

Overview of the SA-EU strategic relationship – involvement of SMEs

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Background

- South Africa (SA) and the European Union (EU) enjoy a privileged partnership marked by long-standing political, economic and development cooperation ties
- First SA-EU intergovernmental agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation signed in 1996
- European-South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP) funded under FP6 to facilitate collaboration between EU and SA researchers wishing to participate in the EU Framework Programme (FP)
- SA science benefited R150 mil from EU FP6
- Currently FP7 – total budget 50,5 billion EURO (2007 – 2013)



Statistics for SA participation in FP7

In April 2009

- 41% success rate 82 participations in 69 projects
- EC investment 13 million Euros
- Health and FAB (11 participations each)
ICT and transport (8), SSH (5), Space (4)

Top 10 partners

UK, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and India



Composition of SA FP participation thus far

- Largely science councils and universities
 - Need to encourage more PDI
- Some private companies and a few SMEs
 - Plans to encourage involvement of other government departments



SA-EU Opportunities for SMEs

- Sector Budget Support – R300 mil budget
- European Cooperation in Science and Technology - COST
- Mobility opportunities e.g. IAPP
- Joint Africa-EU programmes e.g. CAASTNet, INCONTACT, ST-EAP



DST Interventions

- SME supportive policies, e.g. TIA
- Possibility of participation in EUREKA
- Involvement of SMEs in SBS, FP7 and other international opportunities
- Appointment of an FP7 National Contact Point for SMEs



DST Financial Support

- Seed funding
- Co-investment funding
- Mobility matching fund
- Support for COST participants



Thank you!

More information: www.esastap.org.za

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