



mineral resources & energy

Department:
Mineral Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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SOUTH AFRICA HOSTS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON NEUTRON SCATTERING

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), in partnership with the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) and Department of Science & Innovation (DSI), is hosting a hybrid Neutron Scattering (SA-SENS2022) workshop on 3 and 4 November 2022 in Benoni, Gauteng.

The workshop seeks to grow South Africa's capacity for research, development and innovation by consolidating interactions with existing Neutron Scattering (NS) users, as well as to inform and invite potential future users from academia, science and engineering institutions and industry.

Neutron scattering applications cover many fields within the sciences, engineering and technology sectors, of which the following have been identified to be of relevance:

- Biological and life sciences
- Catalyses
- Crystallography: Inorganic chemistry
- Crystallography: Organic chemistry
- Energy storage and conversion materials
- Engineering applications
- Geosciences
- Magnetism
- Nanomaterials
- Palaeontology and heritage sciences.

In September 2021, Cabinet approved the setting up of the Multipurpose Reactor (MPR) project. MPR is a strategic project that will contribute to the country's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

The Neutron Scattering workshop also seeks to further understand the needs for future expansion and capacitation of neutron beam line instruments. This is to ensure that the MPR is adequately equipped as a fully-fledged neutron scattering centre.

As a precursor to the International Research Reactor Utilisation Review (IRRUR) Mission envisaged to take place end of November 2022, the workshop will feature strategic level presentations from Government and Necsa, as well as plenary talks and presentations from several global leaders in the field of neutron scattering and their applications.

Further information can be obtained on the conference website: <https://www.necsa.co.za/sa-sens-2022/>

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