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## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

**Date:** 08 May 2019

**Title:** Nanotechnology strategic key research areas foresight model for improved innovation and technology transfer.

### Dear Prospective Participant

My name is Brian Masara doing a Doctor of Business Leadership Degree at the University of South Africa under the supervision of Prof. Malik Maaza a Professor at UNISA. We are inviting you to participate in a study entitled **Nanotechnology strategic key research areas foresight model for improved innovation and technology transfer**.

### WHAT IS THE AIM/PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

The overall aim of this study to develop an effective nanotechnology-specific Multi-Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) based foresight model for selecting and ranking the key nanotechnology strategic research areas in which a country must focus and concentrate resources in order to increase its rate of successful innovations, technology transfer, and hence improve its competitiveness.

I am in the process of conducting research to investigate the critical success factors that promote nanotechnology research that leads to successful nanotechnology innovations. The survey results will feed into the development of a MCDM based Key Technologies Foresight Model.

### WHY AM I BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

You have been invited to participate in this survey in your personal capacity as a professional/expert working in an organisation carrying out research, development, innovation or policy formulation in nanotechnology related fields in South Africa.

The sampling frame was compiled through consultation with the following organisations, the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP), the Nanotechnology Centre at the Council for Scientific and



Industrial Research (CSIR), the South African Nanotechnology Initiative (SANi) and publicly available information on nanotechnology research programmes from institutions across the South Africa.

Nanotechnology is a General-Purpose Technology covering all economic sectors, hence in order to ensure the uniform representation of all economic sectors identified, the sampling frame was stratified into economic sectors, then 239 professionals were selected for the study using stratified random sampling.

### **WHAT IS THE NATURE OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY /WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH INVOLVE?**

The study involves electronic questionnaires with closed-ended, multiple-choice and Likert scale type questions that participants are requested to complete. It will take 30 to 45 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

### **CAN I WITHDRAW FROM THIS STUDY?**

Being in this study is voluntary and you are under no obligation to consent to participation. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a written consent form. You are free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

### **WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?**

Nanotechnology is predicted to drive the next Schumpeterian wave of economic growth, and by 2013 the nanotech market was already over US\$1 trillion (NSF-USA), such that most countries are investing in this area. However, there is lack of a nanotechnology specific foresight methods. Completing the questionnaire will enable me to develop a foresight model for identifying, selecting and ranking key strategic research areas in nanotechnology, this will help countries to cost-effectively utilize limited resources by focusing and concentrating resources towards those nanotechnology research areas that possess the greatest potential to bring socio-economic development, competitiveness and return on investment.

### **WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED INCONVENIENCE OF TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?**



The research will not have a direct human interaction the survey will be sent via email and completed electronically. The only inconvenience is time spent answering the questions.

### **WILL WHAT I SAY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?**

The questionnaire does not collect personal information such as names, email, phone number etc. and no one will be able to connect you to the answers you give. Your answers will be given a fictitious code number and you will be referred to in this way in the data, any publications, or other research reporting methods such as conference proceedings.

Your answers may be reviewed by people responsible for making sure that research is done properly, including a transcriber, external coder, and members of the Research Ethics Committee. Otherwise, records that identify you will be available only to people working on the study, unless you give permission for other people to see the records.

All information gathered will be treated in the strictest confidence and reserved for academic use only. For example, a report of the study may be submitted for publication, but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report.

### **HOW WILL INFORMATION BE STORED AND ULTIMATELY DESTROYED?**

Electronic copies of your answers will be stored by the researcher for a period of 5 years in a password protected computer. Future use of the stored data will be subject to further Research Ethics Review and approval if applicable. The electronic data will be deleted after this period.

### **WILL I RECEIVE PAYMENT OR ANY INCENTIVES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?**

Participation in the research is purely voluntary there is no reward offered, financial or otherwise. There is no cost involved since the questionnaire will be electronic.



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## HAS THE STUDY RECEIVED ETHICAL APPROVAL?

This study has received written approval from the Research Ethics Committee of the College of Economic and Management Sciences, Unisa. A copy of the approval letter can be obtained from the researcher if you so wish.

## HOW WILL I BE INFORMED OF THE FINDINGS/RESULTS?

If you would like to be informed of the final research findings, please contact Brian Masara on +27 737 2562 or [brian.masara@saip.org.za](mailto:brian.masara@saip.org.za). The findings are accessible upon request.

Should you require any further information or want to contact the researcher about any aspect of this study, please contact on +27 737 2562 or [brian.masara@saip.org.za](mailto:brian.masara@saip.org.za)

Should you have concerns about the way in which the research has been conducted, you may contact Prof Malik Maaza, on [Maazam@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Maazam@unisa.ac.za) / [Maaza@tlabs.ac.za](mailto:Maaza@tlabs.ac.za) | Tel|+27(0)218431149/45/46 | +27(0)782748584 (Cell)|

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet and for participating in this study.

Thank you.

**Mr. Brian Masara**