



## FHSST- Free High School Science Texts

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Dear Members of the South African Chemical Institute / South African Institution of Chemical Engineers

### **Subject: Chemistry expertise required**

I am writing on behalf of the Free High School Science Texts (FHSST) project which was initiated by a group of post-graduate physics students at the University of Cape Town in 2002. The goal of the project is to develop and distribute free mathematics, physics and chemistry textbooks to grade 10 – 12 learners in South Africa and thereby make a contribution to education in our country through provision of urgently needed resources. We are a registered non-profit organisation (NPO), endorsed by the UCT Faculty of Science, and working, in partnership with the Shuttleworth Foundation, to provide free science educational content through their TuxLabs project and the WikiBooks project.

### **Overview**

This is an important time to produce resources in South Africa, especially since the new school curriculum will be implemented in 2006. Our textbooks have been structured to conform to the new South African syllabus. Thus far, content has been developed through the work of a group of volunteers, consisting mainly of South African students (university students in science and education). Other members include post-doctoral researchers and people working in industry. Input for the books has also been given on a per chapter basis by students from the Post-Graduate Certificate of Education course in the UCT Education Department to ensure that the books adhere to the needs of both teachers and learners. Further details of the project's aims and current status can be found on the world wide web at <http://www.nongnu.org/fhsst/>.

### **How you can contribute**

In terms of the physics and mathematics books, we are almost finished the content gathering phase. However, we are in urgent need of volunteers to write and edit chemistry content and we would like to appeal to the chemistry community in South Africa for help. This would be a great opportunity to get involved in education at a basic level and have an impact on how chemistry is taught at schools.

### **Contact FHSST**

Interested parties and volunteers can contact Rory Adams:

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Yours sincerely,

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