

CSIR showcases its science

The CSIR held its Third Biennial Conference during August/September 2010. The theme of this year's conference was 'Science: Real and Relevant'. The conference has become a major event on the Council's calendar. This year, close to 900 delegates attended, more than 50% from outside organisations. According to Dr Thulani Dlamini, CSIR Group Executive: Research and Development, the event offers the Council the perfect

opportunity to showcase its work and engage with its shareholders. Presentations represented various subjects in the fields of health and safety, built environment, defence and security, industry, energy and natural environment. Minister of Science & Technology, Naledi Pandor, who delivered the keynote address, made a passionate plea to the CSIR and other science councils to not only focus on 'creative and imaginary' research, but to tackle

projects that would directly impact on the country's poor. "There is no point in having technology, research and development if we still have people without access to energy, health-care and other basic services. Science and technology is a key enabler in boosting the economy. We must look at how technology, research and development respond to local and global problems, and increase science's supportive role in developing and modernising South Africa."

All photographs by
Lani van Vuuren



Minister of Science & Technology Naledi Pandor delivered the keynote address.



Dr Patience Mthunzi, Saturnin Ombinda-Lemboumba and Ivy Ndhundhuma, all from the National Laser Centre at the CSIR.



Pieter de Beer, Marius Coetzee, Rob Wallis and Ryan Cowley, all of the South African Air Force.



Dr Nqaba Ngcoba, Chair of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Science & Technology.



There were 67 posters on display at the conference.



Andri Barnard, Lara Kotzé-Jacobs and Ilse Wepener, all from CSIR Polymers and Composites.