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South Africa – a key role in FP7 participation from Sub-Saharan Africa

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Overview

- Why partner with South Africa in the FP7?
 - Position
 - Environment
 - Capability
 - Opportunity

■ African Advantages

- Historical links
- Same languages
- Same time zones
- Unique geographic situation e.g
Southern Oceans
- Common challenges

- Strong political support
 - Continental & national – EU-AU EU-SA
- Acceptance of role of R&D
 - CPA, DST 10 year plan, growing investment
- Strong networks
 - Continental & bi-lateral – e.g. Mozambique
postgrad, France
 - Industry collaboration – e.g. SAP
- All in one Country
- Part of BRICS

Capabilities

- Well established NSI
 - Vibrant ICT industry – 3rd largest in SA, exporting € 2 billion p.a
 - Globally competitive research institutes
 - Strong academic structures
 - 3/21 research universities in top 500
 - African responsibility –ALC,AIMS
- Track record in FP
 - FP5 – CSIR largest role player in 3rd countries
 - FP6 – Top-up call – SA & Russia leading
 - FP7 – ICT – moved from 0 in FP5 to 6 in FP6 to 12 confirmed in FP7
 - Active NCP network & support structures e.g. ESASTAP, EuroAfrica-ICT

Capabilities

- Growing research Infrastructure
 - CHPC (Top 500 2008 Q2)
 - BlueGene, BMIC
 - SANReN & GeANT
 - VLSDS
- Global initiatives
 - Leading role in GEO(SS)

Opportunity

- ICT in Environment
 - GeoNetCast, disaster management
- ICT in (socio-economic)
 - Health, education, multilingual
- Living Labs
- Mobile Communication
 - Wireless Africa (Nokia)
- Research Infrastructure & Applications
 - Grids (WISDOM)
- Emerging economies & local presence
 - Major ICT companies
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Conclusion

- Well Positioned geographically and Strategically
- Environment conducive to R&D cooperation
- Significant Capabilities to partner with
- Opportunities in FP7 exist to be exploited

Conclusions

- Thank you
- Johan Eksteen (jeksteen@csir.co.za)

