



# Free High School Science Texts

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FHSST

<http://www.nongnu.org/fhsst>



# Project Description

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The objectives of the FHSST project are to:

- Write a complete set of high school science textbooks **free of authors', publishers' and editors' royalties** in line with the new curriculum
  - Physical Science and Mathematics textbooks
  - Contributions solely from volunteers
  - Reduced printing costs (print-on-demand)
- **Print and distribute hard copies** to schools across SA (geographically phased approach)
- Make content available to **ALL** education initiatives, local and international, for example:
  - iKamva (Western Cape, SA)
  - Mindset Project (SA)
  - Teach Out (Western Cape, SA)
  - California Open Source Textbook Project (California, USA)
- Provide all content online through WikiBooks <http://www.wikibooks.org>



# Motivations

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The motivations for the project are:

- There is a severe lack of educational resources in South Africa which needs to be addressed, especially in the area of the physical sciences<sup>(1)</sup>
- Increasing all South African students' access to proper educational resources:
  - Ensures broader distribution of educated South Africans (doctors, scientists etc.)
  - Strengthens communities to ensure continuity and sustained development
- South Africa's national priorities of Science and Technology drive the need for improved resources at school level
- Decisive steps are imperative to improve the standard and scope of science education of school leavers in SA
- Science is crucial for the development of industry and technology:
  - South Africa needs to be self-sufficient

(1) S. van der Berg and R. Burger, The South African Journal of Economics. Vol. 71:3 September 2003.



# Books' Features

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Beyond pure content, the books will provide additional information in line with an outcomes-based approach:

- Detailed worked examples
  - Development of step-by-step problem-solving techniques
  - South African context
  
- Career Information
  - Exposure to a large scope of real world career paths through chapter-ending essays
  
- Real World Applications
  - The contexts of different areas of science



# Advantages to Stakeholders

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The books (in both printed and digital format) will provide a number of advantages over current texts or lack thereof:

- Reduced costs
  - ~R20 per book (printed)
  - R0 per book (electronic)!
  - Expand number of learners with science textbooks across SA
- Resource for teachers
  - Supplementary tutorials and examples
- Baseline for future projects



# Benefits to Investors

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Benefits to investors include brand exposure as well as financial and philanthropic spin-offs:

- Donations will allow prominent advertising of sponsor brand in books and on website
- FHSST in process of applying for donor-deductible status:
  - Tax benefits to investors
- At R20 per book, donations will have a broad impact on learners across SA



# Contact Information

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# Preview

