

PROGRAMME 5: SOCIO-ECONOMIC INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: SECTOR INNOVATION AND GREEN ECONOMY

UNIT: ICT & SERVICES INDUSTRY

DESCRIPTION

The Information and Communication Technology and Services Industry (ICT & SI) Unit is part of the Chief Directorate: Sector Innovation and Green Economy, which is in turn part of the Socio-economic Innovation Partnerships (SIP) Programme of the [Department of Science and Technology](#) of South Africa.

PURPOSE OF THE UNIT

The purpose of the ICT & SI Unit is to implement information and communication technology (ICT) research, development and innovation (RDI) programmes leading to broad participation by role players within National System of Innovation (NSI), and wider diffusion uptake of RDI outcomes for application and commercialization in, and by government, industry and other role players thereby contributing to the information society and knowledge economy advancement efforts for South Africa.

KEY INITIATIVES

ICT RDI Implementation Roadmap – “Digital Advantage 2023”

The [ICT RDI Roadmap \(2013\)](#) is a 10 year investment plan to leverage advances in ICT to address socio-economic challenges, in order to create Digital Advantage by 2023 – at the level of the individual, community, industry and society. The DST, in partnership with the [Council for Scientific and Industrial Research \(CSIR\) Meraka Institute](#), developed the [ICT RDI Roadmap](#) as a long-term plan for ICT RDI interventions and programmes. The main purpose of the [Roadmap](#) is to help strengthen the ICT RDI ecosystem in South Africa, facilitate a significant increase in ICT RDI investments, and provide a platform for informed decision making with respect to choices of strategic areas of focus and associated funding allocations.

The [ICT RDI Roadmap](#) prioritised 27 market opportunities of interest to South African ICT RDI and six main clusters were identified and these include:

- Broadband Infrastructure and Services;
- ICT for Development;
- Sustainability and the Environment;
- Industry Applications;
- Grand Science; and
- The Service Economy.

The implementation of the [ICT RDI Roadmap](#) will take into account the existing flagship projects coming out of the capacity building and seed funding implementation programme of the [ICT RDI Strategy \(2007\)](#) that started in 2007/2008 and consisted of

more than twenty (20) discrete RDI projects focusing on different ICT domains including; ICT in education, geomatics, and broadband connectivity.

Information Security RDI Programme

Information security has been identified by the DST as one of the key ICT domains requiring a focussed attention in order to build and strengthen South Africa's capability and competence. As part of the recently developed [ICT RDI Roadmap](#), 'Trust and Security' has been identified as one of the 27 market opportunities prioritized. The Information Security R&D and Innovation Programme managed and implemented by the [CSIR Modelling and Digital Science \(MDS\)](#) unit aims to strengthen this market opportunity through human capital development, technology development and innovation. In this respect, the DST is funding a dedicated HCD programme hosted at the [CSIR MDS](#). The HCD programme, amongst other objectives, seeks to develop ties with tertiary institutions in order to direct research at post graduate level in areas of immediate need and impact.

ICT MNCC Programme

[CSIR Meraka Institute](#) has been delegated by the [DST](#) to establish an ICT Multi-national Company Cooperation (MNCC) Project Management Office (PMO) to support the cooperation between DST and multinational ICT companies, in order to strengthen the [National R&D Strategy \(2002\)](#) and [ICT RDI Strategy \(2007\)](#) objectives, especially with regard to:

- [Foreign Direct Investment](#) (FDI) in ICT RDI;
- Industry investment in ICT RDI;
- Human Capital Development in high-end ICT skills (Masters and PhD degrees);
- Innovation chain, as measured in generating and exploiting intellectual property (IP) for the benefit of South Africa;
- Providing specialised skills and capabilities to South Africa, that is otherwise not available locally.

Current efforts include cooperation with SAP, Microsoft and Nokia. The MNCC PMO is also responsible for monitoring Africa and International RDI co-operations.

Cofimvaba ICT4RED Initiative

The <http://www.southafrica.info/about/education/ict4red-230713.htm#.U3sb9dKSxVY> project is part of the Technology for Rural Education Development (TECH4RED) programme initiated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education (DBE), the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR).

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

[CSIR Meraka Institute](#); and

[CSIR Modelling & Digital Science](#) Unit.

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READ FURTHER

Department of Science and Technology, South Africa	http://www.dst.gov.za
National Research and Development Strategy (2002)	http://www.dst.gov.za/index.php/resource-center/strategies-and-reports/174-national-research-a-development-strategy-2002
ICT RDI Strategy (2007)	http://www.dst.gov.za/images/ICT_RDI_Strat_2007.pdf
ICT RDI Roadmap (2012)	http://www.dst.gov.za/images/ict_rdi_roadmap.pdf
National System of Innovation	http://www.sajs.co.za/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/1038-9432-4-PB.pdf
National Intellectual Property Management Office (NIPMO)	http://www.nipmo.org.za
CSIR Meraka Institute	http://www.csir.co.za/meraka
CSIR Modelling and Digital Science Unit	http://www.csir.co.za/MDS
Broadband4All	http://www.broadband4all.co.za
Wireless Mesh Network	http://wirelessafrica.meraka.org.za/wiki/index.php/Wireless_Africa_Home_Page

RECENTLY IN THE PRESS

2014 Apr 10: "DST launches another wireless network".	http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=111824:DST-launches-another-wireless-network&catid=147
2014 Feb 10: "Mixed results for ICT in the Eastern Cape".	http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=70729:Mixed-results-for-ICT-in-EC&catid=86
2013 Oct 18: "Nokia offers free mobile maths service".	http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=68274:Nokia-offers-free-mobile-maths-service&catid=260

2013 Sep 6: "ICT Roadmap on a budget".	http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=67168:ICT-roadmap-on-a-budget&catid=69
2013 May 10: "Cabinet approves ICT (RDI) Roadmap".	http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63957:Cabinet-approves-ICT-roadmap
2012 Dec 04: "Tech Intervention for rural schools".	http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=60557:Tech-intervention-for-rural-schools