

## **New dti funding programme to boost South African manufacturing in the long run**

The Department of Trade and Industry's (**the dti's**) new Manufacturing Competitiveness Enhancement Programme (MCEP), launched in June 2012, is set to support South Africa manufacturing and exports.

Government has recognised the need that exists to support the development of conformity assessment services providers to the South African manufacturing industry. This incentive programme aims to give financial assistance to conformity assessment bodies that support the South African manufacturing industry.

Conformity assessment services may include: testing, inspection, certification and calibration, etc. Sectors that will need conformity assessment in the foreseeable future include all the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) sectors.

Here is a list of what a conformity assessment services applicant may require support for:

- Setting up, installing and upgrading laboratory equipment
- Training of conformity assessment staff
- Building improvements capitalised in balance sheet
- Preparations for accreditation including development of quality manuals
- Pre- and initial accreditation

SANAS encourage conformity assessment facilities to apply for MCEP funding.

For more information and to access application forms, please visit [www.thedti.gov.za](http://www.thedti.gov.za), click on Financial Assistance, and follow the MCEP links; or email [mcep@thedti.gov.za](mailto:mcep@thedti.gov.za).