

Advert copy

Call for proposals: CSIR Rental Pool Programme 2026/27

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is inviting proposals for the Rental Pool Programme (RPP) for the 2026/27 financial year. Funded by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation and managed by the CSIR, this initiative aims to stimulate and expand laser and laser-based applications research within South Africa's research community. The programme's objective is to boost the National System of Innovation and nurture the next generation of photonics technology researchers.

What the RPP offers:

Access to laser equipment at your institution or CSIR Photonics Centre facilities.

Support for multi-year projects (up to three years) with annual progress evaluations.

Funding for research-related expenses, including:

- Upgrading of existing laser equipment;
- Delivery and set-up charges for loaned equipment;
- New diagnostic equipment and laser-related consumables;
- Maintenance of CSIR-owned equipment; and
- Technical support from CSIR experts.

Who can apply?

Researchers employed at South African public universities and universities of technology across all natural sciences, engineering and health sciences may apply. Proposals with research themes aligned with CSIR's Additive Manufacturing and Laser Surface Engineering programmes will receive special preference.

Deadline for all submissions: Friday, 24 October 2025.

To apply, submit your proposals electronically with all required documents to nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za or tiduplooy@csir.co.za.