



## Online Media Monitoring

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By Sholain Govender

### Scientists flock together in city's eastern suburbs

The vision of a combined science precinct in Pretoria and increasing security risks in the inner city have led to the Department of Science and Technology's relocation to Pretoria East.

The department is moving from its current home in Schoeman Street, previously shared with the Department of Arts and Culture, the Department of Sports and Recreation and the Department of Education, to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) complex.

Christina du Toit, the relocation project manager for the department, said the move was as a result of the department's lack of adequate and secure office and parking space. Their new buildings would be environmentally sustainable.

"Lack of adequate parking resulted in staff having to use public parking facilities, which also proved to be a huge security risk as a number of staff reported muggings on their way to and from the offices," she said.

The new location was selected after the CSIR and the department formed a partnership aimed at enhancing the profile of the country's science and technology infrastructure.

"Location of the new offices on the CSIR campus will assist the department in branding itself as part of the science and technology precinct alongside the CSIR, National Research Foundation and the Innovation Hub, and near the Pretoria Botanical Gardens," said Du Toit.

The new building will also house smaller department agencies such as the National Advisory Council on Innovation and the Academy of Science of South Africa.

"In keeping with sustainable thinking, a number of environmentally-friendly approaches have been adopted where possible," she said.

A rainwater capture system has been introduced into the design of the new building on the CSIR terrain which purifies and stores water in the basement. This is then pumped into the building for garden irrigation and ablutions.

Passive climate control measures have also been put in place in the western side of the building to prevent over-use of air conditioning in the area most affected by the afternoon sunlight.

The relocation is scheduled to be completed by May 22.

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