

## Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA)

### Student Datathon Challenge (SDC) 2023

### Sponsorship Packages and Opportunities

## Background

The Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) is one of the three pillars of the National Integrated Cyberinfrastructure System (NICIS). NICIS is a national initiative of the Department of Science and Innovation implemented by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

A key objective of NICIS and DIRISA is to foster the development of human capacity in cyberinfrastructure and the application of cyberinfrastructure to contribute to the transformation of this sector. Towards the attainment of this objective, DIRISA annually hosts a Student Datathon Challenge during which student teams from South African universities compete in the development of software application based on the data sciences, artificial intelligence and other leading-edge technologies, to solve priority and relevant South African challenges.

This year DIRISA will be hosting its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Datathon. The purpose of the DIRISA Datathon is to provide students with the opportunity to be able to use real life data to create innovative and creative solutions towards solving some of South Africa's socio-economic problems. The DIRISA Datathon is aimed mainly at tertiary students, but we do have participation from high school students that we also train throughout the year to be able to participate at the same level as university students.

The DIRISA Datathon themes vary each year and in the past we have focused the datathon themes on Covid-19, SD4: Quality education and Social media data. The Datathon preparation program begins in June when we host training for the selected students that focuses on introducing data science skills. The training programming covers topics such as Google colab, Python and pandas, Data Exploration, Data visualization, Data modelling, Introduction to Natural Language Processing (NLP), Problem Definition and Data Scraping.

The aim of the training is to equip the students with the necessary knowledge needed to participate in the datathon. During the Datathon Challenge days, students are expected to work on their solutions using open data. Solutions are presented and demonstrated by teams and are judged on the final day. This day is usually attended by representatives of companies, government, and academic institutions.

# Student Datathon Challenge (SDC)



A national initiative of the Department of Science and Innovation and implemented by the CSIR.

## Why Should Your Organisation Sponsor the Datathon?

The DIRISA Datathon is co-hosted during the CHPC International Conference which is a prestigious event in South Africa and attracts experts, users and research institutions from across the globe.

The Datathon co-hosted during this time, provides an excellent opportunity for your organisation to - further increase your visibility and promote your offerings among key stakeholders, attracting skilled and talented students to your organisation by sharing promotional and recruitment material, including digital format with conference participants, and to demonstrate your commitment to transformation and socio-educational upliftment.

You can watch an overview of the DIRISA Datathon 2022 by visiting [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYpzGV\\_QTDM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYpzGV_QTDM)

## Sponsorship Opportunities

The DIRISA Student Datathon Challenge gives all sponsors an opportunity to:

- Have logos displayed as sponsors of the Datathon on distributed documentation and awards.
- Acknowledgement during the introduction, and to handout awards at the prize giving ceremony.
- Place a banner near the DIRISA Datathon Organisers Booth.

Sponsorships are for the 1<sup>st</sup> team, 2<sup>nd</sup> team, 3<sup>rd</sup> team, best group, best female and best male.

### Gold Sponsorship

- *Sponsorship of prizes to the value of R120k.*
- Gold sponsorships also includes:
  - Presentation opportunity during the SDC 2023 Welcoming Session. An allocation of a 20 minutes slot.
  - Provide thought leadership or present technical insights in topics relevant for the Datathon challenge. An allocation of a 20 minutes slot.

- Distribute brochures, pamphlets and other promotional materials to SDC students.
- 15 Minutes presentation slot at the CHPC International Conference under the DIRISA Track.
- Host a Booth during the CHPC National Conference.
- 6 conference tickets to attend the CHPC National Conference.

## Silver Sponsorship

- *Sponsorship of prizes to the value of R60k.*
- Silver sponsorships also includes:
  - Presentation opportunity during the SDC 2023 Welcoming Session. An allocation of a 10 minutes slot.
  - Distribute brochures, pamphlets and other promotional materials to SDC students.
  - 4 conference tickets to attend the CHPC National Conference.

## Bronze Sponsorship

- *Sponsorship of prizes to the value of R30k.*
- Silver sponsorships also includes:
  - Presentation opportunity during the SDC 2023 Welcoming Session. An allocation of a 5 minutes slot.
  - Distribute brochures, pamphlets and other promotional materials to SDC students.
  - 2 conference tickets to attend the CHPC National Conference.

Sponsorships for the DIRISA Datathon are also welcome in any other form. This is subject to approval by the SDC team.

## International Data Competition Sponsorship

*Sponsorship value: R350k*

# Student Datathon Challenge (SDC)

The future plans of the DIRISA Datathon is to sponsor the winning team to attend an international competition. This sponsorships would entail sponsoring the team's flights, accommodation and registration.

## Contact Information

For more information, queries or questions, please contact Dr Nobubele Shozi on [nshozi@csir.co.za](mailto:nshozi@csir.co.za) or Mr Xolani Nkosi on [xnkosi@csir.co.za](mailto:xnkosi@csir.co.za).

The SDC website can be visited on <https://sdc.dirisa.ac.za/>.