



MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA/NEWS EDITORS

DATE: 23 JUNE 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NECSA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA FORM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE NUCLEAR RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The South African Nuclear Energy Corporation SOC Ltd (Necsa) and the University of Pretoria (UP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that establishes a framework for cooperation between the two institutions in areas of research and development, education and training, technology innovation and skills development with the aim to develop the next generation of scientists, engineers and nuclear professionals needed to support the country's development agenda.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Necsa Group CEO Loyiso Tyabashe said, "Necsa's collaboration with the University of Pretoria underscores our commitment to building a strong national science and technology base that will strengthen South Africa's innovation ecosystem. Through this partnership we are also unlocking innovative solutions that our country needs to advance economic growth, industrialisation and sustainable development on the back of nuclear energy. The recently promulgated Integrated Resources Plan, 2025 puts a huge responsibility on us as research institutions to play our role to ensure that South Africa has requisite capabilities to implement a nuclear programme and support the energy industry at large".

UP Vice-Chancellor Professor Francis Petersen said the agreement demonstrates the critical role that collaboration plays in addressing complex national challenges. "Energy security and

keeping ahead of the rapidly advancing nuclear science and technology research and development curve are non-negotiable for our country,” said Prof Petersen. “At UP, we strongly believe in working together to innovate solutions for our continent and the world. None of us can operate in isolation – not higher education, not government and not industry.”

Through the partnership, Necsa and UP will collaborate on joint research projects, facilitate student and researcher exchanges, support postgraduate and postdoctoral studies, and create opportunities for work-integrated learning and professional development. The agreement also provides a platform for knowledge sharing, access to specialised facilities and expertise, and the pursuit of funding opportunities to support research and innovation initiatives.

The collaboration aligns with Necsa's mandate to advance nuclear technology and its peaceful applications for the benefit of South Africa and the African continent. It also supports national priorities related to science, technology, innovation, industrialisation and human capital development.

-End-

Issued jointly by the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) and University of Pretoria.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Dr Nikelwa Tengimfene

Senior Manager: Corporate Communication & Stakeholder Relations

Cell: +27 662934451

Email: media.enquiries@necsa.co.za

Or

Mr. Sashlin Girraj

Public Relations & Events Manager

Tel +27 (0)12 420 2252 or 072 447 3784

Email: sashlin.girraj@up.ac.za

About Necsa

To develop, utilise and manage nuclear technology for national and regional socio-economic development through: Applied R&D; Commercial application of nuclear and associated technology; Contributing to the development of skills in science and technology.

For more information visit: www.necsa.co.za

About the University of Pretoria

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa. Spread over seven campuses, it has nine faculties and a business school, the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). It is the only university in the country with a Faculty of Veterinary Science, which is ranked the best in Africa. UP has 120 academic departments and 92 centres and institutes, accommodating more than 56 000 students and offering about 1 100 study programmes. It has the most academic staff with PhDs (70%), NRF-rated researchers (613).

The 2025 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings placed UP 7th globally for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17: Partnerships for the Goals, recognising the University's leadership in building impactful global collaborations. UP also ranked 41st in the world and 1st in Africa and South Africa for SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and maintained its position as the second-highest ranked university overall in both Africa and South Africa.

The 2025 Times Higher Education subject rankings placed UP first in South Africa in the fields of Accounting and Finance; Architecture; Electrical and Electronic Engineering; Law; Sport Science; and Veterinary Science. UP's Faculty of Law has been ranked as the top law school in Africa for a remarkable eighth consecutive year.

In the 2025 QS World University Subject Rankings, UP is ranked in the top 100 in the world in Mineral & Mining Engineering (41), Veterinary Science (51–60), and Development Studies (51–100). Six UP subjects are ranked No. 1 in South Africa: Mechanical Engineering, Veterinary Science, Mathematics, Accounting & Finance, Business & Management Studies, and Economics & Econometrics.

For more information, please go to www.up.ac.za