

TO BE Issued on: 21 September 2020

SA-MAURITIUS JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN APPLIED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROJECTS

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In January 2020, South Africa's Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), together with the Mauritius Research and innovation Council (MRIC) signed an important collaboration agreement that is intended to further enable the promotion of targeted social impact and market-oriented research cooperation and technology innovation partnerships between the two countries.

Following from this, TIA and MRIC hereby invite interested participants to submit applied research and innovation project proposals with a focus on real-world solutions for the Green and Blue Economies; Smart Agriculture and Life Sciences; Manufacturing; Social Impact Innovation; and Emerging Sectors.

This Call for Proposals will follow a two-step process, wherein the first step entails the submission of a Concept Note, following joint-assessments successful Concept Notes will be invited to submit a full joint project proposal. For more information on the Call and to access the Concept Note template, please visit any of the following websites <https://www.tia.org.za/> and MRIC <http://www.mric.mu/> and <https://www.mricschemes.mu/>.

About the project partners ...

TIA was established in terms of the Technology Innovation Agency Act, (No. 26 of 2008), to support the State in stimulating and intensifying technological innovation to improve economic growth and the quality of life of all South Africans by developing and exploiting technological innovations.

The Mauritius Research and Innovation Council is a corporate body set up on the 1st of September 2019 through the proclamation of the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council Act 2019. The Council acts as the apex body which advises the Government on matters concerning applied research, innovation and research and development issues. The new Act empowers the Council in the promotion of high-quality research and in fostering innovation. Furthermore, the MRIC Act (2019) calls for the Council to establish national, regional and international linkages with institutions having objectives similar to those of the Council engage in a process of internationalisation to access and make use of globally dispersed knowledge and technology; connect with research and innovation hubs; and attract aspiring entrepreneurs globally.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered, and to qualify, for this Call applicants / projects:

- 2.1 Are developing Solutions for the Green and Blue Economies; Smart Agriculture and Life Sciences; Manufacturing; Social Impact Innovation; and Emerging Sectors ([SA-MAU Call WIP](#)).
- 2.2 The proposed technology product, process or service must be innovative, and there must be a technological risk involved. In addition, there must at least be a proof of concept in place.
- 2.3 The consortium must have start-ups/MSME/large enterprises and research institutions from both countries willing to enter into a partnership agreement with partner organisations in SA and Mauritius.
- 2.4 Must be a registered start-up/MSME/large enterprise in line with the relevant SA and Mauritius legislation.
- 2.5 Partnering start-ups/MSME/large enterprises from the two countries must not be subsidiaries
- 2.6 Clearly show and motivate potential for SA and Mauritius markets.
- 2.7 Have a civilian purpose.
- 2.8 Have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants, (e.g. joint tech dev opportunities, commercial leads, access to markets etc).
- 2.9 The involvement of South African or Mauritian Post Graduates students is encouraged in line with the Skills and Knowledge Transfer objectives.
- 2.10 A signed Partnership Agreement is mandatory before the actual start of the project. The Agreement will include the ownership and use of know-how and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) settlements.

3. FUNDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 3.1 The funding provided is considered as grant funding.
- 3.2 A clear unique value/ selling proposition of the product or technology must be indicated.
- 3.3 Protected or protectable intellectual property (IP) is preferred.
- 3.4 The combined total value of project funding, to be contributed in equal part by TIA and MRIC, up to R1 Million for SA applicants and up to MUR 2 Million (*subject to exchange rates*) for Mauritian Applicants will be provided per project.
- 3.5 Applicants are advised to demonstrate their contribution to the project. The applicant's contribution can be in-cash and/or in-kind.
- 3.6 The duration of the project must not exceed 24 months.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.1 Applications to this Call for Proposals includes a two-step process as follows:

- 4.1.1 Interested parties will submit a Project Concept Note Application Form ([Concept Note Application Form](#)) on 30 October 2020 by no later than 14:00 hours (CAT)/ 16:00 hours (MUT).
- 4.1.2 Following joint screening of the Project Concept by TIA and MRIC, selected applicants will be invited for a pre-application guidance workshop. During the workshop, the applicants would be expected to come with pre-filled application form.
- 4.1.3 Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application/ proposal (step 2).
- 4.1.4 Following joint assessment of the full application/ proposal by TIA and MRIC, applicants may be invited for a pitching exercise, during which they would be required to answer questions based on their application to a Joint Assessment Committee made up of technical experts from South Africa and Mauritius.
- 4.2 All mandatory fields in the Concept Note Application Form should be completed. Incomplete application forms will be disqualified.
- 4.3 Applications received after the due dates will not be considered.

For more information, please contact:

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