



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Water Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Roadmap**

**23 July 2015**

*The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), partnering with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), is working towards enhancing decisions on water service delivery, with a firm belief of exploring what customers want.*

*Speaking at the Department of Science and Technology Auditorium at the Centre for Scientific Innovation and Research during the launch of the DWS' National Integrated Water Information System, the Deputy Director-General of DST, Mr Imraan Patel said "this approach provided the basis for a focused approach to developing the Water Research, Development and Deployment (RDD) Response".*

*Some of the strategies administered or implemented to enhance water supplies and decision-making revolves around ways of improving and increasing the skills pool, build competencies in the DWS and within the sector, as well as to articulate the need for aligned qualifications' development with various concerned organisation to build into RDD programmes.*

*There is also collaboration to maintain a minimum number of students supported in water research, enhance human capital development by supporting SMMEs in the Water R&D domain. Knowledge dissemination and training will form part of the functions of the Public Service Providers (PSPs) within the RDD programmes; there will be facilitation of positive relationships with communities through active community participation in RDD and maintenance of the minimum number of students supported in water Research and Development (R&D).*

*The partnerships also work to increase water knowledge by initiating new R&D, provide the country with supportive knowledge via completed projects, promote uptake and communication of research knowledge in the form of manuals, guidelines, and other supporting materials, engage the sector in knowledge-sharing events, provision of PSCs and TAC to support performance improvement in Water Services Authorities (WSAs) and Water Service Providers (WSPs), and also increase water knowledge by initiating new R&D that addresses the identified knowledge gaps*

*The team also provides the country with supportive knowledge via completed RDD, improving knowledge dissemination, including promoting the uptake*



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*and communication of R&D in the form of manuals, guidelines, and other supporting materials.*

*One of the most important factors is that the team engages the sector in Development and Innovation (D&I) via knowledge-sharing events through public dialogues and workshops.*

*Lots of efforts are put into the work and what were being awaited are normally the returns on investment regarding these processes. Assumptions in respect of investment in Human Capital Development and Knowledge Generation are derived from prior domain experience in South Africa. It was also indicated that the anticipated conversion rates in technology development are consistent with international benchmarks in the translation of science to end-use technology.*

*It is expected that the root contribution will come through allowing better coordination, improved decision-making and greater enablement, principally through the systematic translation of research into operational practice.*

*The partnership between the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Water Research Commission (WRC) revolves around a two-year pilot programme that commenced in April 2014.*

*The vision is to bridge the gap between water research and the market to achieve a connected water innovation system that delivers socio-economic benefits for South Africa.*

**Ike Motsapi and Velly Maribe**