

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE BOOK

Dr Roy Marcus and Dr Steve Lennon, advisers to the publisher, have played an active role in the development of the new South African science system.

Roy Marcus (chairperson of the Da Vinci Institute for Technology Management) was the personal advisor to South Africa's first Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Dr Ben Ngubane. Dr Marcus was active in the leadership of the engineering profession in South Africa. He was appointed as a member of the first executive committee of the National Advisory Council on Innovation, eventually becoming its chairperson.

Dr Steve Lennon (Managing Director Eskom Resources and Strategy) was part of the group of distinguished scientists who crafted the Green Paper on Science and Technology in the mid-nineties. He helped form the National Science and Technology Forum and became its chairperson. Dr Lennon has been the driver behind Eskom's technology development programme which includes the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor, clean coal technology and renewable energy. Under his guidance, Eskom's research and development strategy has brought recognition to the company as an international leader in power generation.

The publishers were ably supported by Dr Adi Paterson, Group Executive S&T for Competitiveness at the Department of Science and Technology. Dr Paterson has distinguished himself as one of South Africa's leading science policy strategists and has collaborated over the design of new processes and systems to streamline government participation in the National System of Innovation.

The author, Graeme Addison, is an award-winning journalist and former Professor of Communication at the University of North-West. Apart from the *Edge* series, his books include *Science and Technology in South Africa: Progress and Achievement in the First Decade of Democracy 1994-2004* and *White Water: The World's Wildest Rivers*. He has written extensively on business and marketing strategies, crafting books and articles for corporate leaders. Journalists Clive Emdon and Paul Furber collaborated with the author on some chapters. Design and layout of the books is by Francois Smit, with photography by David Goldblatt, Graeme Williams and Southphotos.



Graeme Addison



THE LEADING

EDGE



DIVIDENDS OF DEMOCRACY

INNOVATION

IN SOUTH AFRICA 1994 - 2004

The Leading Edge

Dividends of Democracy

Innovation in South Africa, 1994-2004

Dealing with innovation during the first decade of democracy, *The Leading Edge* shows how the "miracle society" has taken advantage of liberation to capitalise on technology for development. Leaders in R&D are exploring the outer limits of construction engineering, electronics, microbiology, astronomy, advanced manufacturing processes, materials science, and much more. The country is firmly on the road to global competitiveness with its export push into world markets and its infrastructural projects in Africa. From motor manufacturing and aerospace contracting, to nuclear research and telecommunications expansion throughout the continent, South Africa is a powerhouse of progress.

Indigenous knowledge systems are increasingly recognised as the repository of age-old scientific and technical knowledge – for example, as a living source of pharmacological preparations from traditional herbalism. The shift towards a knowledge-based global economy has been met with creative responses from small business and the NGO sector. Meanwhile, major corporates, the labour movement and government have committed themselves to broad-based empowerment programmes designed to free the potential of blacks and women, rural people and the disabled. South Africans from all walks of life are innovating to survive and prosper in an economy that is alive with possibility.