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National Science and
Technology Forum

Media Release

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

World Environment Day: A transformative solution that facilitates the effective and efficient removal of pollutants from wastewater

World Environment Day is celebrated annually on 5 June and is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of the environment. The theme – 'Only One Earth' – will highlight the possibilities for shifting to more sustainable, greener lifestyles.

To mark such a significant day, the [National Science and Technology Forum](#) (NSTF) in partnership with South32 as the co-branding sponsor, celebrates the professional work of [Professor Paul Oberholster](#), Director: Centre for Environmental Management, University of the Free State. Prof Oberholster received the prestigious 2021 [NSTF-Water Research Commission \(WRC\) Award](#) for his contribution to water resource management in South Africa (SA) over the last 5 years with special reference to the field of biological passive wastewater treatment.

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) is the largest national non-profit stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa.

- One of the NSTF functions – through the [NSTF Awards](#) – is to honour, celebrate, encourage and profile outstanding contributions to SET and innovation in South Africa.
- The awards encourage the involvement and participation of [SET organisations](#) in research and other science-related fields, while raising awareness among the general public and the [youth](#) about local research and its relevance.
- Through outreach under the NSTF Share 'n Dare Programme, [Award winners](#) are profiled to the youth and the public as [role models](#) and experts through platforms where they [share their knowledge](#) with the youth and the public.

Prof Oberholster says: "The sustainable development and global move towards a more circular use of resources where waste is reduced and resources recycled, has driven a paradigm shift within the scientific community with regards to wastewater solutions. In this context I started exploring algae as a possible low-cost passive treatment technology to treat domestic wastewater for reuse, to improve the service delivery of local government, and to significantly reduce the risks of acid mine drainage on the health of communities." Listen to the life story and career talk of Prof Oberholster on the [NSTF YouTube channel](#), as well as the interview by TUT about his award winning work [here](#). *(The interview of the latter was conducted by the Journalism Department, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), a media sponsor of the [NSTF-South32 Awards](#).)*

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About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The NSTF Awards are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals, teams and organisations to SET and innovation.

The science bursaries page provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

STEMulator.org attracts learners and students to the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It provides a virtual world full of stimulating content to excite and inform the youth, including STEM career guidance. Established under the auspices of the NSTF proSET membership sector (Professionals in *science, engineering and technology*).

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