

PROGRAMME 5: SOCIO-ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS
SUB-PROGRAMME: SECTORS INNOVATION AND GLOBAL CHANGE
UNIT: ICT & SERVICES INDUSTRY

DESCRIPTION:

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Services Industry (SI) Unit is part of the Sectors Innovation and Global Change Sub-Programme, which is in turn part of the Programme for Socio-economic Partnerships (Programme 5).

PURPOSE OF THE UNIT:

The purpose of the ICT & SI Unit is to implement ICT research, development and innovation programmes leading to broad participation by role players within National System of Innovation and wider diffusion uptake of R&D and innovation 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.

LIST OF KEY INITIATIVES:

- **ICT Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Roadmap – “Digital Advantage 2023”**

The ICT RDI Roadmap 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 the 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 Roadmap prioritised 27 market opportunities of interest to South African ICT

RDI grouped together in six main clusters which 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 implementation programme of the ICT RDI strategy started early in 2007 that stimulated more than twenty discrete RDI projects that focused on different ICT domains including; ICT in education, geomatics, and broadband connectivity.

- **Information Security Research, Development and Innovation Programme**

Information security has been identified by the DST as one of the key strategic information and communications technology (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 Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Implementation 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.

- **Multi-nationals ICT Companies Cooperation Programme**

CSIR Meraka Institute has been delegated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to establish and operate a Multi-national ICT Company Cooperation (MNCC) Project Management Office (PMO).

The purpose of the MNCC PMO is to support the cooperation between DST and Multi-national ICT companies, in order to strengthen the National Research and Development Strategy (NRDS) and ICT RDI Strategy 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 PhDs);
- 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 cooperation's include those with; SAP, Microsoft and Nokia. The office is also responsible for monitoring of Africa and International RDI co-operations.

WHO ARE THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES?

Currently the CSIR Meraka Institute, and the CSIR Modelling & Digital Science Unit.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ICT IN DST?

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READ FURTHER:

1. ICT RDI Strategy (2007) :(http://www.dst.gov.za/images/ICT_RDI_Strat_2007.pdf);
2. ICT RDI Roadmap Report :(http://www.dst.gov.za/images/media/ICT_RDI_Roadmap_Report_Dev4_2013.pdf);
3. ICT RDI Roadmap: (http://www.dst.gov.za/images/ICT_RDI_Roadmap.pdf).