

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Strengthening Technology, Research and Innovation Cooperation between Europe and South Africa (ESASTAP 2020)

INVITE:

South African researchers interested in attending and participating in the information Communications Technology (ICT) 2018 event taking place in Vienna, Austria on 4-6 December 2018

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 26 October 2018 at 14h00

1. Background

Strengthening technology, research and innovation cooperation between Europe and South Africa has been one of the most active components of the South Africa (SA) – European Union (EU) strategic partnership. The strategic partnership includes providing a platform for South African innovators to engage European partners on possible collaboration in joint Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) projects. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will lead a delegation of officials and researchers in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to participate in the ICT 2018 Conference in Vienna, Austria from 4 to 6 December 2018. The event will have a specific focus on digital transformation of society and industry.

2. The ICT 2018 event

Innovators, entrepreneurs, academics and industry representatives will attend the event. In addition, the event will include a slot focusing on the Horizon 2020 (H2020) – the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for 2014 – 2020.

The ICT 2018 will have four main components converging around the theme “**Imagine Digital – Connect Europe**”: a) Conference, b) Exhibition, c) Networking opportunities and d) Innovation and Start-ups forum.

- 2.1 A conference, which will feature influential speakers, debates around the digital policy and top ICT professionals from academia, industry and research institutions;
- 2.2 A networking session, which will provide an opportunity for the South African delegation to present on policy matters, instruments for cooperation available,

research expertise and discussions on strategies for improving cooperation between SA and EU in ICT;

- 2.3 An innovation and start-ups forum, which will bring together market-oriented innovators and investors, and will present marketable research and innovation results from EU-funded projects; and
- 2.4 An exhibition to showcase research, ICT products, innovative creations and opportunities for South African and European research and technology organisations to exhibit their work and attract prospective partners and collaborators.

For more information: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/events/ict-2018-imagine-digital-connect-europe>

3. Linkages with the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020 (H2020)

The EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2018-2020 stipulates the call for proposals that South African researchers are eligible to participate in for the remainder of the programme. SA participants will receive full funding until the end of the programme in 2020. South African researchers will have an opportunity to use their attendance of ICT 2018 conference to prepare for participation in the remaining Horizon 2020 call for proposals.

For more information on H2020: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/>

4. Eligibility criteria

The representatives from the SA National System of Innovation (NSI) (academia, science councils and industry) required to join the South African delegation are experts with research, industry or academic experience in domains that are related to a selected number of market opportunities identified in the ICT RDI Implementation Roadmap. The Roadmap provides a strategic direction, a set of action-plans and an implementation framework to guide, plan, coordinate and manage South Africa's portfolio investments for ten (2013 – 2022) years in the associated ICT programme of research, technology development and innovation. The Roadmap identified 27 market opportunities grouped into six clusters, i.e. Broadband Infrastructure and Services, Development, Sustainability and the Environment, Grand Science, Industry Applications, and The Service Economy.

The ICT RDI Roadmap can be accessed here: <https://www.dst.gov.za/index.php/resource-center/strategies-and-reports/613-ict-rdi-implementation-road-map-26mb>

4.1 Supported areas of cooperation for the ICT 2018 event

Representatives working within the thematic areas mentioned below are welcome to participate in the ICT 2018 event. Representatives from **Historically Disadvantaged Institutions** are encouraged to submit applications.

Additional criterion to be met is relevance for the remaining Horizon 2020 priorities as stipulated in the H2020 ICT Work Programme for 2018-2020 presented below:

The H2020 ICT 2018-2020 Work Programme can be accessed here:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-leit-ict_en.pdf

- Technologies for digitising Industry:
 - Computing technologies and engineering methods for cyber-physical systems of systems
 - Photonics Manufacturing Pilot Lines for Photonic Components and Devices
 - Application driven Photonics components
 - Unconventional nano-electronics
 - Security and resilience for collaborative manufacturing environments
 - Robotics in Application Areas
 - Robotics Core Technology
- Data Infrastructure: High Performance Computing; Big Data and Cloud technologies:
 - Supporting the emergence of data markets and the data economy
 - Cloud computing
- 5G Long Term Evolution
- Next Generation Internet
 - An Open Internet Initiative
 - An empowering, inclusive Next Generation Internet

5. Funding support:

The DST will avail seed funding to cover the travel costs to be incurred by South African participants from academia, industry and publicly funded research institutions to attend the event in accordance with the Departmental policies.

The seed fund will cover the costs relating to the following items only:

- Ground transport in SA on day of departure and return from the trip;

- Return economy class air ticket;
- International travel insurance;
- Accommodation in Vienna (Austria) for the duration of the ICT 2018 event;
- Ground transport in Vienna (Austria) for the duration of the event;
- Visa costs; and
- Per Diem (at DST rates for the duration of the visit in Austria).

6. Application procedure:

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted on or before 26 October 2018 by email to the following DST email address: contact@esastap.org.za;
- Complete the application form attached to the announcement on the ESASTAP 2020 website;
- Attach the required supporting documents in PDF format;
- Incomplete forms will not be considered;
- Applications submitted later than 26 October 2018 at 14h00 will not be considered;
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (see paragraph 4); and
- Applications submitted in hardcopy and outside the ESASTAP platform will not be accepted.

7. Supporting documents

- Interested participants are requested to submit abstracts (one page max) indicating their research or academic experience in the domains outlined in paragraph 5 above. The abstracts should also include past experience/projects in the EU Framework Programme or EU funded programmes/projects and/or international collaboration and a motivation clearly indicating how the participation in the ICT 2018 conference will positively contribute to the objectives of the work already being carried out by the participants in the area of ICT in their respective institutions.
- A short CV should accompany the application.

8. Reporting

On completion of the visit, the representative is expected to provide the DST with a full report of their visit and benefits thereof. The report should be submitted 14 days post the visit.

9. Inquiries

For more information regarding the submission of applications, the following officials can be contacted:

<p>Ms Tugela Matubatuba Deputy Director: Strategic Partnerships Department of Science and Technology tugela.matubatuba@dst.gov.za tel: +2712843 6860 Contact@esastap.org.za</p>	<p>Mr Zamokwakhe Dlamini Acting Director: Information Communications Technologies Department of Science and Technology zamokwakhe.Dlamini@dst.gov.za tel: +2712843 6539</p>
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