



science & innovation

Department:  
Science and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



---

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS: SWISS – SOUTH AFRICAN VENTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME

---

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) in partnership with the University of Basel (Switzerland) invites innovators, entrepreneurs and SMME's to submit a proposal to assist with business growth and or expand an existing enterprise.

**Building sustainable future businesses – Today!!**

## BACKGROUND

Switzerland was the first international partner creating entrepreneurial capacity in South Africa today, a decade later 1000 + attended the business development programme, we are building on the lessons learnt and will continue to support the South Africa Venture Leaders alumni.

The Swiss – SA Venture Leaders Programme hosted by the Technology Innovation Agency and the University of Basel aims to:

- ▶ Strengthen the entrepreneurial capacity of researchers and innovators towards the commercialisation of their research projects;
- ▶ Increase competitiveness of technology enterprises in the Republic of South Africa and Switzerland and their internationalization through international cooperation and technology;
- ▶ Collaborate in promoting the National Systems of Innovation of both the Republic of South Africa and Switzerland; and exchange experiences and best practices in the Republic of South Africa and Switzerland.



science & innovation

Department:  
Science and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## APPLICATIONS:

- ▶ Applications are invited from entrepreneurs, innovators and sectors across the various sectors.
- ▶ Applicants must be South African citizens and/legal entities registered in South Africa.
- ▶ Applicants, at the time of application should not be older than 35 years of age.
- ▶ Preference will be given to previously disadvantaged individuals, women owned enterprises, enterprises owned by people with disabilities.
- ▶ Applicants must demonstrate the potential of the enterprise for impact in their respective markets.
- ▶ All programme related activities will be conducted online

## DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

Close of business on Friday, 07th August 2020

To complete the online application, log onto: <https://gms.tia.org.za/funding>

Once in the system, click on the **Swiss-SA 2020/2021** tab

Please note, no applications will be considered after 07 August 2020

## WHY PARTICIPATE?

Being selected for this program offers young entrepreneurs a unique opportunity to be exposed to top South African and Swiss entrepreneurial expertise and market plus to participate at the SA Innovation Summit, Africa's largest start-up event.

Benefits includes amongst other:

- ▶ Access a wide network of peers, mentors and industry experts.
- ▶ Acquire tools and skills to analyse the application of the university-based technology.
- ▶ Boost the recognition of your innovation and your market access.
- ▶ Connect to high-level entrepreneurs from South Africa and share experiences.
- ▶ Engage with entrepreneurs with a similar background to learn about successful business practices.
- ▶ Improve market application by validating your ideas with peers, experts and potential customers.
- ▶ Become part of the South African – Swiss entrepreneurs' community.



science & innovation

Department:  
Science and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- ▶ Composition and track record of the individual/team and enterprise
- ▶ Competence, expertise and capability of the team executing the project
- ▶ Current stage of operations and viability of current enterprise
- ▶ Number of employees (if any)
- ▶ The market attractiveness of the technology/ innovative solution for the regional, South African and international/ foreign markets.
- ▶ The potential of the new enterprise to create new jobs, economic return and social impact
- ▶ The potential of the new enterprise to create new jobs, economic return and social impact
- ▶ The suitability of the locality of the new enterprise

## KEY ASPECTS TO CONSIDER WHEN COMPILING THE SUBMISSION:

- ▶ Problem
- ▶ Solution to the problem
- ▶ Current status of the project/ initiative
- ▶ Business Model
- ▶ Market Access
- ▶ Sustainability model
- ▶ Project Finance
- ▶ Legal/ IP Protection
- ▶ The Team
- ▶ Partnerships
- ▶ Legal/ IP Protection
- ▶ Partnerships



science & innovation

Department:  
Science and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## INFORMATION AND CONTACT:

Questions and or clarity required, please email us at: [francois.koeberg@tia.org.za](mailto:francois.koeberg@tia.org.za)

For additional information about the partners, please visit: Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) [www.tia.org.za](http://www.tia.org.za)

University of Basel, National & International cooperation [www.unibas.ch/ssajrp](http://www.unibas.ch/ssajrp)

Swiss Embassy, South Africa [www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria](http://www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria)

Venturelab [www.venturelab.ch](http://www.venturelab.ch)