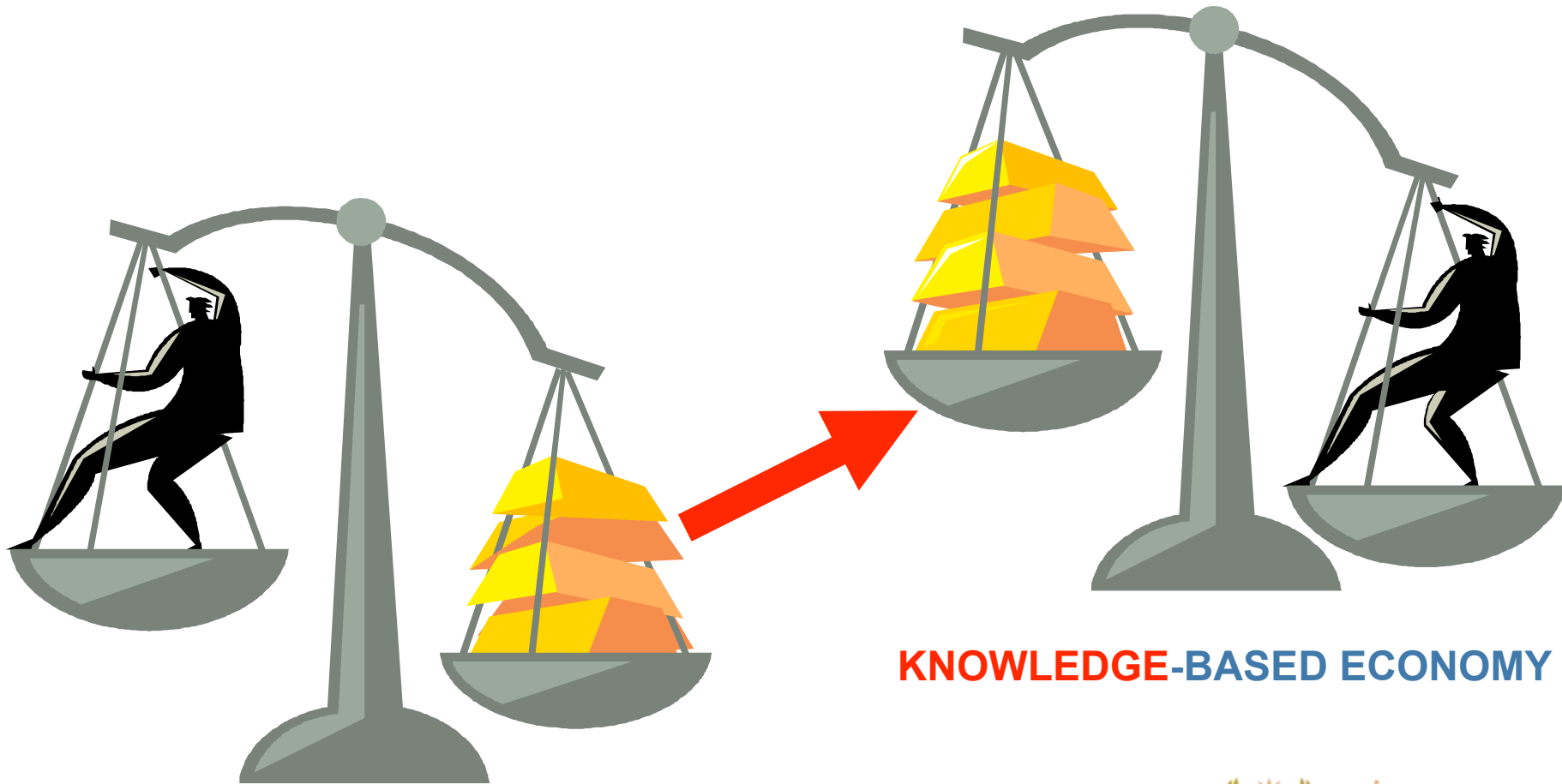


# NRF and the National Facilities

**Space Science WS**  
071107, SAAO



# DST: Towards a Knowledge Economy



**RESOURCE-BASED ECONOMY**

**KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY**



science  
& technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

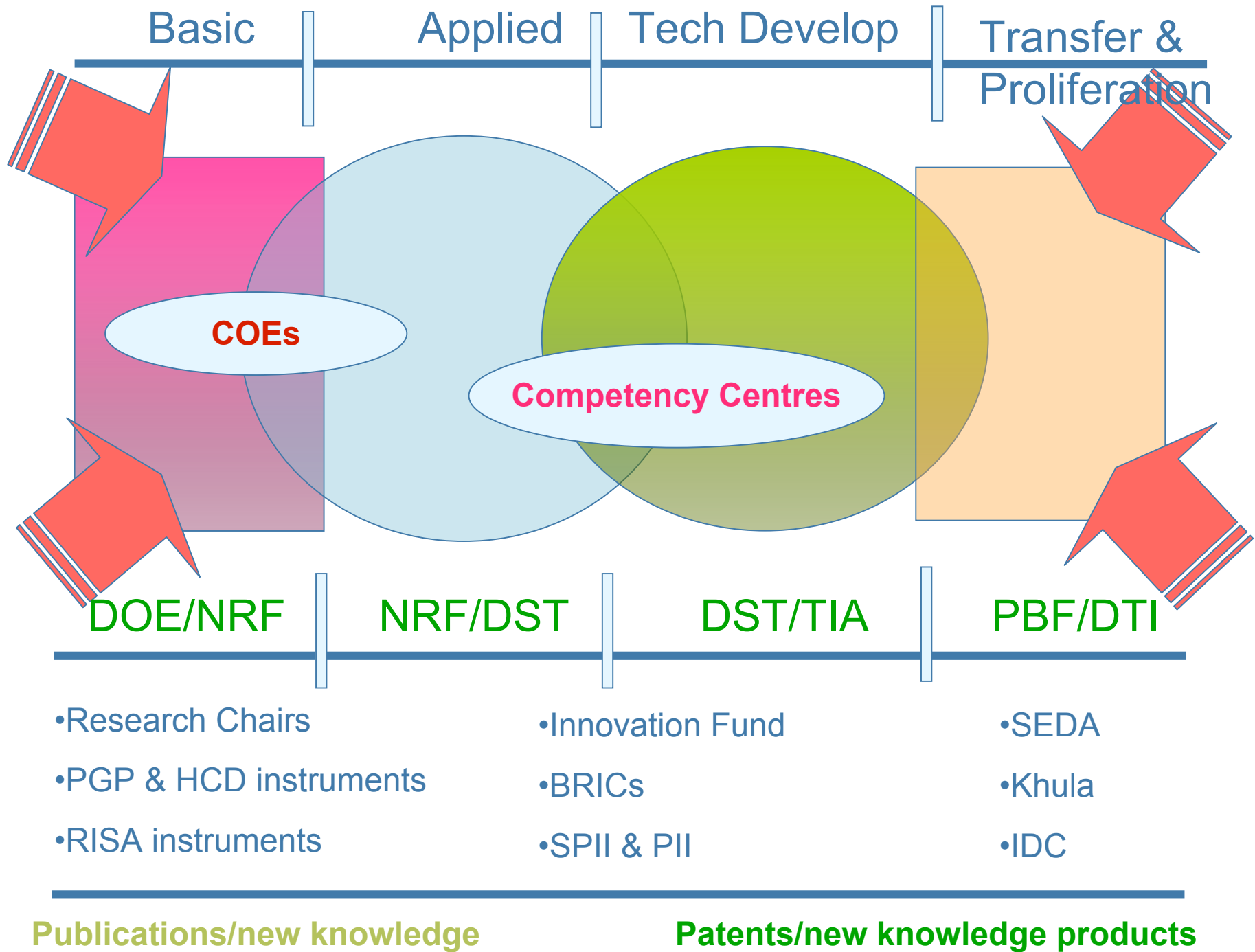
# DST: “Grand Challenges”

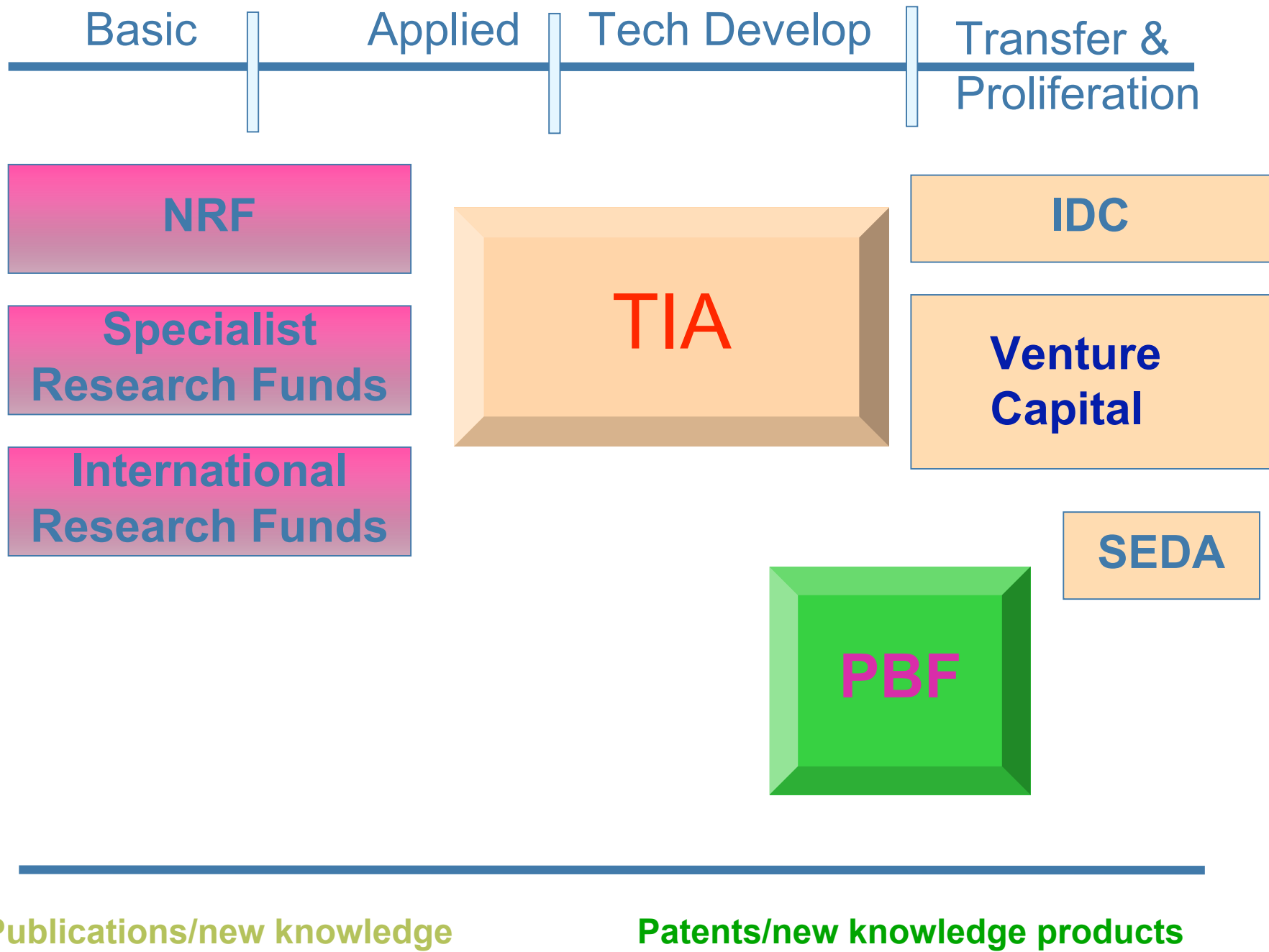
- Farmer to Pharma value chain to strengthen the bio-economy;
- Space S&T;
- Energy security;
- Global-change science (climate change); and
- Innovation for social benefit.



science  
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# The Strategic Plan

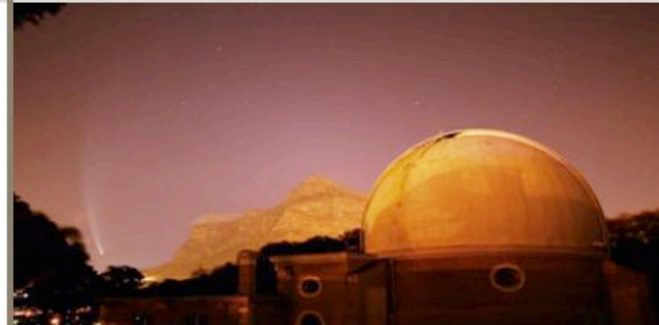
of the National Research Foundation



September 2007

# NRF VISION

# 2015



# **NRF VISION**

**Promoting  
world-class research  
for societal transformation  
and a sustainable  
environment**

## **NRF Mission**

### **- driven by the NRF Mandate (NRF Act)**

Promote and support research through funding, human resource development and the provision of the necessary research facilities in order to facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all fields of science and technology, including indigenous knowledge and thereby to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of all the people of the Republic

- Act of Parliament
- NRF reports to the NRF Board
- Board reports to the Minister of Science & Technology
- Minister is advised by the DST

# Mission

*The mission of the NRF is to contribute to the knowledge economy in South Africa through attaining at least 2% of global R&D output by 2013 through:*

- supporting high quality research and knowledge generation for the benefit of society
- supporting the development of a critical mass of globally competitive human resources in prioritised areas
- advancing a culture of science in society
- providing state of the art research infrastructure
- leveraging international networks and partnerships

## National Facilities - Criteria:

- **Unique position in SA knowledge production**
- **→ international standards**
- **goals aligned with NSI**
- **critical mass of equipment, skills, users**
- **potential for networking and attracting international collaborations**
- **opportunities for HR capacity development, with special efforts to involve researchers from formerly disadvantaged communities**
- **provide opportunities for advancement of science and for the interface between science and society**



# Challenges

## 1. Synergies

between RISA, SAASTA and the NFs

between NFs and PG and Research Programs at HEIs

→ **University Research Facilities**

2. Providing access to national assets of international standing

3. Response to dynamics in the science system:

Space Science - National Space Agency

Nuclear Science and Technology (iThemba LABS – NECSA)



# The NRF in the National System of Innovation (NSI)

