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National and International Space Policies and Programmes for African Development (1)

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SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY (SANSA) IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL AND  
REGIONAL IMPERATIVES

**Abstract**

With the recent advent of the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) the country now has a single body through which space science and technology activities can be fully developed and coordinated for national benefit. This giant leap has placed South Africa as one of the leading space-faring countries in Africa and as such a credible African contributor at international fora. This coordinated effort requires that the impetus built through existing international partnerships is sustained and reinforced for maximum benefits that will impact Africa as a whole.

This paper analyses the challenges faced by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region with respect to space science and technology and the possibilities created by the establishment of SANSA. SANSA has a responsibility to ensure relevance to global efforts in space science and technology and to foster regional partnerships to ensure that Africa is kept in the forefront of development in this industry.

The paper will further highlight possible outcomes that may result from a unified African participation in space science and technology leading to the advancement of the African continent in this industry. SANSA is well aware of the key impediments to the development of space activities in the continent and will in the paper outline implementation mechanisms aimed at addressing and hopefully eradicating these. SANSA plans to create an invaluable platform for national, regional and international collaboration on which to build a harmonized approach to science advancement.