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## **The African Laser Centre: A Model for African Collaborations**

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The African Laser Centre (ALC) is a network of laser researchers in Africa that has grown to involve more than thirty (30) laboratories across the continent. It is an African Union/NEPAD flagship programme that seeks to achieve the following: (1) promote laser-based research, development, and innovation, as well as laser-related education and training on the African continent, (2) foster collaborations among laser researchers and institutions across the continent, as well as facilitate collaborations of these with their international counterparts, (3) contribute to the advancement of African countries' economies and global competitiveness for the welfare of their people. We describe the genesis of the ALC since its launch in 2003 and its programs and major successes over the past ten years. Finally, we discuss how the ALC could serve as a model of an African light source.

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