Total Namibia signs Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Namibia to help address skills shortages

Johannesburg, May 13, 2014: Total Namibia, a subsidiary of Total South Africa, today affirmed its commitment to the contribution of the empowerment, up-skilling and education of Namibia’s youth at a signing ceremony, in partnership with the University of Namibia.

The signed memorandum of understanding document signifies an undertaking by Total Namibia to assist selected candidates with student bursaries that will cover full tuition and textbooks for the duration of their studies.

The signing of the agreement is one of many initiatives employed by Total South Africa to address the scarce skills shortage in the southern African region. Recent statistics indicate that there is a significant skills shortage in the fields of medicine, engineering, accounting and other key sectors.

“Total South Africa recognises that skills development is essential for the Southern African region’s economic growth. We are thus committed to work in partnership with governments, the private sector and institutions of higher learning such as the University of Namibia to assist in alleviating the skills gap and to provide our youth with the chance of a better future through our bursaries and various other education initiatives,” explains Total Namibia Managing Director, Chris Hoffman.

Annually, the Total Group hosts a delegation of students and senior educators at an annual Summer School for a week long programme in July in Paris. Selected students and educators from the university will be afforded an opportunity to attend the Summer School as well as the Energy Seminar, also held as part of the week long programme.

Upon completion of their studies the company offers selected students the opportunity to embark on an internship programme at Total South Africa and its subsidiaries in Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland where valuable practical expertise and on the job training are offered.
In terms of educational content, the agreement indicates that Total may be invited to make input into the development of University of Namibia’s courses in order to ensure that the courses are aligned with the needs of the petroleum industry.

“We are excited to cement our relationship with the University of Namibia through fulfilling the commitments of our MOU and thus make a contribution to the lives of the youth and the development of the country,” concludes Hoffman.

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About the Total Group

Total is one of the largest integrated oil and gas companies in the world, with activities in more than 130 countries. The Group is also a first rank player in chemicals. Its 97,000 employees put their expertise to work in every part of the industry – exploration and production of oil and natural gas, refining and marketing, new energies, trading, and chemicals. Total is working to help satisfy the global demand for energy, both today and tomorrow. [www.total.com](http://www.total.com)

In Africa, besides exploration and production and renewable energies, Total is active across the whole petroleum product supply chain (service station network, general retail, lubricants, aviation fuels, bitumen, LPG) in more than 40 countries, where the Group is a sector leader with an estimated 15% market share. Around 1.4 million customers are served every day at one of TOTAL’s 3 500 service stations on the continent.

About Total South Africa

About Total South Africa (Pty) Ltd:

Total South Africa is a subsidiary of Paris-based global energy group Total S.A. It is a leading energy solutions and petroleum company and is 49% locally owned. Total South Africa’s core business focus encompasses the manufacturing, sales and marketing of a range of petroleum products and lubricants for the retail, commercial, agricultural and industrial markets. With a portfolio of over 530 service stations across the country as well as holdings in the NATREF refinery, TOTAL is also a key player in the country’s petrochemical market.

For more details about the event or to set up a media interview, please contact:

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