

## Call for proposals for funding: For relevant projects of NSTF proSET member organisations

To: All NSTF proSET Member Organisations

The [NSTF proSET \(Professionals in Science, Engineering and Technology\)](#) Committee is investing a portion of the proSET sector funds annually to support worthy projects and activities. proSET is a sector of the [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) representing professional bodies and learned societies. The NSTF secretariat serves the proSET sector, as well as the six other sectors of [membership](#). The proSET funds are specifically reserved for projects managed by [proSET members](#), which satisfy the criteria here below. The funds available are not sufficient to fund substantial projects in totality but it will be possible to make a contribution to existing successful projects and modestly contribute to their success stories.

**Call for proposals for funding:** The proSET Committee is hereby issuing its sixth round of *call for proposals* as per the attached [proposal form](#), and according to the current guidelines for proposals (see the conditions below).

To submit your proposal, contact the proSET Secretary: Ms Kgaugelo Tefo at [kteffo@nstf.org.za](mailto:kteffo@nstf.org.za) or call Tel: (012) 841-2717/3987. The deadline for submissions is end of business **Friday, 29 August 2019**.

**Conditions for funding:** Only organisations that are existing [members of the NSTF under the proSET sector](#), can apply annually for project grants, subject to the following conditions:

1. The organisation should be a paid-up member of NSTF in the proSET sector for the current (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020) and previous years by the time of submitting a proposal
2. The organisation should not be primarily funded by government or government agencies
3. The organisation should be solvent and should have other sources of income besides proSET funding

**Conditions for the proposed projects:**

- Related to sciences, engineering and/or technology (SET) and innovation, SET education (including maths education), promotion/raising awareness of SET, or SET-related training
- Of common or cross-cutting interest. The projects should be such that many proSET organisations would regard them as of cross-cutting interest to the SET community
- Already well established; or proposals linked to existing projects

**Furthermore, the following factors will be considered favourably**

- Projects that will have a multiplier effect, e.g. training trainers
- Projects that will have measurable outcomes, and that include plans to evaluate processes and outcomes
- Projects that promote ongoing professional development of individual members of proSET member organisations
- Projects that are innovative
- Where there is an aspect that can be sponsored other than travel, accommodation and catering

**Important requirements for implementation:**

- **Starting the project:** Committed funding will not be paid until ample proof has been supplied to the proSET secretariat that the project is going ahead, e.g. confirmation of bookings
- **Progress:** Proof of progress needs to be submitted two months after funding has been received by the member organisation. Failing to provide proof will result in the recall of the funds with immediate effect
- **Report:** A final report must be submitted one month after completion of the project
- **Acknowledgement to proSET:** in terms of branding is mandatory and ways in which proSET will be acknowledged must be proposed in the proposal form. Also the circulation of the NSTF call for nominations for the [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) to the database of the organisation receiving the funding is mandatory. The call is launched electronically in November every year to the representative and alternate of the organisation. The proSET Secretary, Ms Tefo, should be included as proof that the circulation was made.

**A total of 30 grants have already been made to proSET organisations during the past five annual rounds. The projects and organisations are as follows:**

### 2014/2015 round (1<sup>st</sup>)

- Southern African Association for Research in Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education ([SAARMSTE](#)) – Research School for travel costs of an international facilitator – Dr Ravi Subramaniam from India. The Research School builds scarce skills in research for science, technology and mathematics education
- South African Chemistry Institute ([SACI](#)) – Workshop for chemistry educators, again by funding the travel costs of an international expert – Dr Jerry Bell
- South African Institution for Civil Engineering ([SAICE](#)) – Manufacture of kits for the schools Water Competition 'Aqualbrium', which involves engineering and problem-solving skills
- South African Mathematics Foundation ([SAMF](#)) – A mathematics educator course on DVD, to be used for teacher training and distributed widely to schools in all provinces
- proSET-initiated project – For the design and production of an interactive animated 'cartoon' on memory stick and online to illustrate the various applications of SET and careers – recurrent every year
- [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) – Annual research grants to the two winners (male and female) of the TW Kambule-NSTF Award to Emerging Researchers – recurrent every year

### 2015/2016 round (2<sup>nd</sup>)

- Geological Society SA (GSSA) – Geohost Programme at the 35<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress for costs related to host a few South African post graduate students or young researchers
- Grassland Society of Southern Africa (Grassland) – SETA accreditation costs for Research Skills Workshop
- South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) – Physical Science Teachers Development Programme, for costs of producing physics educational support material
- SAMF – Grade 12 revision DVD's for the costs of producing the material (DVDs).

### 2016/2017 round (3<sup>rd</sup>)

- International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIAs) – ISMP project
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) – Launch of an outreach project: DFC Makerspace at the University of Johannesburg
- South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers (SAIAE) – Short courses: the development of Ingenius Kits
- SAIP – Physical Science Teacher Development Project
- SAMF – Secondary Teachers Problem Solving Course

### 2017/2018 round (4<sup>th</sup>)

- SAMF – Secondary Teachers Problem Solving Course
- SAARMSTE – Research for development in mathematics and science education: supporting early career researchers into independent academic trajectories
- South African Academy of Engineering (SAAE) – SAAE Lectures presented in the main centres in the RSA in 2018
- IEEE – P2P: Projects to the public
- SAIP – Physical Science Teacher Development Project

### 2018/2019 round (5<sup>th</sup>)

- Grassland – Sponsorship to attend Congress 54 and Research Skills Workshop for students.
- GSSA – Reprint of the textbook "The Geology of South Africa"
- The Institute of IT Professionals South Africa (IITPSA) – Talent Search
- SAAE – Annual Academy Lectures
- SAMF – South African Mathematics Olympiad online testing project
- Water Institute of Southern Africa (WISA) – Water Sector Career Awareness Campaign

We look forward to receiving your proposal and will communicate with you on the outcomes by the end of the year or early next year.

Yours sincerely,

**MS JANSIE NIEHAUS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Background information on the NSTF and proSET

**About the NSTF:** The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery. The [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation. The NSTF promotes SET, including mathematics and innovation among the [youth](#). The online [science bursaries](#) directory provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for SET-related studies.

**About proSET:** proSET is a [membership sector](#) of the NSTF, and consists of about [40 professional bodies and learned societies](#) in SET and SET education.

**Discussions:** proSET arranges an annual NSTF [Discussion Forum](#) focusing on [issues](#) of cross-cutting interest to the proSET membership.

**proSET Committee:** Currently consists of: Mr Dawie Botha (SAAE & rep on NSTF Exco), Mr Richard Gundersen (former AS&TS trustee), Dr Gerda Botha (SACNASP President & rep on NSTF Exco), Dr Albertus Smith (GSSA Fellow), Prof Kerstin Kruger (Entomological Society of Southern Africa (ESSA) Member), Mr Johan Maartens (Society for Automation Instrumentation Measurement Control (SAIMC) COO and Director) and Ms Jansie Niehaus (ex officio, as NSTF ED). The proSET Committee meets four times a year and progress is reported to the NSTF Exco and Board.

**Project funds:** During 2011, the NSTF worked with the former AS&TS (the old Associated Scientific and Technological Societies of South Africa) Directors to formally and legally take over the AS&TS Trust funds, which had been dormant for many years, and for the accumulated funds to be transferred to the custodianship of the NSTF. This money is ringfenced for use by the proSET sector for projects consistent with the NSTF's and the old AS&TS Trust's mandates (which are very similar). The proSET Committee decides on disbursement of funds. The NSTF proSET sector fund is managed by the NSTF Secretariat and audited every year.

**History:** proSET was previously known as SETAG (Scientific, Engineering, Technological Societies and Allied Professions Group of South Africa). SETAG resulted from a merger between the memberships of NSTF and the AS&TS Trust in 2003. SETAG was active from 2003 to 2010, during which time it was renamed as proSET. The proSET sector of the NSTF was revived in 2012, and a new committee elected, after a dormant period of about two years. proSET is not a separate legal entity. It is governed by the [Memorandum of Incorporation](#) of the NSTF.

For more information  
[www.nstf.org.za](http://www.nstf.org.za)  
E-mail: [enquiries@nstf.org.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.org.za)  
Tel: +27 12 841 3987  
Fax: 27 12 841 3025  
Non Profit Company Registration Number: 2007/029165/08  
NPO Registration Number: 92042  
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