

## Why partner with SA companies?

- South Africa is 5 times the size of Japan and three times the size of Texas.
- The South African economy is the 29th largest in the world, ahead of countries such as Thailand, Pakistan, Ireland and Malaysia (IMF).
- South Africa is ranked 52nd out of 144 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2012/13. It is the highest ranked country in sub-Saharan Africa.
- South Africa was ranked amongst the global top 20 emerging economies by Bloomberg in 2013.
- South Africa and Australia have been jointly selected to host the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project with a majority share of the radio telescope destined to be built and housed in South Africa.
- South Africa has recently become the first African country to join the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF).
- nRF chief executive Albert van Jaarsveld said in a statement that South Africa's acceptance into the ESRF was something to be proud of. "This is a remarkable achievement, and it recognises the excellence of our local scientists as well as the global research opportunities that can be accessed from South Africa."
- The Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department of Stellenbosch university was the first university in the world to design and launch a microsatellite.
- BMW's South African plant was awarded the highly prestigious European Gold Plant Quality Award ranking it first among European plants in quality.
- BRIC becomes BRICS: South Africa has formally joined the BRIC group of nations. Standing alongside Brazil, Russia, India and China, South Africa has joined the world's most important emerging economies and the ones which will overtake many of the developed economies by 2050.
- The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2012/13 ranked South Africa 39th out of 144 countries in terms of company spending on R&D and 34th on the quality of scientific research institutions.
- The Standard Transfer Specification (STS) was developed in South Africa and is recognised as the only globally accepted open standard for prepayment systems.
- Unmanned Aerial vehicle (uAv) Surveillance System is a South African engineering reference worldwide and used by over 50 military forces.
- South Africa is at the forefront of the African vLBI (very long baseline interferometry) network which received a R120-million grant in 2012 from the African Renaissance Fund.

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