



science, technology
& innovation
Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Call For Proposals

African Laser Centre 2025/26

Training Program

Deadline: 24 March 2025

The African Laser Centre (ALC) is a NEPAD flagship initiative and is funded by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation through the African Laser Centre Grant awarded to the CSIR. The CSIR Photonics Centre, a key node of the ALC would like to take this opportunity to introduce the ALC Training program and to invite proposals from the ALC community and other interested parties to arrange and present training related events to support the training of young researchers and/or technicians in laser and laser application related topics.

The training should be provided in line with the ALC's Educational Program which aims are to improve and hone skills of young researchers and / or technicians who are involved in laser and laser application related research and development. The Educational Program of the ALC has four focus areas, namely

- 1) Conferences/Workshops/Symposia
- 2) Young researcher and technician training schools
- 3) Scholarships
- 4) Knowledge Exchange Program

This call is for proposals that addresses item (1) and (2) above only. The ALC Scholarships and the ALC Knowledge Exchange Program are specifically excluded from this call.

The ALC Training grant scheme focuses on the promotion of laser and laser-related training, with the purpose to stimulate and grow a new generation of laser researchers and technicians on the African continent. The aim of this program will support the establishment of research and development capabilities on the African continent and to support human capacity building in laser and laser-based application sciences and engineering disciplines.

Applications will be evaluated in line with the approved ALC training guidelines as presented in this document. The proposal should cover full details of the nature of the training, the strengths and experience of the facilitating team, the targeted audience and a detailed roll out plan. The successful applicants will be responsible for organising all aspects of the event.

The envisaged training may focus on the following activities:

- Photonics related symposium/conference/seminar or summer/winter school type event or topical workshops focusing on laser technology or laser technology applications;
- Laser Technician training workshops;
- Short courses for researchers covering theory and practical training courses.

Criteria for eligibility:

- The principal applicant /lead trainer(s) must hold a Doctoral degree and be experienced in their field, supported by experienced training team members (typically at postgraduate level) and technical support staff with relevant experience in organising such events.
- The training should occur at adequately equipped and recognised facilities for the proposed activity.
- A strong youth trainee target group is mandatory (Master / Doctoral students being the key driver). Clear indications of the number of African **AND** South African students that will be participating in the event needs to be provided in the application.
- The envisaged training must ideally be scheduled to take place in the period May 2025 to March 2026.

Please extend this invitation to all researchers in your network who are working in photonics and laser-related fields in physics, chemistry, biochemistry, environmental chemistry, engineering, agriculture, medical, biomedical and other relevant fields.

Reporting

A detailed report is expected as a deliverable from the project. A project template will be provided and will request details on the participants to the event, as well as source documents for all expenditure on the project.

Budget:

Only costs associated with travel, accommodation, S&T and facilitation will be covered.

It is a requirement that there should be evidence of co-funding from your institution or another funding entity, or from sponsorships or registration fees. Details on the co-funding should be clearly articulated in the proposal. Proposals without clear co-funding contributions will not be considered.

For audit purposes, all expenditure will have to be accounted for by providing source documents with your report.

Please note:

All applications must be signed, scanned and electronically submitted to the CSIR Photonics Centre. Complete the application form (attached), scan and email to nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za and to tiduplooy@csir.co.za as a pdf and submit.

Important dates are:

Opening of the call: 25 February 2025

Closing of the call: 24 March 2025

Please direct all queries to:

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CSIR Photonics Centre

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NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.