



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

Call for proposals: CSIR Photonics Centre Rental Pool Programme 2027/2028

The CSIR Photonics Centre herewith invites proposals for the CSIR Photonics Centre's Rental Pool Programme for 2027/28. This programme supports research projects at South African higher education institutions in laser and laser-based application research across the natural sciences, engineering, and health sciences. The fund provides access to equipment for use at the applicant's host institution or at the CSIR Photonics Centre facilities.

The following documents are attached for your information and convenience:

1. [Call for CSIR Photonics Centre's Rental Pool Programme grant applications for 2027/28.](#)
2. [CSIR Rental Pool Programme Manual for 2027.](#)
3. [CSIR Rental Pool Programme Application Form 2027.](#)
4. [Advert of the 2027/28 call.](#)

For the 2027/28 call, applicants should use the attached CSIR Rental Pool Programme Application template, which must be completed and signed by both the applicant and the research office at the HEI where the project will be executed. Applicants should return a PDF version of the signed proposal, and an unsigned version of the proposal in Word format by the closing date of the call.

Researchers with continuation CSIR Rental Pool Programme projects do not need to reapply; instead, they must submit a detailed annual progress report for evaluation and approval. The Call for Annual Progress Reports will be issued to present CSIR Rental Pool Grant holders in October 2026.

Please note that the call for new applications closes **on Friday 23 October 2026**. No late submissions will be considered. All submissions must be made electronically to nlcrentalpool@csir.co.za and tiduplooy@csir.co.za

For more information, please contact me or Thomas du Plooy at the CSIR Photonics Centre.