

Robert Martin Adam
for the Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*)

Dr Robert Adam is a graduate of the universities of Cape Town (BSc Hons) and South Africa (MSc and PhD). He is the Managing Director of the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory. In the 1990's, he played a leading role in the advancement of science and technology in South Africa. He served as Chief Director: Science, Technology and Terminology (1995), Deputy Director- General: Science and Technology (1996), Director-General of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (1999), Chief Executive Officer: South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (2006), and Director of the Square Kilometre Array South Africa (2016).

Dr Adam's main contribution to the development of Science and Technology in democratic South Africa includes his leading role in drafting the Science and Technology Policy (1991) and the Green Paper and the White Paper on Science and Technology (1997). The White Paper guided the South African Government's vision for science and technology and large investments in science-related infrastructure. Dr Adam chaired the steering committee for the bid that South Africa won to host the Square Kilometre Radio Telescope. He is credited for his leading role in the establishment of the world's largest optical telescope and the world's most sensitive radio telescope. These world-class research facilities have transformed Astronomy and Physics in South Africa and on the continent.

Dr Adam's contributions to science and technology have been recognised through prestigious awards, including the Lifetime Achievers Award of the South African National Energy Association (2010) and being Knighted as Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite by the President of the Republic of France, for outstanding achievement in fostering scientific collaboration between France and South Africa (2011). His scientific contribution has been recognised by highly respected professional bodies such as the Royal Society of South Africa, the Academy of Science of South Africa, and the Engineering Academy of South Africa.

Dr Robert Adam's outstanding and life-long contributions to Science and Technology in South Africa, and to the disciplines of Astronomy and Physics, make him an eminently worthy recipient of an honorary degree from UCT.