

# Water research and innovation in South Africa – Opportunities for cooperation with Europe



science  
& technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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# Key issues

- South Africa is a water-scarce country → access to water identified as a key brake on development
- Important existing area of research cooperation between South Africa and Europe
- South Africa also hosts broader Africa-wide initiatives (African Centre for Global Change and Water Resources at KZN – UNESCO Category 2 Water Centre)
- Build on the partnership in the context of the Innovation Union and the priorities of South Africa's National Development Plan
- Enhance innovation cooperation





# South African research strengths

- Mine Water treatment - South Africa wrote the de facto gold standard (GARD guide) – passive and active treatment
- More pilot plants and empirical evidence than anywhere
- Decentralised water and waste treatment systems – interest from Germany and Sweden to cooperate
- Community-led sanitation – 3 Bill and Melinda Gates projects
- Activated sludge for the treatment of domestic wastewater
- Membrane technology
- Point of use devices





# South African strengths

- World class policy frameworks
- Improvements in research and innovation co-operation and interaction with the private sector
- Strong sustainability framework and orientation





# Water RDI Roadmap

- To provide a platform for South Africa to compete with leading countries in water technologies and to be the best in the developing world;
- Provide for the development of a breakthrough technology every five years;
- Increase the numbers of technology-based small and medium sized enterprises (SMMEs) operating in the water sector. These enterprises must not only be consultancies as the aim is to increase job creation; and
- Increase access to water by rural communities, and provide sanitation for all in a sustainable manner.





# Water RDI Roadmap

- Basis to secure South African financial resources
- Prioritisation
- Mapping of links with potential partners
- Align with ICR RDI Roadmap, bioeconomy strategy, nanotechnology strategy, earth observation
- Aim to finalise the roadmap by the end of 2014





**Dankie**

**Enkosi**

**Ha khensa**

**Re a leboga**

**Ro livhuwa**

**Siyabonga**

**Siyathokoza**

**Thank you**





# CONTACTS

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