

IBM chooses Kenya for key research lab

The US-headquartered technology giant has decided to set up one of its key research labs, its first in Africa, in the East African nation of Kenya.



IBM is opening its first research laboratory on the African continent and has chosen Kenya, and not South Africa, as the location for the facility.

IBM Research labs are credited with the creation of many of the foundations of information technology, including the invention of the relational database, disk storage and dynamic random-access memory. IBM Research has produced five Nobel laureates and won many other scientific and technical medals and awards.

...IBM Research Africa will join existing labs in Australia, Brazil, China, India, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Switzerland and the US.

The lab will conduct basic and applied research focused on solving problems relevant to Africa and contribute to the building of a science and technology base for the continent, IBM says. Key research areas for the lab will include developing the "next-generation" public sector; smarter cities, with an initial focus on water and transportation); and skills development.

...Bitange Ndemo, permanent secretary in Kenya's ministry of information, communication and technology, says the research lab will "rubberstamp Kenya as Africa's leader in ICT".

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