The National Research Foundation (NRF) invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced leaders for the position of Director at iThemba LABS (Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences).

iThemba LABS is a National Facility operated by the NRF and is primarily a facility for research, training and development in Accelerator Physics, Radiotherapy, Sub-Atomic Physics, Materials- and Nano-science, Radio-biophysics, and the development and production of Radionuclides. It has a staff of about 300 and is based in Faure near Cape Town, with a satellite Accelerator Mass Spectrometry facility in Gauteng. Education and public outreach are important additional activities in which all NRF facilities actively participate.

National Research and Innovation policies recognise Physics as one of the key academic and research disciplines which could impact on development and offer opportunities in a number of future growth areas. The long term strategy of iThemba LABS is to investigate and vigorously pursue all possible means of expanding the current accelerator and research facilities. iThemba LABS is therefore committed to:

- Establishing a world class Accelerator Mass Spectrometry facility.
- Installing a state-of-the-art tandem accelerator for ion beam analysis at the nano-scale.
- Securing funding for procurement of a 70 MeV cyclotron.
- Establishing a Rare Isotope Beam facility.
- Expanding the supply of accelerator produced isotopes.
- Facilitating the establishment of a dedicated hadron therapy research centre.

We are seeking a dynamic physicist with an excellent research track record, proven experience and skills in research management and leadership and, a reputation for high-quality research at an international level. Experience with Accelerators and related science and/or instrumentation would be an advantage.

**Key responsibilities:** Strategically lead the research effort within iThemba LABS so as to ensure that the facility remains as one of the leading facilities on the African continent and to position it as a force on the world stage. Play a key role in defining the national strategy for accelerator based physics research in maximising the linkages and synergies between iThemba LABS and other centres of excellence, both within South Africa and globally. Take full responsibility for leading and managing iThemba LABS as a National Research Facility within the South African National System of Innovation. Accelerate the transformation process currently underway at iThemba LABS so as to maximise the organisation’s contribution to national priorities including capacity building and technological innovation. Serve as an effective team contributor on the National Facilities Executive and provide inputs to the NRF as a member of the NRF Executive Forum.

**For more information on iThemba LABS and the function of the Director, contact Mr Patrick Thompson at the address given below**
The appointment will be for a contract period of five (5) years with a possibility of an extension for a further term based on mutual agreement between the NRF and the incumbent.

The NRF offers a competitive total salary package that includes medical aid, retirement fund contributions, plus other benefits.

Applicants should submit a comprehensive CV, accompanied by a letter of motivation indicating the applicant’s suitability for the position. The names and contact details of at least three referees should be provided.

Applications must be forwarded to Mr P Thompson, Group Executive: Human Resources & Legal Services, National Research Foundation, P O Box 2600, Pretoria, 0001; Tel: (012) 481 4073, Fax (012) 481 4006, e-mail: patrick@nrf.ac.za. Correspondence will be conducted with shortlisted candidates only.

Closing date: Friday, 29 August 2014

The NRF is committed to employment equity and redress.

The website www.nrf.ac.za provides more details on NRF initiatives.