

# Universities South Africa - Research and Innovation Dialogue



Dr Romilla Maharaj  
07 April 2016



science  
& technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



National  
Research  
Foundation

# Long Term Planning

- Consider life span of current equipment and plan for upgrade or replacements over time
- Foreign exchange fluctuations may affect the cost of equipment positively or negatively :
  - Negotiate forward cover with equipment suppliers (this should be done by the institution, preferably)
  - Develop strategy for setting aside contingency funds

# Sustainability

- Feasible governance structure for the sustainable management and administration of the equipment
- Plan for service contracts beyond initial five years
- Feasible costing plan for operational costs
- Securing and/or generating funds for long-term sustainable management
- Appropriate insurance in place
- Supporting infrastructure in place and up to required standards



# Human Resource Development

- Development and retention of high-end scientific and technological skills is crucial for South Africa's transformation and sustainable development through R&D.
- Development of scarce skills to ensure optimal management, operation and maintenance of the equipment.
- Feasible plan for HCD and training:
  - Staff development
  - Student training
  - Succession plan
- Mentoring emerging researchers.

# Grantholder Relocation

- Grantholder's may relocate to other institutions with the equipment in the case where there is no appropriate successor to take on management of the institution
- In this case the following must be considered:
  - New host to reimburse the initial costs for cost incurred to procure the equipment as well as the 1/3 contribution
  - An agreement must be drafted between the NRF and the two institutions to agree on the transfer process

# Succession Planning

- Succession planning must be considered for the following reasons:
  - Researchers within five years of retirement
  - Possibility of researchers relocating
- Have an ongoing training plan:
  - Staff development: Technicians, Operators
  - Emerging researchers
  - Postgraduates and Postdoc fellows

# Leveraging Industry Funding

- Currently Industry funds are obtained on an adhoc basis
- Consider development of a framework or policy for industry partnership to contribute to the strategic goals of the country in terms of R&D
- Partnerships with industry to develop grants that can foster the development of new research partnerships between an academic institution and industry for mutual benefits.

# Increase Mobility Funding

Increase funding for mobility to allow researchers and postgraduate students to access research equipment nationally and internationally.



**PARTNER** with us  
Realise the **POTENTIAL**



**Enkosi, Thank you,  
Re a leboga, Siyabonga,  
Dankie**

