

## Call For Proposals

### African Laser Centre 2026/27

### Training Programme

**Deadline: 15 April 2026**

The African Laser Centre (ALC), a NEPAD flagship initiative, is funded by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation through the African Laser Centre Grant awarded to the CSIR. The CSIR Photonics Centre, a key node of the ALC, would like to introduce the ALC Training programme and invite proposals from the ALC community and other interested parties to arrange and present training-related events to support the development of young researchers and/or technicians in laser and laser application-related topics.

The training should be provided in line with the ALC's Educational Programme, which aims to improve and hone the skills of young researchers and/or technicians who are involved in laser and laser application-related research and development. The programme has four focus areas, namely:

- 1) Conferences/workshops/symposia;
- 2) Young researcher and technician training schools;
- 3) Scholarships; and
- 4) Knowledge Exchange Programme.

**This call is for proposals that address items (1) and (2) above only. The ALC Scholarships and the ALC Knowledge Exchange Programme are specifically excluded from this call.**

The ALC training grant scheme focuses on the promotion of laser and laser-related training, with the purpose of stimulating and growing a new generation of laser researchers and technicians on the African continent. The programme aims to support the establishment of research and development capabilities on the African continent and to support human capacity building in laser and laser-based application sciences and engineering disciplines.

Applications will be evaluated in line with the approved ALC training guidelines as presented in this document. The proposal should cover full details of the nature of the training, the strengths and experience of the facilitating team, the targeted audience and a detailed rollout plan. The successful applicants will be responsible for organising all aspects of the event.

**The envisaged training may focus on the following activities:**

- Photonics-related symposium/conference/seminar or summer/winter school-type event or topical workshops focusing on laser technology or laser technology applications;
- Laser technician training workshops; and
- Short courses for researchers covering theory and practical training courses.

#### **Criteria for eligibility:**

- The principal applicant /lead trainer(s) must hold a doctoral degree and be experienced in their field, supported by experienced training team members (typically at postgraduate level) and technical support staff with relevant experience in organising such events;
- The training should occur at adequately equipped and recognised facilities for the proposed activity;
- A strong youth trainee target group is mandatory (master's/doctoral students being the key driver). Clear indications of the number of African **AND** South African students that will be participating in the event need to be provided in the application; and
- The envisaged training must ideally be scheduled to take place in the May 2026 to March 2027 period.

Please extend this invitation to all researchers in your network who are working in photonics and laser-related fields in physics, chemistry, biochemistry, environmental chemistry, engineering, agriculture, medical, biomedical and other relevant fields.

#### **Reporting**

A detailed report is expected as a deliverable from the project. A template will be provided, which will request details about the participants and source documents for all expenditures related to the project.

#### **Budget:**

Only costs associated with travel, accommodation, S&T and facilitation will be covered.

**It is a requirement that there should be evidence of co-funding from your institution,** another funding entity, sponsorships or registration fees. Details on the co-funding should be clearly articulated in the proposal. Proposals without clear co-funding contributions will not be considered.

For audit purposes, all expenditures will have to be accounted for by providing source documents with your report.

#### **Please note:**

All applications must be signed when submitted to the CSIR Photonics Centre. The application and supporting documents must be emailed as a PDF to [nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za](mailto:nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za) and [tiduplooy@csir.co.za](mailto:tiduplooy@csir.co.za)

**Important dates are as follows:**

Opening of the call: 13 March 2026

Closing of the call: 17 April 2026

**Please direct all queries to:**

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CSIR Photonics Centre

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

**NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**