



In  
Conversation  
with...

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)  
cordially invites you to a conversation with  
**Dr Val Munsami**  
Chief Executive Officer  
South African National Space Agency (SANSA)  
on

### Reimagining the National Space Sector

Date: 15 February 2022

Time: 11:00 – 12:00

Venue: Zoom

RSVP: [Click here](#)



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SANSA was launched by the Department of Science and Innovation with a mandate to: "...Provide for the promotion and use of space and co-operation in space-related activities, foster research in space science, advance scientific engineering through human capital and support the creation of an environment conducive to industrial development in space technologies within the framework of national government policy..." Significant strides have since been made by the Agency since its formative years some ten years ago., While these achievements are acknowledged and celebrated, much more work still lies ahead in terms of implementation of the new business model to enhance SANSA's contribution to satellite development and testing, satellite navigation, human capital development and research and innovation amongst other key areas.



#### About Dr Val Munsami

Dr Munsami holds a PhD in Physics, a Master of Business Leadership, a Space Studies Program Diploma, and a Certificate in International Air, Space and Telecommunications Law. He worked in South Africa's Secretariat for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, managed the implementation of a suite of bilateral and multilateral science and technology agreements, involved in the development of South Africa's National Space Strategy and National Space Policy, and oversaw the establishment of the South African National Space Agency (SANSA). He led the development of South Africa's Multi-Wavelength Astronomy Strategy and the SKA Readiness Strategy for Africa and conceptualized the model for the Pan African Space Science University Institute. He also

chaired the African Union Space Working Group, which was tasked with the development of the African Space Policy and Strategy that was approved in January 2016. As of January 2017, he has been appointed as the CEO of SANSA. He was the Vice President of the International Astronautic Federation (IAF), but currently Chairs the IAF Administrative Committee for Developing Countries and Emerging Communities. He also served on the South African Council for Space Affairs (SACSA) for a number of terms. He is an academican of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and sits on the Advisory Boards of the Space Generation Advisory Council and the Global Space Congress. He also sits on the Board of Trustees for the International Academy of Space Law. He has published a number of scientific and policy related journal articles and sits on the Springer Editorial Advisory Board for the Southern Space Studies Series. He also Chairs the Committee of Heads of Organisations of Research and Technology (COHORT), which comprises of science and technology institutions in South Africa.

#### Programme

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| 11:00 – 11:05 | <b>Welcome, Background and Introduction</b><br>Prof Himla Soodyall, ASSAf Executive Officer                                  |
| 11:05 – 11:45 | <b>Reimagining the National Space Sector</b><br>Dr Val Munsami, Chief Executive Officer, South African National Space Agency |
| 11:45 – 11:55 | <b>Q&amp;A</b><br>Facilitator: Prof Himla Soodyall   |
| 11:55 – 12:00 | <b>Closing</b><br>Prof Himla Soodyall  |



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