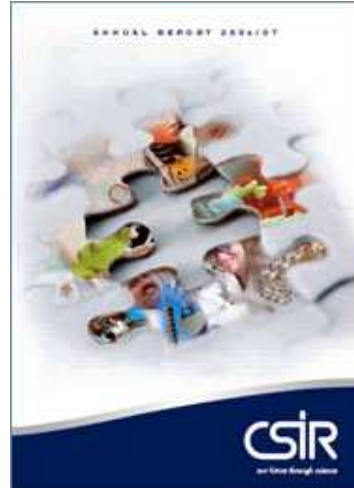


## General News

### **Strong CSIR science base geared to support national competitiveness**

Through stringent financial management processes and systems at both the Board and Executive levels, the CSIR obtained sound overall financial performance in the previous financial year.

In the [2006/2007 Annual Report](#), which received an unqualified audit report from the Auditor-General, the organisation reports a 12,7% increase in the total operating income, an increase of group royalty income from R3,4 million to R22,2 million, and a net margin of R21,6 million. The CSIR's Parliamentary Grant increased by 7,5% to R423,8 million, and the contract R&D income increased by 14,9%.



CSIR President and CEO, Dr Sibusiso Sibisi, made a presentation on the Annual Report to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Science and Technology in Cape Town on 9 October, while the Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Mosibudi Mangena, tabled the report in Parliament in September.

Publication by CSIR researchers in peer-reviewed literature increased over the past two years from 160 to 220. The organisation achieved 61 international patents, registered designs and technology demonstrators; the CSIR Group earned R22,2 million from royalties.

An increase in the qualification levels of staff ensured a 16% growth in doctoral or Master's degrees (639 against 551 in 2006). More than 50% of the R&D work undertaken by the CSIR is now multi-year, large-scale projects, while contract work shows improved alignment with national priorities.

Research, development and implementation highlights listed in the Annual Report include:

- Research into alternative materials, e.g. the use of natural fibre composites such as flax, hemp, sisal or agave as a substitute for synthetics
- Studies on the motions of atoms and molecules, using femtosecond lasers. As actual atomic motions during chemical reactions happen extremely fast, these can't be observed in real time. With a femtosecond laser pulse one can 'freeze' motions to study fundamental chemical processes
- Development of a new version of a long-range day and night sensor system. This precision-zoom camera has an operational observation range of 26 km and offers improved performance under twilight, at night and artificial illumination conditions.

[Copyright](#) © CSIR 2007. All Rights Reserved. Page last revised on 26/10/2007

Tel: + 27 12 841 2911, technical enquiries: + 27 12 841 2000, fax: +27 12 349 1153, web site feedback: [web](#) [top](#)  
[team](#)