

## Constitution

20 June 2003

### 1. TITLE

The name of the Society shall be the "South African Nanotechnology initiative", hereinafter referred to as the "Society". Abbreviation: **SANi**

The logo of SANi shall be in black and white and shall take the form as indicated below:



### 2. OBJECTIVES

The Society aims to promote:

Opportunities for research and networking activities relating to nanotechnology and to build a platform for nanotechnology in South Africa.

Networking by facilitating and maintaining communication and collaboration within and between groups of stakeholders and maintain communication with other initiatives and professional societies.

Lobby Regulatory bodies and Funding Agencies

Generate awareness of nanotechnology at all levels of government and industry, and investigate new potential market opportunities for South African industries

Enhance cross-disciplinary partnership among the South African science & technology community through networks

Enhance capacity building of nanotechnologies & nanosciences in South Africa

Facilitate Academia-Industry partnerships & knowledge transfer in nanotechnology

Must be representative, impartial and vocal.

### 3. METHOD

SANi shall provide for these objectives by:

Establishing and maintaining contact with governments in South Africa and foreign.

Propose the creation of programmes and activities that will benefit South Africa or SANi

Informing members of events and activities through a web page, e-mails and letters

Organising workshops, seminars and other activities that will promote the goals of SANi

Suggest appropriate actions Government should take to create benefits out of nanotechnology

In particular the focus will be to:

#### 3.1 NETWORK with:

Stakeholders: - academics and researchers, students, SMMEs, large industry, academic departments, faculties and programmes, provincial and national government, NGOs;

Other Initiatives, Professional Societies and Fora.

#### 3.2 LOBBY by:

Consulting the stakeholders and represent their views. Act as “think tank”.

Participate in Regulatory bodies:

Government Departments and Committees: DST, DTI, DoE, DEaT, SAQA, NACI, NRF. University and Science Council management for research and funding directions, academic programmes

Funding bodies: NRF, DST, DTI, Innovation Fund, THRIP, science councils, industry: companies, mining houses, chambers for new earmarked funding, greater share of existing funds, direct funding for SANi executive activities

#### 3.3 CO-ORDINATE nanotechnology activities:

Identify and initiate a limited number of well defined focussed activities.

Act as, or participate in, the advisory committees for these activities.

Each activity should be autonomous, with its own management structure and programmes/projects i.e. IF Technology Platform, Regional/national postgraduate research and education, “Think Tank” on nanotechnology, or Technology incubator

### 4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to any person interested in the objectives of SANi.

Membership is subject to the disclosure of basic information by the applicant. This basic information shall include: Name, e-mail address, contact details and a short description of activities of the applicant in nanotechnology. Registration may be done online at the SANi

web site or by postal notification. All applicants who have disclosed their basic information to SANi shall be considered for membership by the Executive Committee, who reserves the right to refuse membership.

The committee will approve membership but may delegate responsibility to a person or persons chosen by the committee.

## 5. MANAGEMENT

### 5. 1 Executive Committee

The management of the Society shall be vested in the Executive Committee, which shall comprise:

President  
Deputy President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Three ordinary members  
Two ex-officio members; one from DST, and the chair of the Student Chapter

### 5.2 Election

- a) The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. All members of the Committee shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election unless otherwise provided for under these rules.
- b) The Chairman shall be elected at the first meeting of the executive committee.
- c) The Chairman may hold that office for a maximum of TWO (2) consecutive years.
- d) If there are more nominations than are required by the vacancies, election shall be by ballot. The ballot votes shall be counted by two nominated members. No member of the Executive Committee or candidate for election shall count votes
- e) The Executive Committee may co-opt members to the Committee
- f) An Auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

### 5.3 Meetings of the Executive Committee

The first Meeting of the incoming Executive Committee shall take place within ONE (1) month of the A.G.M. All subsequent meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the Hon. Secretary as agreed by the Executive Committee or at the discretion of the Chairman. At least four (4) meetings will be held per annum. Standing items must be reported back at each meeting, or at the latest at the following meeting

### 5.4 Quorum at Executive Committee Meetings

Five members of the Executive Committee (one of whom must be the chair shall form a quorum.

### 5.5 Forfeiture of Membership of the Executive Committee

Any member of the Executive Committee absent from two (2) Committee Meetings without notice shall deemed to have resigned from the Executive Committee.

5.6 Communications. All communications outside of the committee meeting shall be by email. If no response is received to a formal request within a specified time it will assume agreement, unless otherwise stated. All reports shall also be published on the webpage of the society.

## 6. ADMINISTRATION

### 6.1 Powers of the Executive Committee

The following powers may be exercised by the Executive Committee:

- a) To decide which activities the Society is to undertake.
- b) To affiliate with any organisation having similar objectives or which can assist in the promotion of the objects of the Society
- c) To open accounts with recognised financial institutions.
- d) To hire, lease, purchase or acquire property deemed necessary for the purposes of the Society.
- e) To invest any monies of the Society, provided that the income shall be used to the furtherance of the Society and its objectives.
- f) To sell, hire, let or otherwise deal with the property of the Society.
- h) To engage and dismiss employees.
- i) To appoint sub-Committees and working groups.
- j) To effect insurances of the properties of the Society or property in its care, and to indemnify the Society against liabilities.
- k) To do all other lawful things conducive or incidental to the attainment of the objectives if the Society.

### 6.2 The Roll

The Executive Committee shall maintain a list of members and their addresses, which shall be the roll of the Society.

### 6.3 Annual Report

The Chairman shall submit a report on the affairs of the Society to the Annual General Meeting. The treasurer shall report on the finances of the society, Other project managers shall also report on their projects. All reports are to be published on the webpage.

### 6.4 General Meetings

The Executive Committee shall decide when and where to hold Special General Meetings.

## 6.5 Special General Meetings

Special General Meetings shall be called at any time at the instance of the Executive Committee or within Fourteen (14) days of the receipt by the Honorary Secretary of a request for such a meeting, signed by not fewer than TWELVE (12) members, specifying the business to be considered.

## 6.6 Quorum at General Meetings

No business other than the formal adjournment of the meeting shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present. A quorum shall consist of not less than THIRTY (30) members.

## 6.7 Voting

- a) The chairmen of any General Meeting or Meeting of the Executive Committee shall have both a deliberative and a casting vote.
- b) Unless otherwise provided for by these rules, all motions brought forward or elections to office shall be carried by a simple majority of the votes properly recorded at the Meeting.

## 6.9 Voting by Proxy

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted at any General Meeting of the Society.

## 6.10 Dissolution of the Society

- a) The Society shall be dissolved only by resolution passed by a majority of at least five-sixths of the members present and voting at a special General Meeting called for the purpose of considering such dissolution.
- b) In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the residual funds and assets, if any, shall be donated to a Society or societies having similar objectives; or to charitable institution/s decided by the special General Meeting.

## 7. FINANCE

### 7.1 Financial Year

The financial year of the Society shall be the end of March.

### 7.2 Cheques

All cheques drawn on behalf of the Society shall be signed by at least two of the following: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer or two other members of the committee so designated by the committee.

Internet banking will be performed by the treasurer with at least two other exco members having direct viewing access.

### 7.3 Accounts

Proper accounts shall be kept of all monies and all assets and liabilities of the Society. An audited balance sheet is to be presented to the Annual General Meeting each year and a copy is to be sent to each member with the notice of the Meeting. A statement of the current account is to be presented by the treasurer at every exco meeting.

#### 7.4 Membership fees

Membership is currently free. Fees may however be payable in the case of conferences, workshops etc. or if changing circumstances warrant implementation of annual subscription fees.

### 8. RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS

- a) No member shall be liable for the debts or obligations of the Society.
- b) Membership of the Society does not confer any right to share or participate in any assets of the Society.

### 10. CONFERENCES

#### 10.1 Workshops

There may be one workshop every two years. Presentations shall be made for peer review at this workshop.

SANi will organize one conference annually subject to funding, at which conference invited speakers will highlight progress and aspects of Nanotechnology locally or internationally. A stakeholders workshop forum will be held during this conference. An A.G.M. will be held at this conference where the Executive Committee members may be nominated or re-elected if they have served their term. At this A.G.M. the Executive Committee shall present the annual report detailing an overview of their activities for the year in question as well as present the audited balance sheet.

#### 10.3 Receipts from Workshops or Conferences

All monies due in connection with the running of a conference or workshop shall be accounted for and paid to (or by) the Hon. Treasurer within an agreed period after the conclusion of the final day of such workshop or conference.

#### 10.4 Expenses

The Executive Committee may remunerate participants of a conference or workshop at the Committee's own discretion, to assist in covering expenses incurred by participating in such a conference or workshop.

#### 10.5 Production Account

Within SIX (6) months after the final date of any workshop or conference produced under the auspices of SANi, the Executive Committee shall submit to the Society a full statement of receipts and expenses of that conference or workshop. The statement shall be available for inspection by members at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall decide.

## 11. CONSTITUTION

- a) The Executive Committee's interpretation of this constitution is final.
- b) This constitution, once accepted by the members at a General Meeting may be altered at a General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of the members present and entitled to vote.

### 11.1 Amendments to the constitution

Any amendments to the constitution will have to be passed by a quorum at the annual general meeting.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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## **APPENDIX “A”**

### **HISTORY**

SANi was initiated through the initiative of some members of the science community with an interest in nanotechnology. The call for expression of interest by the European Community FP6 process created the opportunity for the first meeting of interested parties on 14 May 2002 at WITS, called by Dr Malik Maaza (Wits) and Dr Philemon Mjwara (NLC). From this start SANi has evolved into an initiative that spans South Africa. An interim committee was formed and the first one day workshop was held on 25 October 2002. This event started a South African effort in the growing field of nanotechnology. An executive committee was elected at an open meeting.

Due to the lack of a nanotechnology specific government strategy and funding , SANi will have the character of a society at present. (the US initiative received about \$200mil from Government in 2002)