

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- applications are to be evaluated according to the ***commitment and interest shown by the host institutions*** in both countries that it supports the application
- ***budget*** - in relation to the project plan and funds available (Please note that salaries are not to be financed by this programme).

Selection is done by a Bilateral Selection Commission consisting of representatives of South Africa and Spain.

## **DISBURSEMENT AND USE OF FUNDS**

The South African contribution shall be allocated to costs incurred in South Africa, while the Spanish contribution shall be allocated to costs incurred in Spain. International travel between Spain and South Africa is the responsibility of the sending partner (**details given below**). Local costs shall be the responsibility of the hosting partner.

Running costs (consumables, bench-fees, etc.) shall be the responsibility of the host institution.

*On the South African side a maximum amount of R300 000 per project for two years duration will be allocated.*

*On the Spanish side, 16 000 Euros may be applied for each year, in total 32 000 euros during two years.*

### ***Costs to be financed by South Africa:***

- Return airfares (economy class) of South African researchers travelling to Spain
- Accommodation and local travel costs of Spanish researchers currently in South Africa and participating in approved projects. (Subsistence allowance should be covered by the Spanish budget).
- Personal accident and medical insurance for South African researchers traveling to Spain (excluding costs for dental care, the treatment of chronic diseases and repatriation costs in the event of urgent medical treatment required in South Africa, or in the event of death.)
- Production costs for co-authored publications emanating from the research project.
- Costs for the organisation of project- and theme-related workshops with South African and Spanish participation.

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***Costs to be financed by Spain:***

- Return airfares (economy class) of Spanish researchers travelling to South Africa
- Accommodation and local travel costs of South African researchers currently in Spain and participating in approved projects. (Subsistence allowance should be covered by the South African budget)
- Personal accident and medical insurance for Spanish researchers traveling to South Africa (excluding costs for dental care, the treatment of chronic diseases and repatriation costs in the event of urgent medical treatment required in Spain, and in the event of death).
- Production costs for co-authored publications emanating from the research project
- Costs for the organisation of project- and theme-related workshops with South African and Spanish participation.

***The following costs may NOT be financed:***

- Salaries and consultants' fees
- Major equipment and infrastructural costs
- Bursaries, stipends/salaries for courses, education and training of doctoral students, post-graduates etc.

***Alternate Funding***

- Funding may be solicited from other sources in addition to this one, provided funds obtained from a single source do not exceed the total budget of the financed project.
- Solicitation of other funds must be declared at whatever moment they occur and, should they be obtained, the recipient must be prepared to accept a possible reduction in the funding provided by this program.

**Duration of project**

Funding will be available for two years for the time period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008. This period can be extended to 31 March 2009 upon request.

The NRF and Spanish Ministry of Education and Science may at any time withhold disbursements, wholly or in part, for the following reasons:

- if substantial deviations from the presented plans and budgets occur;
- if the main project objectives are endangered;
- if reports are not delivered as agreed upon or,
- if the project develops unfavorably in terms of the proposed objectives in any other important respect.

Before such a decision is taken, NRF and Spanish Ministry of Education and Science shall discuss the matter with the institutions and the principal investigators concerned. If it is decided to withhold disbursements, this will be implemented both in Spain and in South Africa.

## **SCIENTIFIC FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING**

Benefiting researchers shall submit the following on or before March 31 within the life-span of an approved research project or in connection with a new request:

- An annual progress report on the research co-operation of the preceding calendar year in two copies.
- An annual audited financial report on the utilisation / employment of the funds during the preceding calendar year in two copies.
- Such reports, papers, books, multimedia, periodicals etc. published by the institutions and/or researchers as may reasonably be requested.
- The scientific outcome and a final progress report should be submitted within three months of the project's conclusion.

**Principal investigators shall assist and co-operate with the NRF and the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science in performing audits, follow-ups and evaluations, as well as in providing any other information that the Parties may request, including records and documents.**

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

The specific terms regarding intellectual property rights such as patents, know-how and copyrights, shall be determined in separate agreements or protocols between the co-operation partners concerned.

## **DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS**

The NRF and Spanish Ministry of Education and Science shall have the right to copy and distribute in a suitable form any research reports and studies which have been produced as a result of the research cooperation and which has been funded in terms of the Research Partnership Agreement. Written consent of the principal investigator in South Africa is to be procured.

Research results shall be freely published and disseminated. Due credit, acknowledgement and recognition shall be given to the NRF and the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science upon publication.

## **ETHICAL APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROJECTS**

For projects carried out in their entirety in South Africa, South African regulations must be in accordance with institutional standards, criteria and approval.

For projects carried out in their entirety in Spain, Spanish rules shall apply;

### **Deadline**

**Applications must be submitted by 28 April 2006. Five copies of the application must be submitted to the NRF for South African applicants and applicants in Spain must submit their applications to the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science respectively. Proposals which are only submitted in one country will not be considered.**

## **CONTACTS AT THE NRF AND THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE**

### **In South Africa:**

#### **NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (NRF)**

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0001 PRETORIA  
South Africa  
NRF website: [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)

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### **In Spain:**

#### **THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE**

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E-28071  
Madrid  
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