NITheCS
National Institute for
Theoretical and Computational Sciences

NITheCS SUMMIT 2026

Stellenbosch | 21-23 October 2026
Devon Valley Hotel, Devon Valley Road, Devon Valley, Stellenbosch

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 21 October

Devon Valley Hotel, Devon Valley Road, Devon Valley, Stellenbosch

18h00	WELCOME DINNER

Thursday, 22 October

Devon Valley Hotel, Devon Valley Road, Devon Valley, Stellenbosch | Online

CLICK TO ATTEND ONLINE

08h30–09h00	**Opening and Strategic Framing** Director and Steering Committee Chair	
09h00–11h00	**Presentations by the NITheCS Research Focus Areas** *Chair:* Prof Kristian Müller-Nedebock	
	09h00-09h10	**QF:** Driving Innovation in Finance for Sustainable Growth: Pioneering Solutions for Emerging Markets and Energy Transitions Prof Mesias Alfeus (SU)
	09h10-09h20	**MATS:** Mathematical Structures for Foundations and Innovations Prof Zurab Janelidze (SU)
	09h20-09h30	**DA-ML:** Elevating Data Analytics and Machine Learning in South Africa Prof Sugnet Lubbe (SU)
	09h30-09h40	**DU:** Decoding the Universe: Quantum Gravity and Quantum Fields Prof Vishnu Jejjala (Wits)
	09h40-09h50	**AH:** Afrocentric Solutions for Disease Control and Health Care Dr Fortunate Mokoena (NWU)
	09h50-10h00	**QT:** Quantum Technologies Prof Jeff Murugan (UCT)
	10h00-10h10	**CM:** Computational Modelling of Functional Materials for Driving Sustainable Innovation Prof Catharine Esterhuysen (SU)
	10h10-10h20	**SA-CESM:** A South African Community Earth System Modelling Platform Prof Martin De Wit (SU)
	10h20-10h30	**E5:** Complexity in Biological Systems E5 Prof Cang Hui (SU)
	10h30-10h40	**CTGAC:** Computational and Theoretical, Gravity, Astrophysics and Cosmology Prof Amanda Weltman (UCT)
	10h40-11h00	**Q&A, Discussion & Closing Remarks** All Participants / Chair
11h00–11h30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
11h30–13h00	**Scientific Advisory Committee Session** *(Closed Session)* Reflection on the Research Portfolio and Strategic Direction	

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13h00–14h00	**LUNCH**	
14h00–17h30	**Stakeholder Engagement Meeting** *Chair:* Nathan Sassman ***Session 1:* NITheCS in Action – Progress, Achievements and Emerging Impact**	
	14h00-14h15	**From Connected Expertise to National Scientific Capability** Dr Sagren Moodley, DSTI
	14h15-15h00	**Turning Scientific Capabilities into Shared Achievement** Prof Francesco Petruccione
	15h00-15h10	**Discover the NITheCS Website: Your Gateway to Our Science, People and Opportunities** Juizi
	15h30–16h00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
	***Session 2:* From Establishment to Maturity – Building the Next Phase of NITheCS**	
	16h00-16h15	**An Enduring National Platform for Scientific excellence & Inclusive Capability** Dr Sagren Moodley, DSTI
	16h15-17h00	**Shared priorities, Stronger Partnerships and Commitments to Action** Prof Francesco Petruccione
	17h00-17h10	*Launch of the NITheCS App and closing of Session 2* **NITheCS in Your Hands: Launching a new way to connect, participate and collaborate** Michael Foster, Newsmast Foundation
18h00	SUMMIT DINNER	

Friday, 23 October

NITheCS Seminar Room, NITheCS Offices, Merensky Building, Merriman Street, Stellenbosch *(Closed Session)*

08h30–09h30	**Engagement Session** *Steering Committee, Heads of Nodes & Heads of Branches*
09h30–12h00	**Steering Committee: Discussion** *Business Plan, Resolutions and Approvals*
12h00	LUNCH
