

Some Links and Sites on Public ICT Skills and Research in South Africa

www.meraka.org.za

The Meraka Institute derives its mandate as a national strategic initiative from President Mbeki's 2002 State of the Nation Address. The major objective of the Meraka Institute is to facilitate national economic and social development through human capital development and needs-based research and innovation, leading to products and services based on Information and Communication Technology.

www.theinnovationhub.com

Business Purpose of The Innovation Hub

- To support high-tech company formation and growth in the local economy through the creation of a "unique space" and associated facilities where high-tech entrepreneurs, world-class business, education, research and venture capital can meet, network and prosper.
- To provide key value-adding business services that support the growth and globalisation of local technology-rich business enterprises, and that contribute to their sustainability over the long-term.
- To increase the wealth of the local high-tech and "knowledge intensive" community, promote a culture of innovation, and stimulate the competitiveness of both companies and knowledge-based institutions.

<http://www.theinnovationhub.com/NewsBits/vol1no3/05.html>

An article on one of the high level skills programmes in ICT at the Innovation Hub.

<http://www.smallbusinessnotes.com/incubation/southafrica.html>

List of Business Incubators that focus on ICT entrepreneurs in South Africa

1. [University of Cape Town](#)
2. [University of Stellenbosch](#)
3. [University of Witwatersrand](#)

Some Computer Engineering Department's Links – should also review other such as University of Pretoria which was "down" when this was compiled.



<http://osprey.unisa.ac.za/saicsit/>

<http://www.cssa.org.za/>

Computer Society South Africa [CSSA] focuses its activities, events and publications in five primary areas:

- ICT Policy representing industry practitioners at Government level.
- Education and training to elevate the level of ICT capability in South Africa.
- Professional development and advancement. Employers of CSSA members know that the membership vetting process is thorough and responsible.
- Community development, in terms of projects, that enhances the standards and levels of ICT for the greater good of the country.
- Transformation in ICT-E. CSSA supports the ICT Charter Working Group www.ictcharter.org.za and the Department of Trade and Industry's BEE database of empowered companies www.thedti.gov.za

With over 3000 members throughout South Africa CSSA is widely recognised as a professional body in South Africa for ICT practitioners. The CSSA is a dynamic organisation, moving with its industry and facilitating change and development for the benefit of all.

<http://www.nrf.ac.za/focusareas/ict/>

National Research Foundation: ICT Research programme

The objective of the National Research Foundation (NRF) is to support and promote research through funding, human resource development and the provision of the necessary research facilities, in order to facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all fields of the natural and social sciences, humanities and technology. In so doing, it contributes to the improvement of the quality of life of all the people of the country. The organisation was established in 1999 as a result of The NRF Act.

Information and communications technologies (ICTs) are one of several major, new technologies present in our social, economic and political systems. ICTs have a continuing and dynamic presence in our society, impacting on the present and the future. While it may be "... easy to dismiss the future development of ICTs as simply a process of 'roll-out', or the diffusion of already established technologies, "taking such a perspective would be a grave error. There is much to be won, and lost, in the next few years in terms of the development of information communication technologies." (UK Department of Trade and Industry: (2002) A scenario for success in 2005: Information and Communications Technology in the UK)

The ICT & Information Society focus area directs its attention to ICTs and their current and future impacts in South African society. Although research on the impact of ICTs is relevant in many of the NRF's research focus areas such as Growth & Competitiveness, developing local ICTs and integrating effectively new and emerging ICTs is central to this focus area. That emphasis is premised on the assumption that South Africa needs to unlock the relationship between knowledge, technology, and the uniquely South African social and economic development realities that the country faces.

<http://www.isett.org.za/default.asp>

Vision

The ISETT SETA seeks to develop South Africa into an ICT knowledge based society by encouraging more people to develop skills in the sector as a means of contributing to economic growth.

Mission

The ISETT SETA will generate, facilitate and accelerate the processes of skills development for workers at all levels in the ISETT sector by linking future technology trends with new skills development programs.

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