



## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **CSIR NATIONAL LASER CENTRE**

### **2022 RENTAL POOL PROGRAMME (RPP)**

The CSIR National Laser Centre's (CSIR NLC) Rental Pool Program (RPP) is funded by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). The purpose of the fund is to stimulate and grow laser-based research programmes within the South African research environment, with the object to increase capacity in the National System of Innovation and to support the next generation of researchers through supporting laser-based research infrastructure for research projects. The program is focussed on supporting laser-related research in all research fields in the natural sciences, engineering and health sciences fields. The fund allows access to equipment for use at the host institution of the applicant or for access to equipment housed at the CSIR NLC facilities.

The CSIR NLC would like to take this opportunity to invite researchers employed at public universities and universities of technology to participate and apply for funding to support their laser-related research requirements in the 2021 academic year. This call allows researchers the opportunity to submit a multi-year project proposal, with a maximum duration of 3 years. Contracting to successful proposers will be done on an annual basis, with continued funding after year 1 of the project subject to the submission and approval of an annual progress report. For Grant holders with an approved multi-year project there is no requirement to re-apply. A detailed progress report is however required to ensure continuation of the project.

The fund makes provision for research related costs including:

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

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

The RPP grant scheme is only available to researchers employed at South African universities. The Rental Pool Program application manual outlines the focus of the scheme, 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 using laser technology in their research programs are encouraged to apply. In the laser-based manufacturing field, applications aligned with the CSIR's research programs in Additive Manufacturing and Laser Surface Engineering will receive preference.

**CALL OPENS: 20 September 2021**

**CALL CLOSES: 29 October 2021**

**DA Sign off: 05 November 2021**

Applications must be submitted electronically on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za>

Applicants must ensure that their Curriculum Vitae are updated on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za>

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Designated Authorities have until 05 November 2021 to validate applications. Institutions must set their own internal closing dates for DAs to validate applications by this date.

**Please direct all queries to:**

Mr Thomas du Plooy

CSIR National Laser Centre

Tel: [012 841 3511](tel:0128413511)

Cell: [082 443 1128](tel:0824431128)

Email: [nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za](mailto:nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za) or [tiduplooy@csir.co.za](mailto:tiduplooy@csir.co.za)