

Fire maps of SA on TV are world 'first'

CITIZEN REPORTER

SOUTH Africans were treated to a world first on television when the SABC televised active fire maps as part of its weather reports this week.

The fire map, developed jointly by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Eskom will show active fires throughout SA as detected by satellites over the preceding 12 hours.

"This is a prime example of a private-public sector partnership using the power of science and technology outcomes to benefit the public. Through the CSIR's research expertise and its application for Eskom, people will have a better understanding of the extent and threat of fires in SA," said CSIR president Dr Sibusiso Sibisi.

The fire map is one outcome of the Advanced Fire Information System, a CSIR-Eskom project. Afis is a satellite-based fire information tool delivering locations of active fires in near-real time over southern Africa. SA enters its fire season between May and October in northern regions.

