



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CSIR

Touching lives through innovation

Call For Proposals

CSIR Photonics Centre's Rental Pool Programme 2025/26

The CSIR Photonics Centre's Rental Pool Programme (RPP) is funded through a grant received by the CSIR from the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). The purpose of the fund is to stimulate and grow laser and laser-based applications research and development programmes within the South African research environment, to increase capacity in the National System of Innovation and to support the next generation of researchers in photonics-based technologies. The programme focuses on supporting laser-related research in all fields of natural sciences, engineering and health sciences. The fund allows access to equipment for use at the host institution of the applicant or for access to equipment housed at the CSIR Photonics Centre facilities.

The CSIR is inviting researchers employed at public universities and universities of technology in South Africa to participate and apply for funding to support their laser-related research programmes in the 2025/2026 financial and academic years. Researchers have the opportunity to submit a multi-year project proposal with a maximum duration of three years. Contracting with successful proposers will be done on an annual basis, with continued funding after year one of the projects subject to the submission and approval of an annual progress report. Grant holders with an approved multi-year project need not to re-apply. However, a detailed progress report is required to ensure the continuation of the project.

The fund makes provision for research-related costs, including:

1. Upgrading of existing laser equipment to ensure suitability for the proposed project;
2. Covering delivery and set-up charges of equipment received on loan from the CSIR at the university's facilities;
3. Procuring new equipment (including smaller diagnostic equipment) and laser-related consumables to support the proposed research project;
4. Covering maintenance costs for CSIR-owned equipment placed at the university's facilities; and
5. Accessing research and technical support provided by the CSIR in support of an approved application.

Consumables will remain the property of the grant holder's institution and will assist in establishing in-house laser infrastructure. The CSIR RPP grant scheme also makes provision for the replacement of older equipment.

The CSIR RPP grant scheme is only available to researchers employed at South African universities. The CSIR Rental Pool Programme application manual outlines the focus, eligibility criteria and review processes. Applications will be evaluated in line with the CSIR policies on equity and redress.

Researchers in all scientific and engineering disciplines who use laser technology in their research programmes are encouraged to apply. In the laser-based manufacturing field, applications aligned with the CSIR's research programmes in Additive Manufacturing and Laser Surface Engineering will receive preference.

Call opens: Monday, 09 September 2024

Call closes: Friday, 25 October 2024

Applications must be submitted electronically to CSIR Photonics Centre at nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za or tiduplooy@csir.co.za.

Applicants must ensure that all additional documents, as identified in the proposal template, are submitted with their application to CSIR Photonics Centre at nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za or tiduplooy@csir.co.za

Please direct all queries to:

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CSIR Photonics Centre

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