18 September 2025

**RESEARCH DIVISION COMMUNIQUÉ**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - AFRICAN LASER CENTRE RESEARCH COLLABORATION PROGRAM – 2026

Dear Staff

**PLEASE NOTE EXTENDED INTERNAL CLOSING DATE – 24 OCTOBER 2025**

All applications must be forwarded to **Ms Nondumiso Radebe** at radeben4@ukzn.ac.za COPYING **Mrs Patricia Ngwenya** at ngwenyap@ukzn.ac.za

**PROGRAMME BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The ALC is an open, non-exclusive partnership to stimulate innovation, research and technology development in lasers and the application thereof across the African continent. To enable this objective, the ALC has an active research collaboration support programme, a conference, workshops and topical schools programme, an ALC Scholarship Programme for African students to enrol and do postgraduate degrees at South African tertiary Institutions in a laser- and laser-applications-related research field, and an ALC Knowledge Exchange Programme which supports projects to transfer knowledge and capabilities between different institutions on the African continent.

The CSIR Photonics Centre is managing the funding allocation from the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation in support of the objectives of the ALC.

The Department of Science, Technology and Innovation has again made funding available to support collaborative research projects between South African and African researchers active in laser and laser application-related research in 2026/27.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

**All researchers in Africa engaged in laser and laser applications-based research, in any study field in the natural sciences, health sciences or engineering may apply.**

* Full-time employees of research institutes may apply for grant funding. It is preferred that the Principal Investigator (PI) or main applicant be based at a South African research institution.
* Funding presently available to support ALC projects dictates that research collaborations need to involve at least one South African entity. Applications for research collaboration support between only South African entities will not be considered.
* The grant may not be used for training alone but should be based on a project with a strong research component.
* Applicants should hold at least a Master’s degree and have a reasonable research track record.
* Students **MAY NOT** apply directly for a grant, but student involvement in projects is strongly encouraged.

**For Programme – related queries kindly contact**:

**Mr. Thomas du Plooy** at 012 8413511 or 082 443 1128, via email at tiduplooy@csir.co.za or nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za.

**Issued by the University Research Division**