

## CSIR aero engineers take part in aviation challenge

Even on the rare occasion when they blow off steam, engineers look for opportunities to create cutting-edge technology. It is based on this principle that the CSIR's aeronautics engineers are preparing for the Aeronautical Society of South Africa (AeSSA) Indoor Model Aviation Challenge to be held on 18 September at the Air Force Base Waterkloof.

"It is important that we do things - even having fun - properly as our reputation is at stake," says John Monk, who is on the AeSSA council and is the organiser. "We have to win or we might have to hand our aeronautic systems jackets back!"

According to Monk, this is a competition to encourage interest in both aviation and aeronautics among, but not limited to, learners and students. The competition is now supported by the South African Air Force Siyandiza programme. Siyandiza is a SAAF aviation awareness programme.



The CSIR team will be flying machines such as this glider at the challenge

The challenge is divided in two parts: a free flight glider competition and an indoor radio controlled model aircraft challenge.

"We have a number of engineers in our aeronautics domain who will be taking part," he says. "Some of them can build model airplanes and some can fly them as well. Ultimately, the design optimisation exercise and getting to understand the system characteristics are good for all of us."

- Mzimasi Gcukumana