



## The French South African Institute of Technology the SFSA Science Diplomacy Awards 2016

Pretoria, 9 December 2016

On Friday 9 December 2016, the **Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor**, conferred on the [French South African Institute of Technology \(F'SATI\)](#), the **Science Forum South Africa 2016 Science Diplomacy Award**, in the category for an international STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) partnership which has made an outstanding contribution to human capital development.

This Award was received by **Mr Yves Blanchard, Scientific Director of F'SATI**, from **Minister Naledi Pandor** during the [Science Forum South Africa 2016](#) closing session on Friday 9 December 2016. The Science Forum South Africa is a public science event organised by the [Department of Science and Technology](#) to promote conversations about science – in South Africa, Africa and globally.

F'SATI is a **French South African postgraduate institute for teaching, research and development** with two nodes - one at the [Tshwane University of Technology \(TUT\)](#) in Pretoria and one at the [Cape Peninsula University of Technology \(CPUT\)](#) in Cape Town, which offers Masters and Doctorates in the Universities of Technologies with a high added value.

The institute's mandate is to contribute to the creation of knowledge and transfer of technology between South Africa and France as well as capacity-building and technical training of South Africans.

The initiative was launched in 1996 after a visit by late former **President Nelson Mandela** to France, under the responsibility of the **Chamber of Commerce and industry of Paris (CCIP)**, with the objective of developing a training institute in electronics in South Africa. The French South-African Institute of Technology is thus the result of a partnership between the [Paris Île-de-France Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#), its [Engineering School \(ESIEE Paris\)](#), the [Tshwane University of Technology \(TUT\)](#), the [Cape Peninsula University of Technology \(CPUT\)](#), the [University of Paris-Est Créteil \(UPEC\)](#), with strong links with the [University of Versailles Saint-Quentin](#) and the [University of Montpellier](#).

Strongly supported by the [French Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(MAEDI\)](#), the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the [National Research Foundation \(NRF\)](#), the institute has become **a leading Centre in scientific innovation**.

The Institute has, since its inception, continuously participated in **human capacity development** through great collaboration between South African and French institutions.

F'SATI's node at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (opened in 2008) boasts **South Africa's first nano-satellite programme** - which developed Africa's first nano-satellite (ZACUBE-1), and is currently developing what will be the most advanced South African *CubeSat* to date (ZACUBE-2).

Scientific Director of French South African Institute of Technology **Yves Blanchard**:

*"F'SATI purpose is to train through research and innovation young South African scientists and this recognition of its achievement is a great honour for all of us and for our students."*

In 2015, when **South African Minister of Science and Technology Naledi Pandor** asked for a similar institute focused on agriculture, the Embassy and its partners set up the [French South African Institute of Agriculture \(F'SAGRI\)](#) at the [University of Fort Hare](#) in the Eastern Cape.

**F'SATI's French partners:**

[Paris Île-de-France Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) (CCIP) and its [Engineering School](#) (ESIEE Paris)

[The French Ministry of Foreign affairs](#) (MAEDI)

[Université Paris-Est Créteil](#) (UPEC)

[Université Versailles Saint-Quentin](#) (UVSQ)

[Université de Montpellier](#) (UM)

**F'SATI's South African partners:**

[Tshwane University of Technology](#) (TUT)

[Cape Peninsula University of Technology](#) (CPUT)

[Department of Science and Technology](#) (DST)

[National Research Foundation](#) (NRF)

Key figures:

**8** start-ups created since the F'SATI launch in **1998**,

**7** of them acquired by major companies.

**1** patent, **36** peer-reviewed journal papers, 59 accredited conferences and **3** books in **2016**

**43** doctoral and **124** master students in **2016**

Press contact:

**Ms. Yana Brugier**

Press Counsellor - Embassy of France in South Africa

[yana.brugier@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:yana.brugier@diplomatie.gouv.fr)