



Applied Physics Division Chairperson's Report: 2 July 2023

(Subject to revision after the SAIP 2023 conference)

Submitted by Alan Matthews (Chair)

This past year (July 2022 – July 2023) has been one of transition from all online interaction under Covid restrictions to an in-person conference again this year.

The Industry Connection Roadmap initiative continued in the portfolio of Lindsay Westraadt, with an online meeting held on 20 Oct 2022 (Minutes attached). A progress report will be available soon.

The website (appliedphysics.co.za, portfolio of Adiel Holtzhausen) is still active and will be updated after the 2023 conference.

At this year's conference, the 67th SAIP Annual Conference hosted by the University of Zululand at Richard's Bay campus, the Applied Physics Division plenary speaker will be Dr Antonie Kotze, with the title "Physics in the Financial Markets").

Abstract review was conducted successfully, although some reviewers were under pressure with exams, and there were some problems accessing abstracts. However, we managed to resolve all problems.

The table below shows that numbers have increased from 2022.

	2023	2022	2021	2019	2018
Oral	1 Plenary 28	2 Plenary 1 Non-Specialist 32 Regular	1 Plenary 1 Non-Specialist 26 Regular	6 Industry Day 31 Regular	1 Plenary 1 Non – specialist 6 Industry Day 25 Regular
Poster	27	17	21	29	24
Total	55	49	47	60	57

The schedule has, for awards: 6 PhD oral, 4 PhD poster, 9 MSc oral, 9 MSc poster, 1 Hons oral, 3 Hons poster, and not for awards: 7 oral, 10 poster. This year the committee decided to group talks by award category: PhDs on Tuesday and MSc and Hons on Wednesday.

No-shows have been a problem at previous conferences. No-shows will be reported in the revised version of this report after the conference.

Prize money for awards is to be presented in the Treasurer's report.

Minutes of Meeting of Applied Physics Division of the SAIP

Thu 20 Oct 2022 15h00-16h00 on Industry Connection Roadmap

Meeting started at 15h10

Present: Alan Matthews, Lindsay Westraadt, Roelof Roodt, Trevor Derry, Phil Ferrer, Ernest van Dyk, Frederik Vorster, Rorisang Sitoboli, Apologies: Tjaart Kruger, Absent: Adiel Holtzhausen

Overview of draft ICR: Lindsay Westraadt presented the ICR document.

Main points discussed:

- We need a skilled market analyst to do a survey of employment of physics graduates in companies.
- This could in principle be paid for by physics departments across South Africa. We would consider graduates at Hons, MSc and PhD levels.
- We should also gather information from physics departments on where their graduates are working, what industry collaborations exist, and what services could be offered to industry.
- Information to be gathered by interviewing members of departments and any other suitable means.
- We should set up facilities on our website to aid the process.

Next steps:

Lindsay Westraadt to write the scope of information we need.

Committee members to see which market analyst could be engaged, and the cost. Also, see what information already exists e.g. in government departments.

Another meeting will be convened when progress has been made on these action points.

Meeting ended at 16h00