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Leveraging Cyber-infrastructure for Open Science: DIRISA's Contribution to Data-Driven Decision-Making in South Africa.

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The transition from raw research data to impactful national decisions relies fundamentally on robust, accessible, and strategically managed data and data infrastructure. This presentation provides a high-level overview of the foundations of open science and frames the urgency within the unique South African context. It addresses critical systemic challenges, including data fragmentation and the complex dynamics of data ownership and governance that shape the research landscape.

The core focus of the discussion is DIRISA's strategic mandate as the key national enabler. The presentation illustrates how DIRISA provides national data platforms, research data management support, and services that govern the full data lifecycle—from ingestion to long-term preservation and sharing.

The presentation aims to demonstrate the national value of data stewardship: how it effectively bridges the gap between theoretical frameworks and practical, evidence-based decision-making for national benefit. The presentation concludes by exploring emerging trends and future requirements necessary to fully realize data's potential for South Africa's sustainable development.

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Registered for the conference?

Yes

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Yes

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