



science
& technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CALL FOR PROPOSALS / TERMS OF REFERENCE & PROJECT BRIEF

Introduction

The vision of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) is to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery. All humans should realise the impact of astronomy and basic sciences on our daily lives, and understand better how scientific knowledge can contribute to a more equitable and peaceful society.

IYA2009 will be a global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture, highlighted by the 400th anniversary of the first use of an astronomical telescope by Galileo Galilei. The aim of the Year is to stimulate worldwide interest, especially among young people, in astronomy and science under the central theme “*The Universe, Yours to Discover*”.

In South Africa a National Steering Committee has been established with representatives from all major astronomy related bodies. This Steering Committee will advise and interact with SAASTA in the selection and dissemination of the grants. Already the website for IYA2009 in South Africa has been set up and is regularly updated with the progress towards 2009 (<http://www.astronomy2009.org.za>). An e-mail discussion list called AstroNet has also been set up (<http://mail.saasta.ac.za/mailman/listinfo/astronet>). The steering committee is also leading an effort to consolidate all astronomy resources in South Africa in which will lead to a database and “clearing-house” freely available to anyone who wants to use them.

Vision (in line with global IYA vision)

The vision of the IYA2009 is to help the citizens of southern Africa rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night-time sky, and thereby engage in a personal sense of wonder, discover and an appreciation of astronomy.

Theme (same as global IYA theme)

The Universe: Yours to Discover

Mission

The vision will be realised through the **promotion of astronomy** amongst the following four target groups, with a focus on building and supporting human resources:

A. Education Institutions (schools, universities): in order to impact strongly on the current education system through:

- A.1 Educational resource development and distribution
- A.2 Educator development
- A.3 Learner development
- A.4 Promotion of astronomy related careers

B. Public: in order to keep people informed and create a broad awareness of the day- and night-time sky through:

- B.1 Public resource development and distribution
- B.2 Astronomy communication capacity building and implementation
- B.3 Public programmes and events
- B.4 Astronomy in the media

C. Government and local community leaders: in order to keep our leaders informed and involved in the astronomy field through:

- C.1 Astronomy education and information targeted at leaders

D. Africa and abroad: in order to ensure a global effort that benefits people around the world, especially fellow Africans, through:

- D.1 Sharing of intellectual property and project specific collaborations

The following table illustrates how these target groups can be targeted and with what impact.

TARGET	OBJECTIVES	EXAMPLE OF ACTIONS	IMPACT
A. Educational Institutions	A.1 Educational resource development and distribution	Wide distribution of high quality (curriculum related) resources for educators, learners and educator trainers	Widespread access by schools to high-quality resources
	A.2 Educator development	Educator workshops, enhanced educator training programmes, incentives, motivational talks	Motivated and capable educators; an expanded team of people promoting astronomy
	A.3 Learner development	Learner workshops, facility visits, school visits, astronomy clubs	Motivated and capable learners; an expanded team of people promoting astronomy
	A.4 Promotion of astronomy related careers	Selected careers expos; university student events; talks by scientists / role models; careers magazines	Greater interest in and awareness of astronomy and related careers
B. Public	B.1 Public resource development and distribution	Posters, popular science magazines, planispheres, telescope kits, flyers	Interest in astronomy generated amongst public and fed by resources
	B.2 Astronomy communication capacity building and implementation	Training for astronomers in communication skills; astronomy training for journalists (science writing); astronomers "on stage"	More astronomers available for media interactions; greater accuracy of astronomical content in media; an expanded team of qualified people promoting astronomy
	B.3 Public programmes and events	Facility tours of carefully monitored quality; public lectures; open nights; star parties; development of visitor centres; off-site activities, e.g. "street astronomy"	Generate an interest in and excitement about astronomy amongst the public
	B.4 Astronomy in the media	Media presence (TV and Radio) at major events; database of available astronomers for media; train scientists to talk to media	Visibility of astronomy increased through media and greater interest generated amongst the public
C. Government	C.1 Astronomy education and information targeted at leaders	Free facility visits (open invitation); basic astronomy course targeted at leaders	National and local leadership that are well informed about astronomy; empowerment of leaders with (indigenous and scientific) astronomy knowledge
D. Africa and abroad	D.1 Sharing of intellectual property and project specific collaborations	Distribution of electronic and "sample" materials that have been developed at various institutions; invitations to events; support and mentorship where requested	Strong international collaborations; assistance provided to developing countries

Guiding principles

1. Inspire a culture of appreciation of the day- and night-time sky
2. Encourage some form of sustainability beyond 2009
3. Support disadvantaged people and address societal imbalances
4. Encourage collaboration both nationally and internationally
5. Support and enhance rather than reinvent programmes
6. Ensure adequate monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance
7. Development and support of human resources

Call for participation

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has earmarked a certain amount of funds to support IYA2009 related projects and activities to be implemented through the various SET stakeholders around South Africa. SAASTA, on behalf of the DST is inviting stakeholders to submit **innovative and creative** proposals for organising science, engineering and technology activities which contribute to the objectives of the IYA2009 initiative.

Funding conditions

- Only one proposal per organisation will be considered. Organisations are encouraged to incorporate Higher Education Institutions, Science Councils and/or any other relevant organisation involved in science awareness or astronomy related activities.
- Proposals ranging from R 10,000 to R 45,000 are invited depending on the capacity of the organisation and intended reach of the project.
- The funding will be allocated towards the end of February 2009

Selection criteria

The following criteria will be considered in the selection of projects:

- Adherence and contribution to achieving the objectives of the theme as outlined in the Project Brief;
- Adherence to and extent to which the objectives of the programme are incorporated into activities;
- Relevance and inclusion of target audiences as outlined in the Project Brief;
- Quality and relevance of content (e.g., promoting astronomy awareness and profiling astronomy related careers);
- Innovativeness and creativity of approach;
- Wide range of stakeholder participation, including industry partnerships where possible;
- Clear timelines indicates;

- Cost-effectiveness of the project including a detailed budget;
- Degree of impact of the project with potential for sustainability beyond IYA2009

Proposal requirements

All proposals must be submitted to SAASTA electronically or hand delivered to SAASTA's physical address, by completing the application form – available on SAASTA's website <http://www.saasta.ac.za/>. Proposals submitted in any other format will not be considered.

Reporting structure

SAASTA reserves the right to apply reporting requirements in terms of corporate policy. Details of this will be specified in the document agreement between the successful applicants and SAASTA.

Closing date

An appropriate deadline is given to ensure that all administration around transfer of funding to successful applications is completed will in advance of implementation.

The deadline for submitting proposals is close of business, Friday 13 February 2009. Submission received after this date will not be considered. Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals where possible.

All applicants will receive feedback regarding the selection committee's decision during February 2009.

Enquiries

Enquiries should be directed to:

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