

ENERGY AUTHORITY

BY CANDES KEATING



ACCOLADE: Dr Wilfred Fritz from the Electrical Engineering Department has received a top award for his academic achievements

When it comes to renewable energy, CPUT's Dr Wilfred Fritz is the expert to call.

An Electrical Engineering lecturer, Fritz is an expert in the field of renewable and alternative energy. His work in this area has earned him the African-German Excellence in Science Grant for Junior Researchers.

This award recognises outstanding achievements of researchers on the African continent and comes with a research grant of R35 000, made possible by the Neville Alexander Memorial Fund.

Researchers who receive this award are also eligible to apply to the renowned Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for a fellowship to pursue postdoctoral research in Germany.

"This is a great honour," says Fritz, who was one of several African scientists that had been nominated for this prestigious award.

RESEARCH

Apart from submitting a record of his work, Fritz was also required to submit a research proposal. His proposal focused on the modelling of renewable energy applications in building automation, grid-tied systems and the smart grid.

SMART

Fritz's work in the energy sector has also been recognised by the government, who recently tasked him to determine the energy efficiency level of all sectors in South Africa.

He is currently seconded to the Department of Energy as the Chief Technical Advisor (Energy Efficiency) by the South African National Energy Development Institute.

Fritz also plays an integral role in the establishment of the national South African Renewable Energy Training Centre at the Scania Site on the Bellville Campus.

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