



MEDIA RELEASE

Gino Moonsamy
t.012 – 674 7111
e.gmoonsamy@nnr.co.za

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NATIONAL NUCLEAR REGULATOR (NNR) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA (UP) LAUNCHES THE 1ST CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY IN AFRICA.

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) in partnership with the University of Pretoria will officially launch the 1st Centre of Excellence for Nuclear Safety and Security (CNSS) in South Africa on 16 September 2016 at the University of Pretoria Hatfield campus.

Currently, South Africa does not have a dedicated centre or institution for nuclear safety which provides, among other needs, a continuous supply of personnel trained in nuclear safety to serve the needs of the nuclear regulatory body and the nuclear industry in general. Other needs identified, include provision of continuous professional development programmes in Nuclear Safety, undertaking of Nuclear Safety research to support regulatory activities and decision making, as well as provision of technical support services in Nuclear Safety to the regulatory body and the nuclear industry.

“The CNSS is the first applied research and training establishment dedicated to developing essential skills demanded by South Africa’s nuclear sector outside the traditional university sector. It will house training facilities for NNR staff, a selection of state-of-the-art irradiation and analysis equipment for researchers and students to use, including analytical and inspection laboratories, computer modeling facilities, meeting and seminar rooms and office accommodation.” *explained NNR CEO Dr Tyobeka.*

Most importantly, the combination of facilities and diverse expertise, which will be available through a network of collaborations with local and international institutions, will complement and significantly expand the nuclear research and education capability of South Africa’s academic institutions by providing universities the opportunity to enrich the scope and value of their research programmes. It is envisaged that this will increase the number of Masters, Doctoral, and post-

Doctoral graduates produced by local institutions and support the creation of a knowledge-based economy.

Should you require more information, please contact me.

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About the National Nuclear Regulator

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is a public entity which is established and governed in terms of Section 3 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act, (Act No 47 of 1999). The fundamental objective of the NNR is to provide for the protection of persons, property and the environment against nuclear damage through the establishment of safety standards and regulatory practices suited for South Africa. To this end, the NNR provides oversight and assurance that activities related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in South Africa are carried out in a safe manner and in accordance with international principles and best practices.

About the University of Pretoria

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest Engineering Schools in terms of students on the African continent and certainly the largest in South Africa.

In terms of Thomson Reuters International Science Index – Essential Science Indicators which measures research productivity and citations of research work produced, it is ranked in the Top 1% in the world and is the highest ranked in South Africa. Almost 52% students in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT are black students with 32% of the students in the Faculty being postgraduate students.

The University of Pretoria has been involved in a substantial amount of research and development associated with nuclear projects in the past. Specialists from most faculties have contributed extensively to the successes of research and development projects at the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa), and [havehas](#) rendered a substantial amount of consultancy support to the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station. The technology development projects identified for improvement of the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) design under the leadership of Professor Johan Slabber, also made extensive use of the specialist knowledge available in a number of departments at the University.

The Dean of the Faculty, Prof Maharaj stated that: The University of Pretoria celebrates 60 Years of Engineering Education in 2016 and having the opportunity to host the Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Safety and Security (CNSS) in partnership with the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is indeed our honour and historic event in the history of this this institution. The University of Pretoria is well aligned to meet this challenge of human capital development, cutting edge research and consultancy support to meet the vision of the NNR and SA Government Department of Energy. Through working with other universities, [state-owned companies \(SOC\)](#) and industry in a collaborative manner, we all will contribute towards the high level expertise development and the establishment of a sound regulatory and technology foundation for the nuclear energy mix for our country.