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[OPEN SOURCE]

Boost for open source in Africa

CSR and UNDP sign knowledge networking agreement

OPEN SOURCE capacity in eastern and southern Africa has received a boost with the signing of a knowledge networking agreement between the CSIR and the Regional Service Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The CSIR acted on behalf of the Open Source Centre of the Meraka Institute.

By selecting an indigenous institution such as the Meraka Institute to be the implementing agency, the UNDP said it hoped to encourage 'South-South' cooperation and to extend the benefits of the project into Africa.

"We anticipate that it will create awareness of and establish a platform for free/libre and open source software (Floss) in the region, as well as a knowledge base on how to utilise Floss," said Luke Wasonga of the UNDP, outlining key aspects of the project.

He pointed out that the promotion of the use of Floss will go hand-in-hand with

the promotion of partnerships between the public and private sectors in the region, and said he hoped it would create an environment that is conducive for entrepreneurship in software production.

- By Staff Reporter

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