

National Laboratory Association of South Africa - NPC

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Dear Accredited Force Laboratory,

As you know, one of the tools available to you to assure the quality of your measurement results; and the one which SANAS requires you to implement according to SANAS TR48, is proficiency testing.

Whilst informal bilateral comparisons with other accredited force laboratories can fulfil this requirement, the additional cost of purchasing a suitable artefact, as well as the effort and time required to ensure the stringent requirements of TR48 are met, can often result in significant indirect costs.

The National Laboratory Association of South Africa (NLA-SA) has been offering “open” PT schemes for the calibration laboratory community in a number of metrology fields, for some time already. However, whilst these schemes have a distinct advantage over “closed” schemes, since they highlight measurement problems within a laboratory within approximately two weeks of participation, they currently do not meet all the requirements of SANAS R48 – in particular, the reporting requirement that the actual Reference Measurement Values need to be reported.

The NLA-SA has therefore decided to implement a number of “closed” PT schemes, of which the Force Scheme is one. Whilst this scheme will have the disadvantage that participants will only receive a final report on their performance approximately 6 months after their participation, two significant advantages are that participants will be able to compare their performance to other participants and the scheme will meet all the stringent requirements of R48.

An HBM ULP.G 500 kN Loadcell together with an HBM Scout 55 Readout Unit will be circulated with a suitable protocol (NLA-PT-C-P-18-02). Measurements at 50 kN steps from 0 kN to 500 kN will need to be performed.

Since a “closed” scheme has a fixed start and end date, and fixed, mutually agreed upon scheduled participation date slots for each participating laboratory, participation is limited to laboratories that register and secure payment for participation up front. This then facilitates the scheduling of all the necessary dates. In order to keep the time duration of the scheme reasonable, the number of available slots is limited and early registration is therefore advised.

The registration deadline for this Scheme is 2018/08/30, the starting date is 2018/09/10 and the proposed date for the final report distribution is 2018/11/15. This final report date is based on a minimum number of anticipated participants but the final date will only be confirmed once all the participant registrations have been received.

The NLA is pleased to inform prospective participants that SANAS have agreed to partially sponsor all SANAS Accredited Volume laboratories, and the cost of the scheme after taking this sponsorship into account is as per the table below.

NLA Membership Status	SANAS Accredited	Not SANAS Accredited	International (excludes courier fees)
NLA Member	R1 924,40	R2 405,50	USD 400
Non NLA Member	R2 405,50	R3 006,87	USD 480

This includes design of the scheme, establishment of the reference value, provision of the scheme artefact, analysis of the results and the issuing of a final report.

The Scheme Protocol (audit instructions) and application form can be downloaded from the NLA-SA's website at http://www.home.nla.org.za/?page_id=939

Kind Regards



Steve Sidney
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