



**Managing Director: iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences
(iThemba LABS)**

(Re-advertisement)

Contract: 5 Years, renewable

Job Level: Executive

Work Location: Cape Town, Western Cape

The National Research Foundation (NRF) supports and promote research and human capital development through funding, the provision of National Research Facilities and science outreach platforms and programmes to the broader community in all fields of science and technology, including natural sciences, social sciences and humanities.

iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences (iThemba LABS) is a multi-disciplinary National Research Facility based on development, operation and use of particle accelerators and related research equipment. The term of the current incumbent comes to an end in June 2023 and the NRF has embarked on a search for his successor in a manner that allows for the necessary overlap to ensure a smooth transition of the leadership of iThemba LABS.

Purpose of the Position

The NRF is seeking a dynamic science leader with credible research and science management experience to serve as Managing Director of iThemba LABS.

Reporting to the NRF Deputy CEO: National Research Infrastructure Platforms, the incumbent will be responsible for providing vision and leadership for the research and operational activities of the Facility, overseeing an annual budget of approximately R300 million and a staff complement of 300 employees and more than 400 students and users. In addition to the key responsibilities listed below, the incumbent will be expected to establish a culture of scientific excellence, equity, diversity and inclusion amongst staff, students and users.

The Incumbent is also expected to bring the four pillars of iThemba LABS's Long Range Plan to full implementation and operation, as well as build collaborative partnerships and programs within the field of accelerator-based sciences, with other National Facilities and Higher Education and Research Institutions, nationally and internationally.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide strategic scientific oversight and operational leadership for the accelerator-based and related research and technical development programs of the Facility.
- Provide resource stewardship in terms of mobilisation, deployment and accountability thereof across the Facility's extensive portfolio.
- Lead, direct and inspire approximately 300 employees and affiliates, including scientists, engineers, postdoctoral Fellows, administrative, technical and operations staff, and students.
- Effectively manage existing programs and guide the development of new initiatives within the framework of a long-term research vision and strategic plan aligned with national goals and NRF Strategy.
- Take accountability for compliance with statutory health and safety standards in the operational requirements of the Facility and the applicable licencing requirements.
- Partner with the operations staff to ensure excellence across all operational areas, including budgets, supply chain management, funding, workforce planning, human resources management, environmental health and safety, property, space, and facilities management.
- Provide effective management of strategic stakeholder relationships with higher education institutions, science councils and other research institutions to develop cooperative programs for the mutual benefit of the science system, the NRF, and its partners and society in general.
- Champion and communicate the iThemba LABS mission, goals, and accomplishments to NRF leadership, funding sponsors, staff and leadership, and to the broader research community.
- Make substantial contributions to the positioning of the NRF as a significant player in the National System of Innovation.
- Position iThemba LABS as a strategic gateway to global accelerator-based science and nuclear physics research infrastructures, with the aim of developing research capacity and enhancing the standing of the South African research enterprise.
- Participate in research policy formulation and provide consultation to the CEO and DCEO of the NRF on new initiatives for the organisation's strategic direction.
- Championing the Transformation Agenda of the NRF with respect to the research and technology workforce.
- Lead the advancement of an innovation outlook and technology development focus by iThemba LABS in order to enhance the Facility's societal impact as a science-driven entity.
- Ensure fitness for purpose of the organisational structure, operational capacity and resources to enable the achievement of the organisational strategy.

Key Requirements:

Qualifications:

- PhD or equivalent education in experimental nuclear/atomic/accelerator physics, materials physics or related areas.

Experience

- 10 years' post-PhD experience in research and training with nationally and/or internationally recognised contributions.
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in a leadership or senior management role/s in scientific research and development context, leading a research team, laboratory or scientific organisation.
- Competence in the management of scientific projects and collaborative science initiatives.
- Ability to lead the development and implementation of a science strategy applicable to running a large, diverse, team-oriented organisation with a multidisciplinary group of scientists, technologists and engineers.
- Experience in effective management, leadership and administrative oversight in relation to people, finance, operations and technical operations.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to interact at the highest level of management, both internally and externally, in a constructive and collaborative manner and in a way that appropriately represents the Facility and the NRF.
- Understanding of the impact of and ability to lead and shape a supportive and high performance organisational culture.

Information:

The website www.nrf.ac.za provides more information on the NRF initiatives and activities.

Applications:

Applicants should submit a comprehensive CV to cheryl@bossjansen.com. This is a re advertisement and candidates who applied need not re-apply as their initial application will be considered.

Applications should be accompanied by a letter of motivation indicating the applicant's suitability for the position. The names and contact details of at least three referees should be provided

Enquiries: For any enquiries, please contact 011 783 8453.

Closing date: 04 November 2022

The NRF offers a challenging career and competitive remuneration package which is commensurate with qualification and experience.

The NRF is committed to employment equity and redress and the appointment to this position will be made in line with the NRF Employment Equity Plan

Please note that this is a re-advertisement and candidates who have already applied need not re-apply.