Vacancy Advertisement

Job Title: Research Leader; Nanoscience Research Group, CSIR

Unit
Corporate

Overview
As part of a strategy to strengthen its science and technology base and to support research activities in largely unexplored but potentially fertile areas, the CSIR will be establishing a number of Emerging Research Areas (ERAs) over the next three years. The Nanoscience Research Group will function as a separate entity within the organisation and will consist of three programmes (groups of projects) covering the areas of advanced nanostructured materials, biomaterials and coatings/composites.

Although there is some existing competency and supporting scientific infrastructure within the nanotechnology area, this is a new initiative and the ERA will require strong research vision and leadership to build its programmes and focus areas. As a result, this is an excellent opportunity for an experienced researcher who wishes to build a strong research group within a secure funding environment.

The initial appointment will be for five years and the post will be based in Pretoria on the CSIR main campus.

Qualification
We are looking for a dynamic, result-oriented and well-qualified individual with a minimum qualification of a PhD in a relevant scientific area (such as physics, materials science or chemistry).

Experience and Skills
The applicant must have at least five years post-doctoral experience in a relevant area (such as nanocomposites, bionanotechnology or nanostructured materials) and at least two years experience as leader of a research group (consisting of two to five researchers plus technical support staff).

A proven performance record in the form of peer-reviewed publications, integration with the international nanotechnology research community and demonstrated abilities to conduct research independently in multi-disciplined diverse team will be essential. A good understanding of the potential application of nanotechnology to the development of the South African economy will be an advantage.

The candidate's ability to network and operate across organisational boundaries will be critical to the success of the ERA. The job will have minimal operational or administrative responsibilities; the candidate must be passionate about pursuing a research career and making a significant contribution to the science and technology output of the CSIR.

Performance measures for the position will include publications, training of doctoral students, patents and research discoveries.

Contact Details and Closing Date
Applicants are kindly requested to submit a letter of motivation and a comprehensive CV to Nicolene Humpel at nhumpel@csir.co.za. Attached files in pdf format are preferred and no posted or faxed applications will be accepted.

Please state clearly the position for which you are applying; the CSIR reserves the right not to respond to applicants who clearly do not meet the minimum requirements as stated above.

The closing date for applications is 31 March 2006.