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From: [Khathu Mphaphuli](#)

To: kesnest@mweb.co.za

Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 4:22 PM

Subject: NSTF Workshop on the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)

Dear NSTF members, representatives, and all interested people,

Below please find invitations to two workshops that we are hosting in **Pretoria** and **Cape Town**, as well as links to the **Technology Innovation Agency Bill: deliberations** and the **NSTF Brochure**.

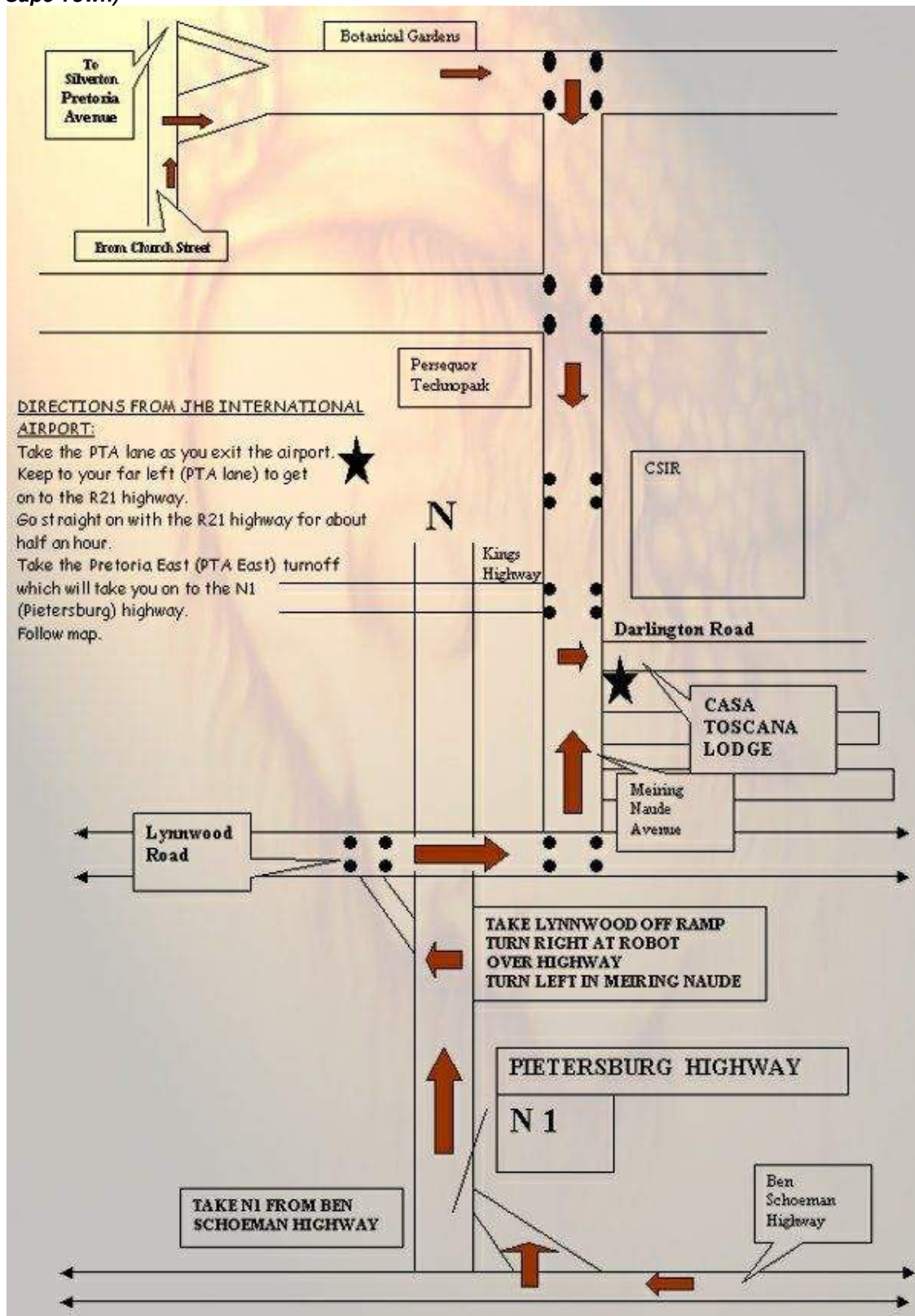
First Workshop: Theme: NSTF Workshop on the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)

Date: Thursday, 28 February 2008 - Gauteng

Time: 09h30 for 10h00 - 13h00

Venue: Casa Toscana Lodge, Corner of Meiring Naude Road and Darlington, Lynnwood Manor, Pretoria, Gauteng
(Lunch: 13h00-14h00 included free of charge)

RSVP: Reply to this e-mail (bounce@nstf.org.za) with your full Name, Organisation that you represent, Contact details (Tel, Cell, E-mail address) and please mention which Workshop you will be attending. (Pretoria or Cape Town)



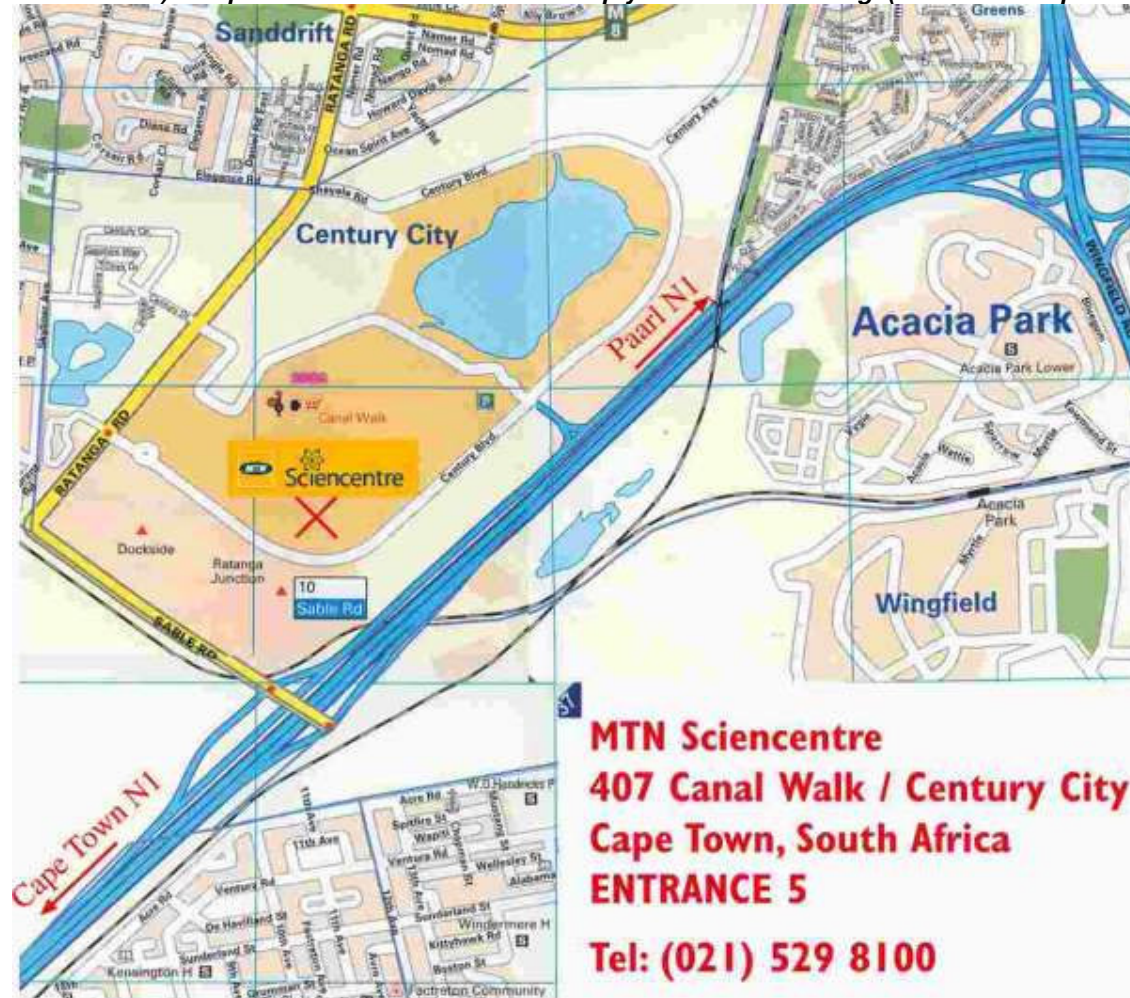
Second Workshop: Theme: NSTF Workshop on the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)

Date: 6 March 2008, Cape Town, Western Cape

Time: 09h00 for 09h30 - 12h30

Venue: MTN Sciencentre, 407 Canal Walk, Entrance 5, Upper Level, Century City, Cape Town (Lunch: 12h30-14h00 - included free of charge on the balcony of the Cattle Baron Restaurant)

RSVP: Reply to this e-mail with your full Name, Organisation that you represent, Contact details (Tel, Cell, E-mail address) and please mention which Workshop you will be attending. (Pretoria or Cape Town)



The Bill on the proposed Technology Innovation Agency (the TIA) is before Parliament. The Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology in Parliament recently (on 12 February) heard submissions from interested groups on this Bill. For the proceedings of the Portfolio Committee, click [here](#). In the introduction, attention was called to the following: "The most noteworthy of the substantive amendments was in clause 18 (4)(a), which stipulated that all the assets and obligations of South African Inventions Development Corporation (SAIDCOR) would vest in the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and no longer in the Technology Innovation Agency (the Agency) as initially planned." Clearly SET stakeholder are involved and affected by this Bill.

Last year the NSTF requested input from members on the proposed Bill, and responses were passed on to the Department of Science and Technology. NSTF had a presentation on the proposed TIA at our Plenary meeting of 3 October 2007. NSTF members representatives were interested to hear about the plans, but requested more information on the implementation and implications of the TIA. The conclusions from the discussions at the Plenary meeting, including feedback on the TIA, were passed on the Director General of Science and Technology, Dr Phil Mjwara.

We are now calling on the DST to give us an update on developments as well as more detail of the implementation of the establishment and workings of the TIA. As the TIA has implications for the management of Intellectual Property, and was to include the Innovation Fund (which assists with the registration of patents), we would like in particular to discuss issues related to the enforcement of IPR.

NSTF welcomes broad participation in this workshop – everyone is welcome. Please RSVP as indicated above. RSVP's essential and on a first come, first serve basis!

Briefly – some information on the TIA (from the DST presentation, Oct 2007):

Objectives of the TIA

- TIA is designed to be the primary bridge between the formal Knowledge Base and the Economy
- To stimulate the development of technology based services and products
- Further, to stimulate the development of technology based enterprises –both public and private
- To develop a significant technology base for the SA economy
- To provide an Intellectual Property support platform
- To stimulate investment by means of Venture Capital, Foreign Direct Investment and other mechanisms.
- To facilitate the development of Human Capital for Innovation

Building blocks for TIA phase 1:

- Biotechnology Regional Innovation Centres(BRICs)
- Innovation Fund (IF)
- AMTS project (AMTS)
- Advanced Minerals Initiative (AMI)
- Hydrogen Economy Competency Centres
- Health Innovation Competency Centres

Technology development partners:

- Private Industry – large scale and SMMEs.
- Science councils.
- Research institutes and laboratories.
- Universities and Universities of Technology.
- Individual entrepreneurs and innovators.

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For more information on **The National Science and Technology Forum** (NSTF) please click [here](#).