

Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology

National System of Innovation (NSI)

6 June 2006



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Presentation layout

- Background NSI
- Expectations
- Policy Framework
- Fundamental question
- Inter governmental focus
- Operational efficiency
- Conclusion



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What do we expect the NSI to deliver for South Africa

- **Quality of life**
- Use technologies developed at some of our institutions to help addressing major social problems (multi drug resistant TB, cancer, water treatment, using better and new materials to build energy efficient houses etc)



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Expectations continue

- **Industry's competitiveness**
- Increase their revenue and employ more people
- Generate high value Intellectual Property (IP) that could be licensed or could set up new start up companies



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Fundamental question

- How do we measure the performance of the NSI and ensure that it is delivering what we expect?
- One of the responsibilities of the new DG will be to develop such a measure. The starting point being the innovation survey.



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Policy Framework

- The policy framework that is guiding the work of the DST is the National R&D Strategy (NRDS); raising the investment of R&D to 1% as a percentage of GDP
- HCD is at the single most important bottleneck to enable the NSI to deliver what we expect it to deliver - HCD strategy with a strong link to the youth strategy is being finalized. Such a strategy will have a targets linked to certain timelines and which institutions is required to do what



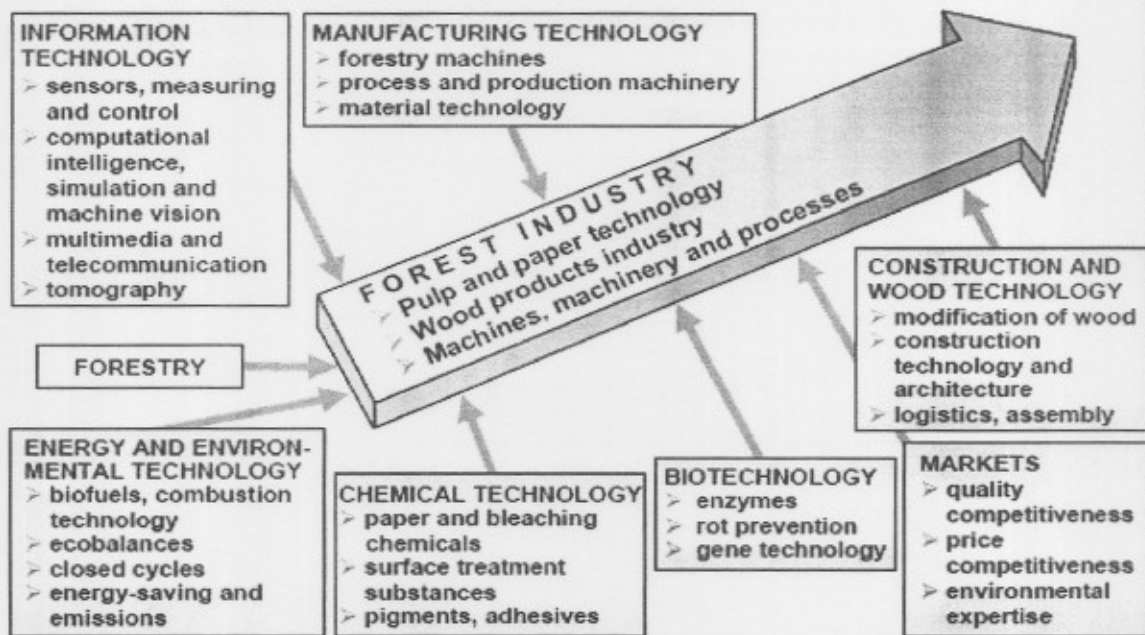
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Policy framework continue

- Regional Innovation Systems (Gauteng: information security, Biotechnology in Mpumalanga for farming, etc.). In this activity we anticipate supporting the setting up of innovation parks in certain regional hubs, like the innovation hub in Pretoria, and the one at the university of Kwa-Zulu Natal)
councils {Photonics, nanotechnology, Biosciences at the CSIR and MRC (drug development), Aerospace, etc.}



Securing Competitiveness in the Forest Industry Cluster



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Strengthen and align our role with other government departments

- On issues of governance (i.e. utilization of R&D earmarked funds by the councils that now report to various government departments) as well as
- assisting in delivering some of their challenges using science and technology (logistics in transport, IT in transport, use of satellite in urban planning, etc.)



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Bringing operational efficiency within the department

- Optimization of the DST structure
- Level of appropriateness of the activities that we do e.g. developing a better mechanism for monitoring the outputs of the system and in particular the councils that report to the DST, CSIR, NRF, HSRC, etc



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Conclusion

- Define what we expect from the National System of Innovation and sell this to our stakeholders
- Implement specific programmes of the NRDS with specific targets
- Accelerate the HCD strategy implementation with specific targets
- Achieve operational efficiency within the DST



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Thank You



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