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# NSTF e-Newsletter

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

## Science for peace and collaboration

*Message from the NSTF Executive Director, Ms Jansie Niehaus*

Tshwane has recently been declared the Science Diplomacy Capital by the Department of Science and Innovation, CSIR and the City of Tshwane. Science diplomacy has long been used to foster peace among countries. It happens at government level and by research collaborations across borders. But what of civil society, which is not known for its diplomacy? And how will world peace ever be established? [Read](#) the ED's message.

## NSTF News

### 2022 NSTF-South32 Awards gala dinners and live broadcast

On Thursday 21 July 2022, VIP guests, sponsors, and students selected for the Brilliants Programme will don their finest attire to honour the illustrious [finalists](#) of the NSTF-South32 Awards and celebrate the winners who will be announced that evening. This will all take place at two NSTF-South32 Awards [gala dinners](#) simultaneously in Cape Town and Johannesburg from 18:00-21:00.

The NSTF is hosting these proceedings in the hybrid format used last year, broadcasting the event live to an online audience via the [NSTF YouTube channel](#). The science, engineering and technology (SET) community in South Africa and the public therefore has the opportunity to watch the event live from the comfort of their homes.

**Dignitaries:** The Keynote Speaker is the Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande (Patron: NSTF Awards); who will preside over the Awards ceremony in Johannesburg. The Guest of Honour is the Director-General of Science and Innovation, Dr Phil Mjwara who will preside over the presentation of awards in Cape Town.

**Registration:** To watch the NSTF-South32 Awards online, [register](#) your details here. After you have registered, you will receive an automated response to confirm your details. You will then be directed to a web page providing the link to the live-streamed broadcast.

This year's theme is Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development, and a [Special Award](#) will be made to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to SET and innovation in this area.

*Today's research ... tomorrow's innovation*



## Brilliants Edu-Tour 2022

The [NSTF Brilliants programme](#) celebrates its 21st year with 19 students this year. This unique annual programme recognises the top young man and woman chosen from each of the nine provinces based on their marks in physical science and mathematics in the 2021 National Senior Certificate Examinations (Grade 12), and their choice of studies in STEM-related courses. This year, 19 students were selected for the Brilliants Programme, because of a tie in one of the provinces. [Meet](#) these exceptional young people on the NSTF website.

**Tour to science-related facilities:** The Brilliants students are treated to an educational tour every year. This year a nature conservation and biodiversity tour is being held from 17-21 July, sponsored by [The Lewis Foundation](#). Since the tour was not possible the past two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all three groups from 2020 to 2022 will be joining this tour, including the 2021 BEST students (Biological and Environmental Science Top students). The tour includes visits to [Maropeng and the Sterkfontein Caves](#), [Kloofendal Nature Reserve](#), [Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens](#) and the [Bothongo Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve](#).

The current sponsors of the Brilliants programme are [South32](#), the [Department of Science and Innovation \(DSI\)](#), and the [South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions \(SACNASP\)](#)

***SET for our future researchers and innovators!***

### TUT media interview: “Science is a toolkit for life”

Listen to a [media interview](#) with the winner of the [2021 NSTF-South32 Award](#) for Communication, **Prof Carolina Ödman** of the Inter-University Institute for Data Intensive Astronomy at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). She was interviewed by the Journalism Department, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), a media sponsor of the NSTF-South32 Awards.

In the interview Ödman tells about her career path, what winning the award means to her, and her view on science in society. Feel free to share this interview widely.

### STEM Education Discussion

### STEMulator.org at National Science Week launch

The [STEMulator](#) is bound to be an attraction at the launch of [National Science Week](#) (NSW) 2022 organised by [NRF/SAASTA](#).

NSW 2022 will be celebrated throughout the country from 1–7 August with the theme “Celebrating the role of basic sciences in the modern world”. NSW 2022 will be launched in Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal by the Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande and local government leaders. Schools from the surrounding areas have been invited to attend. NSW is an initiative of the [Department of Science and Innovation](#).

The NSTF team will attend the NSW launch event, which will feature a science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation

## Forum coming up in August

On 29-30 August an online discussion forum on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education is being hosted by [proSET](#). It will provide a platform to discuss the serious disruptions to school education over the past two and a half years, and possible ways to address these. We also aim to discuss career guidance, technology, engineering and arts, all in relation to STEM.

## Bursaries available

Find the latest news on bursaries in science, engineering and technology (SET) in the NSTF [Bursary Directory](#). Currently available bursaries are:

- [CSIR](#) (Deadline: 31 July 2022)
- [Schauenburg Education Trust](#) (30 July 2022)
- [SAICE Patrons Engineering Bursary Scheme](#) (Deadline: 31 July 2022)
- [The Jones & Wagener Bursary Programme](#) (Deadline: 31 July 2022)
- [Mediclinic & ER24](#) (Deadline: 31 July 2022)
- [Ninety One SA \(Pty\) Ltd Bursary](#) (Deadline: 31 July 2022)
- [Hatch Bursary](#) (Deadline: 31 July 2022)
- [IMESA Bursary Scheme](#) (Deadline: 15 September 2022)

Visit the NSTF [bursary pages](#) for more information.

## NSTF is keeping up with the times! Join us on TikTok

The NSTF now has a [profile](#) on TikTok, the popular social media app that allows users to create, watch, and share short videos shot on mobile devices or webcams. The app is especially popular among young people, therefore we are posting material suitable to their tastes, such as two-minute videos on careers in science, engineering and technology (SET). Please distribute this news widely to spread the word of the wonderful career opportunities in these fields.

Most of the NSTF's TikTok videos are adapted from longer videos, prepared for the NSTF's [Share 'n Dare programme](#). The programme provides a platform for [NSTF-South32 Award winners](#) to act as role models and ambassadors for SET and innovation.

exhibition, to present the STEMulator. The exhibition will take place at Mangosuthu University of Technology in Umlazi from 29 to 30 July. The team is looking forward to showcase this interactive exploration platform and to get many young people interested in STEM.

## Your suggestions are welcome

The development of the STEMulator is ongoing to include as many aspects of STEM as possible. Anyone with suggestions for material for any of STEMulator's pages, is more than welcome to contact [Ms Kgaugelo Pule](#) with ideas and suggestions.

STEMulator is a non-profit interactive learning platform initiated by the NSTF [proSET sector](#).

Below is an image of the new City Tile on the STEMulator.



**SET for our future innovators!**

*SET for knowledge-driven solutions!*

## Share your IYBSSD activities

The [Academy of Science of South Africa](#) (ASSAf) is coordinating South African participation in the [International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development](#) (IYBSSD) on behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and National Research Foundation (NRF). ASSAf invites organisations that are planning IYBSSD events and activities to share these through the [online form](#) created for this purpose. It will be reviewed, and once endorsed, added to the IYBSSD schedule/calendar.

So far, 50+ science entities, higher education institutions and schools from South Africa have officially committed to host events and activities to demonstrate that – through the disciplines of mathematics, biology, physics and chemistry (and other basic sciences) – various applied sciences are able to develop solutions to the many challenges we face as identified by the 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

### National Science Week (NSW) and SciFest

The themes of both events are aligned with the IYBSSD. The theme for NSW (1-6 August 2022) is “Celebrating the role of basic sciences in the modern world” and that for SciFest is “Back to Basics”.

Visit the [IYBSSD schedule](#) and the local [SA IYBSSD calendar](#) to see the South African and other events that are taking place all over the world. To get involved, please contact [iybssd@assaf.org.za](mailto:iybssd@assaf.org.za). Visit <https://iybssd.africa/> for more information and updates on IYBSSD2022.



proSET (Professionals in science, engineering and technology) is a sector of the NSTF representing about 40 professional and learned societies. This section shares news about [current members](#) and introduces new members of the [proSET sector](#).

- **R300-million set aside to ensure unemployed graduates are trained in the environmental and biodiversity sector**

Environmental and biodiversity organisations are invited to participate in a R300-million government-sponsored human capacity development programme, Groen Sebenza Phase II. The programme is led by the [South African National Biodiversity Institute](#) (SANBI) and aims to secure in-service training for unemployed graduates from disadvantaged communities and so improve the environmental and biodiversity sector’s skills base. [Read more](#).

- **CESA’s Platinum Jubilee celebrated**

[Consulting Engineers South Africa](#) (CESA), representing close to 600 member firms employing approximately 17 000 people, is celebrating 70 years of engineering excellence in 2022. “Our 70th anniversary bears testament to the critical role we continue to play in the engineering sector since the organisation was first established in 1952. We have unquestionably become the apex organisation of the consulting engineering sector,” states Chris Campbell, CEO of CESA. [Read more](#).

- **ECSA joins UJ to launch the electric car project**

The [Engineering Council of South Africa](#)'s (ECSA) Council Member, Ms Amelia Mtshali joined the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and the [Technology Innovation Agency](#) (TIA) in June to unveil the first cadaver of an old Toyota Avanza being prepared for dissection and experimentation. [Read more](#).

- **Book now for the SAIEE Training Academy CPD courses**

[Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\)](#) is a fundamental part of any career within all engineering disciplines. It ensures engineers keep up to date by improving their skills and knowledge regularly. The [Engineering Council of South Africa \(ECSA\)](#) states that all members of professional engineering institutions within the engineering sector have obligations to undertake CPD. One of the main functions of the [South African Institute of Electrical Engineers \(SAIEE\)](#) is to support the improvement and development of its members and the wider electrical engineering sector. The [SAIEE Training Academy](#) works alongside ECSA to provide CPD in the form of guidance, resources and training programmes. Click [here](#) for course details and to register.



## SET-related policies currently open for public comment

*Keep informed and have your say*

- [Draft Mine Health and Safety Amendment Bill](#) (Comment by 29 July 2022)
- [Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Bill](#) (Comment by 29 July 2022)
- [Draft Regulations relating to the Surveillance and Control of Notifiable Medical Conditions](#) (Comment by 4 August 2022)
- [Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme \(REIPPPP\) Tender No. DMRE/001/2022/23: Request for Qualification and Proposals \(RFP\) under Bid Window 6](#) (Comment by 11 August 2022)
- [Basic Education Laws Amendment \(BELA\) Bill](#) (Comment by 15 August 2022)
- [Health Professions Act: Rules: Registration by medical practitioners and dentists of additional qualifications: Amendment](#) (Comments invited by 27 Aug 2022)
- [Health Professions Act: Ethical Rules of Conduct for practitioners: Amendments](#) (Comment by 27 August 2022)
- [Regulations - Licensing Community Mental Health Day Care and Residential Care Facilities](#) (Comment by 23 September 2022)

## SET-related policy news

*Some articles included in the section below are opinion pieces. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSTF Executive Committee, Directors, Secretariat or Members.*

### Department of Science and Innovation

- Launch of 2022 Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Indicators Report: Webinar, 29 July 2022, 08:30-12:30. The [National Advisory Council on](#)

[Innovation](#) (NACI) invites you to a webinar launch of the 2022 South African Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Indicators Report. The Honourable Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, will give the keynote address. The launch will provide an opportunity for national system of innovation stakeholders to engage with the content and implications of the STI Indicators Report. Register [here](#).

- [Nzimande launches Science Diplomacy initiative to promote African collaboration](#) (polity.org.za)

## Energy

- [A national priority project to end load shedding fast](#) (energize.co.za)
- [NPC calls for declaration of 'energy emergency' to facilitate rapid building of generation and storage over 24 months](#) (polity.org.za)
- [Eskom to open vast new tracts of land for renewables](#) (techcentral.co.za)
- [Hot Air About Gas – An economic analysis of the scope and role for gas-fired power generation in South Africa](#) (energize.co.za)
- [Government promises new measures to tackle load shedding](#) (techcentral.co.za)
- [Wind sector responds to NPC's call for improved energy security](#) (energize.co.za)

## Education

- [Winners named in the 2022 Applications Olympiad](#) The Applications Olympiad is part of the South African Computer Olympiad, an initiative of the [Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa](#) (IITPSA – an [NSTF proSET](#) member) and one of the oldest and biggest events of its kind in the world.
- [Vodacom's coding initiative targets more young girls](#) (itweb.co.za)
- [Young scientists fly SA flag high at Hong Kong science fair](#) (iol.co.za)

## Infrastructure

- [Need for criminal justice response to 'Construction Mafia' – GI-TOC researcher](#) (polity.org.za)
- [Minister Mchunu calls for acceleration on water leaks repairs](#) (infrastructurenews.co.za)

## Medicine and Health

- [Official Launch of the South Africa Covid-19 Country Report: First Edition](#) (nrf.ac.za)
- [Multimorbidity in South Africa: A case of one in five people having more than one chronic illness](#) (samrc.ac.za)
- [South Africa's 'train of hope' is a godsend for millions. But new threats loom](#) (npr.org)

## The 4th Industrial Revolution and Information Technologies

- [DPSA DG lifts lid on state of ICT skills in public service](#) (itweb.co.za)



*The events posted below are correct as far as we could establish at the time of preparing this newsletter. Please check the relative websites for changes to dates and venues.*

- [National Scholarly Book Publishers' Forum \(NSBPF\) Conference](#): Hybrid event (Zoom/CSIR Conference Centre), 25 July 2022, 08:00-17:00
- [57th Annual Conference of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa \(GSSA\)](#): Aldam Resort, Free State, 25-29 July 2022
- STI Indicators Report: Webinar, 29 July 2022, 08:30-12:30. Register [here](#).
- [Southern African Society for Plant Pathology Congress 2022](#): Pretoria, 1-3 August 2022
- [Geosciences Information for Teachers \(GIFT\) Workshop](#): Cape Town, 6-8 August 2022
- [Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy \(SAIMM\) webinar](#): International guidelines for public reporting of exploration results, mineral resources, and reserves - Role of a competent person: 10 August 2022, 15:30-16:30. Register [here](#).
- [28th International Ornithological Congress 2022](#): Virtual congress, 15-19 August 2022
- [Infrastructure Africa Virtual Conference and exhibition](#): 17-18 August 2022
- [CESA Infrastructure Indaba 2022](#): Johannesburg, 18-19 August 2022
- [Africa Agri Tech Conference and Exhibition](#): Pretoria, 29 August - 2 September 2022
- [Scifest Africa](#): Theme: "Back to basics", 7-13 September 2022
- [Public Health Association of South Africa \(PHASA\) annual conference](#): eThekweni (Durban), 11-14 September 2022
- [SAIAE Symposium and Biennial CPD Event](#): "The rise of engineering in agriculture", Tzaneen, 21-23 September 2022
- [IAIA Climate Change Symposium](#): Celsius 1.5 : Impact Assessment & Climate Change: Cape Town, 26-28 September 2022
- [SA Innovation Summit 2022](#): Theme: Innovation goes viral. Cape Town, 27-29 September 2022. Side events will be taking place throughout that week.
- [5th edition of AI Expo Africa 2022](#): Johannesburg, 27-29 September 2022
- [Water Institute of South Africa \(WISA\) Biennial Conference and Exhibition](#): Sandton, 28-30 September 2022
- [Investing in disaster management for sustainable development](#): Zimbabwe, hybrid event, 1-4 October 2022
- [33rd SAIIE Conference](#): Zimbali, KwaZulu-Natal, 3-5 October 2022
- [The inaugural Township Economies Conference and Expo](#): Ekurhuleni, 4-5 October 2022
- [WasteCon 2022](#): Johannesburg, 18-22 October 2022
- [85th IMESA conference](#): Adapting to our changing world: Gauteng, 2-4 November 2022
- [Africa Wind Energy 2022 Conference & Exhibition](#): Online virtual conference, 16-17 November 2022
- [South African Geophysical Association's 17th Biennial Conference & Exhibition](#): Sun City, North-West Province, 28 November – 1 December 2022
- [World Science Forum](#): Cape Town, 5-9 December 2022
- [GeoCongress 2023](#): Stellenbosch, 11-13 January 2023
- [31st Conference of the Southern African Association for Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education](#): Bloemfontein, 17-19 January 2023
- [Africa Automation Technology Fair](#): Johannesburg, 9-11 May 2023
- [International Grassland Congress](#): Soil, Animal and Human Health: Kentucky, USA, 14-20 May 2023
- [2023 SAAFoST Biennial Congress and Exhibition](#): Future Foods: Smarter and More Sustainable Solutions, Cape Town, 28-30 August 2023



Some articles included in the section below are opinion pieces. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSTF Executive Committee, Directors, Secretariat or Members.

### Science Councils and Statutory Bodies

- **CSIR:** [CSIR and FCDO host SMME network operators to track progress on deployment of internet services in underserved communities](#) (csir.co.za)
- **SABS:** [South Africa adopts ISO standards to guide use of social media in emergencies](#) (sabs.co.za)
- **SANSA:** [Flood decision support tool](#) (sansa.org.za)

### Higher Education institutions

- [SAS renews its partnership with NWU to develop data science skills](#) (engineerit.co.za)
- [#UPGraduation2022: 'I used every coin I earned as a car guard to pay for my studies' – UP PhD candidate and lecturer on his road to academic success](#) (up.ac.za)
- [New Research Vessel for the University of Zululand \(UNIZULU\)](#) (saiab.ac.za)
- [Rhodes University's recently launched radio telescope provides robust learning opportunities](#) (ru.ac.za)
- [UJ wins three global awards for 4IR campaign](#) (uj.ac.za)
- [Making light work: UP chemists pave the way towards an ultra-sensitive analytical instrument that can detect water pollutants](#) (up.ac.za)
- [What it would take to set up an African drug discovery ecosystem](#) (ru.ac.za)
- [Light-bender recognised with scholarship](#) (wits.ac.za)
- [Mandela students in Spain for Palaeoecology Workshop](#) (mandela.ac.za)

### 4IR and Information Technologies

- [A Meerkat that prevents poaching in the Kruger Park](#) (itweb.co.za)
- [Digital economies radically reshaping future of work and traditional boundaries](#) (uj.ac.za)

### Agriculture

- [Rise of food prices: An interview with Wandile Sihlobo](#) (Newzroom Africa)
- [Africa's dream of feeding China hits hard reality](#) (reuters.com)
- [R654 million worth of SA citrus may be destroyed because of the EU's new cold-treatment laws](#) (businessinsider.co.za)
- [Disease and rising feed costs set to temper agriculture's growth](#) (businesslive.co.za)
- [Digital connectivity gives women agripreneurs in Africa a fighting chance](#) (sun.ac.za)
- [Gardeners in South Africa may hesitate to use greywater – but it can be a crop saver](#) (uwc.ac.za)
- [Sustainable small fisheries can help the planet – UP expert](#) (up.ac.za)

## Climate change and Environment

- [Promising indicators for plastics recycling sector growth](http://infrastructurenews.co.za) (infrastructurenews.co.za)
- [Over 2 billion plastic bottles recovered for recycling in SA](http://infrastructurenews.co.za) (infrastructurenews.co.za)
- [Marine Spatial Planning research making waves with ocean health and management](http://mandela.ac.za) (mandela.ac.za)
- [The air in South African Highveld cities smells foul in the winter: here's why](http://theconversation.com) (theconversation.com)
- [Supporting rhino conservation by improving and restoring OLLI's trolley](http://mandela.ac.za) (mandela.ac.za)

## Energy

- [Hi-tech trailer delivering green power an alternative to diesel generators](http://businesslive.co.za) (businesslive.co.za)

## Ichthyology

- [Investigation into Indian Ocean fishes shows the impact of the science of naming and describing fish species](http://saiab.ac.za) (saiab.ac.za)
- [Wonders beneath the waves at Plett's Keurbooms estuary](http://saiab.ac.za) (saiab.ac.za)
- [South Africa's sandfish are on the brink of extinction: how farmers are helping rescue them](http://theconversation.com) (theconversation.com)

## Infrastructure

- [Wastewater process modelling](http://infrastructurenews.co.za) (infrastructurenews.co.za)
- [Construction industry should not delay harnessing the benefits of remanufacturing](http://infrastructurenews.co.za) (infrastructurenews.co.za)

## Innovation

- [Mara, 'truly' SA-made smartphone, wants its mojo back](http://itweb.co.za) (itweb.co.za)

## Medicine and health

- ['Investing early is a moral imperative' - Child Gauge on children's mental health concerns](http://news24.com) (news24.com)
- [The gut microbiome helps to keep us in tip-top shape](http://sun.ac.za) (sun.ac.za)
- [Children's mental health and the digital world: how to get the balance right](http://theconversation.com) (theconversation.com)

## Physics

- [CERN re-launches particle accelerator to begin new era of experiments](http://msn.com) (msn.com)
- [Young South African researchers take leading roles at the ATLAS experiment collaboration of CERN](http://nrf.ac.za) (nrf.ac.za)

## Plant Pantology

- [Following a fungus from genes to tree disease: a journey in science](http://theconversation.com) (theconversation.com). Article by Prof Brenda Wingfield, former NSTF Chairperson and winner of the 2014 NSTF Award for researchers for an outstanding contribution to SET through research capacity development over the last 5 to 10 years – sponsored by Eskom.

## Space Science and Astronomy

- [Strange neutron star spinning every 76 seconds is discovered in stellar graveyard](http://sarao.ac.za) (sarao.ac.za)
- [SALT Contributes to the discovery of a four star system](http://saao.ac.za) (saao.ac.za)
- [Local impact study of HERA telescope shows direct benefits of radio astronomy infrastructure in South Africa's Northern Cape province](http://sarao.ac.za) (sarao.ac.za)
- The James Webb Space Telescope's [first full-colour images and spectroscopic data](#) were released during a televised broadcast on 12 July 2022, from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

## Opportunities

- The [Climate Finance Accelerator](#) (CFA) programme in South Africa has launched a [call for proposals](#) to support low-carbon projects fighting climate change and looking for investment. The CFA is looking for projects that are at least in the pre-feasibility stage and require at least USD\$4 million. The CFA call for proposals is open until 12 August. Projects wishing to be part of CFA South Africa should complete the [online application](#).
- South African graduate students who wish to pursue Master's studies with a view to entering the academic profession has the opportunity to partake in the [Nurturing Emerging Scholars Programme](#) (NESP) of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). The opportunities are tenable at all the listed universities and Rhodes University is the Implementation Support Partner Universities of this DHET initiative. The opportunities are in two parts: Opportunity 1 (study opportunities in France); and Opportunity 2 (study opportunities in SA). Click [here](#) for more information. Closing date for applications: 5 August 2022.
- [SA women invited to apply for cyber security scholarship](#). Deadline for applications: 19 September 2022. (itweb.co.za)



- [Prof Guy Midgley elected President of the JRS Biodiversity Foundation](http://sun.ac.za) (sun.ac.za)

## 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 and groups 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*).

### Disclaimer

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. The NSTF reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary.

### Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers.

### For more information

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