

---

# Comment



Ian Jandrell

Pr Eng, BSc (Eng) GDE  
PhD, FSAIEE MIEEE

I have been alerted to the fact that last month my comment was, perhaps, a little sombre. So here's some good stuff!

The real message this month relates to alerting you to two rather significant events that are coming to South Africa this year: ESI2007 (The International Science Expo) will be convened in Durban between 8 and 13 July, and the IEEE Powerafrica conference will be held in Johannesburg the next week.

ESI2007 will attract in excess of 1 500 young scientists from around the world to our shores. These folk will spend the week showcasing their achievements in front of their peers as well as dignitaries, educators and the general public. The host for this event will be the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists, and organisation that I have often mentioned in this comment. And for good reason too: each year, around South Africa, more than 40 000 learners are exposed to scientific endeavour and participate at least within their schools or regions (if not joining the more than 1 000 participants at the National Finals). There will be about 150 South African learners participating at ESI2007.

What has been so encouraging about setting up this event is the remarkable support from the Minister of Science and Technology, Minister Mangena, and the level of support from the City of Durban.

Powerafrica 2007 will be convened and hosted at the University of the Witwatersrand and is co-hosted by the IEEE Power Engineering Society (PES), and the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). It is endorsed by the SAIEE and (I can assure you) will be validated for CPD points with ECSA!

The theme is "Power engineering Africa towards 100 GW" and few would deny that the timing is rather good... Response to the call for papers has been excellent and the conference is no doubt going to be a success. The conference will tackle the diverse topics of HVdc and ac systems, as well as renewable energy sources, control and automation and instrumentation. In short, all of the regions in the world that face challenges with power generation, transmission and distribution, are moving up the priority line – as well it should.

May I invite all interested folk to consider trying to spend some time at one or both of these very special events? I know that their focus is very different, but I find it rather pertinent that there is significant overlap between the people involved in each!

---

Electricity+Control is supported by:



The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the publisher, the editor, SAAEs, SAAE, PUGSA, SAACE or IESSA