



**Acronym:** CSIR  
**Full Name:** Council for Scientific and Industrial Research  
**Website:** [www.csir.co.za](http://www.csir.co.za)  
**Established:** 1945  
**Location:** Pretoria, South Africa

**Areas of expertise:** Built environment; defence, peace, safety and security; materials science and manufacturing; and natural resources and the environment.

**Main Partners and collaborations:** South African Parliament, the Minister of Science and Technology, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Water Research Commission (WRC), University of the Western Cape (UWC), Institute for Geoinformatics (IFGI) at the University Münster.

### **Short Description:**

The CSIR is one of the leading scientific and technology research, development and implementation organizations in Africa, which was established by an Act of Parliament of South Africa in 1945 as a science council. The CSIR focuses its efforts in directed and multidisciplinary research, technological innovation as well as industrial and scientific development to improve the competitiveness in this country.

The financial resources of the CSIR are based on an annual grant from Parliament, through the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The remainder is generated from research contracts with government departments at national, provincial and municipal levels, the private sector and research funding agencies in South Africa and abroad. Additional income is derived from royalties, licenses and dividends from IP management and commercial companies created by the CSIR.

The clients of CSIR are the private sector as the public sector. Regionally and abroad, the CSIR fosters partnerships and a network of clients and partner organisations as part of a global sphere of influence on matters of technology. The CSIR liaises closely with tertiary education institutions. With a strong emphasis on relevant and developmental work, it also has strong roots in various communities, and collaborates with a wide range of donors and funding agencies.

### **Main activities:**

The CSIR focuses mainly on the generation and application of knowledge, so their expertise area concentrates on domains such as biosciences; the built environment; defence, peace, safety and security; materials science and manufacturing; and natural resources and the environment. New research areas are also being explored by the CSIR, like: nanotechnology, synthetic biology and mobile autonomous intelligent systems.

The CSIR has national research centres, in which its specialist work on information and communications technologies; laser technology; and space-related technology. Additionally, the CSIR achieves R&D outcomes including intellectual property (IP) management, technology transfer (for commercial gain as well as for social good), knowledge dissemination and impact assessment. Consulting and analytical services are also a field of attention of CSIR. Services include forensic fire investigations, food and beverage analysis, environmental testing, engineering forensics, wire rope testing, mechanical testing, fires and explosion tests, sports technology and analysis, and project management are facilitated by a group that manages standard technology-based services.

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