

Call For Proposals

African Laser Centre 2026 Research Collaboration Programme

The African Laser Centre is a NEPAD flagship initiative funded by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI). The CSIR Photonics Centre, a key node of the African Laser Centre (ALC), and the DSTI would like to introduce the ALC Research Collaboration programme and invite proposals from South African researchers planning to collaborate with partners on the African continent to apply for support from the ALC Research Collaboration programme.

The grant scheme focuses on promoting laser and laser applications-related research on the African continent, with the purpose of stimulating and growing laser research programmes within the continent. The main aim of this programme is to establish research capabilities and to support human capacity building in laser and laser-based application sciences. The fund will allow research collaborations and student/researcher exchanges for participating institutes. Additionally, it provides limited support for consumables required for research projects. The collaborations supported under this grant scheme should be between a South African research team and an African research team outside the borders of South Africa.

The programme offers master's, doctoral and postdoctoral studies as key drivers, focusing on laser and laser-based application research. Applications will be evaluated in line with the approved ALC research guidelines.

An ALC Research Collaboration Programme Manual is available from nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za, which provides eligibility criteria as well as information on what can qualify for funding support.

Please extend this invitation to all researchers active in laser- and laser-based application research in the natural sciences, health, and engineering fields within your institution.

Important dates are:

Opening of the call: **Tuesday, 16 September 2025**

Closing of the call: **Friday, 24 October 2025**

The following documents are available for prospective applicants:

- ALC Research Collaboration Manual for 2026;
- For new projects: ALC R and D Collaboration application form for 2026; and
- Call for African Laser Centre Research Collaboration grant applications for 2026

Applicants must submit their proposals in MS Word format as well as a signed PDF to the CSIR Photonics Centre by e-mail at nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za or tiduplooy@csir.co.za

The application must be accompanied by the required documents as stipulated in the ALC proposal template and the ALC Research Collaboration Programme Manual.

Please direct all queries to:

Thomas du Plooy

CSIR Photonics Centre

Tel: [012 841 3511](tel:0128413511)

Cell: [082 443 1128](tel:0824431128)

Email: nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za or is tiduplooy@csir.co.za.hat

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A call for proposals: African Laser Centre - Research Collaboration Programme 2026

The African Laser Centre, a flagship initiative championed by NEPAD and funded by the Department of Science and Innovation, invites you to respond to a call for a proposal for the 2025 Research Collaboration Programme. Hosted and managed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the programme aims to foster research partnerships between South African researchers and their counterparts across Africa.

To apply and for further information, please download the manual at nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za. Submit your proposals in both MS Word and signed PDF formats to nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za or tiduplooy@csir.co.za **no later than 25 October 2024**.

For all queries, kindly contact Thomas du Plooy at tiduplooy@csir.co.za or 012 841 3511.