

APPLICATION & FUNDING GUIDELINES

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

1. Introduction

The purpose of the SA-Mauritius Joint Call for Proposals is to facilitate partnership between South African and Mauritius start-ups, MSMEs and large enterprises, (in collaboration with national research and/or higher education institutions in both countries, where relevant/appropriate) for collaborative research, development and innovation (RDI) projects with commercial potential. The objective of any project should, therefore, be to:

1. Improve the competitiveness of the company through collaboration between research and industry.
2. Develop a new/improved product, process and/or service.

The fund is expected to improve the commercialization probability of technologies that emanate from the projects.

The fund is a limited resource made available for an agreed set of focused activities with clear deliverables, at least one of which should be a viable plan for taking the idea forward, which can be considered by other possible funders.

2. Who can Apply

The *joint application* for funding must include, at least four Principal parties, i.e. two representative from South Africa (one each from industry and academic/ research institution) and two representative from Mauritius (one each from industry academic/ research institution) who participate in the joint research and innovation programme. Partnering start-ups/MSME/large enterprises from the two countries must not be subsidiaries.

3. Fundable activities

The following is a list of fundable activities that the applicants may undertake (fundable activities can be outsourced to a service provider):

- 3.1 initial product, process (comprehensive technology package) and prototype development;
- 3.2 production of market samples and/or associated testing;
- 3.3 refining and implementing designs;
- 3.4. conducting field studies to test the assumptions made about the technology, market and/ or customer needs;
- 3.5. support of certification activities and specification sheet development;
- 3.6. piloting, and technology scale-up;
- 3.7. techno-economic evaluation studies;
- 3.8. detailed primary market research; and
- 3.9 business plan development.

4. Non-fundable activities include

For South African Applicants

- 4.1. salary contributions to the applicant/ consortium (start-ups, MSMEs and large enterprises and research and development institution) staff members;
- 4.2. early stage research projects;
- 4.3. Tuition fee, although students can be contracted to perform specific tasks that are only directly related to the project; and
- 4.4. equipment, except for consumables.

For Mauritian Applicant, refer the JCP Guide on Expenses Issue 1 Rev 0 ([add hyperlink](#))

5. Assessment Criteria

All applications will be assessed against the following criteria

- 5.1 Whether the application fits within the post technology readiness **level 3¹** and pre-commercialization;

¹ Laboratory measurements validate analytical predictions of separate technology elements. Hypothesis tested.



- 5.2 Whether the proposed project and applying team have a direct link to the research and development institution through employment or an intention for the valorization of the research and development institution's intellectual property;
- 5.3 Whether a clear, relevant need has been articulated by the applicant;
- 5.4 Whether the planned budget and activities will enable the applicant's objectives;
- 5.5 Whether the planned work will progress the project along the technology readiness level value chain;
- 5.6 Whether the project timeline is feasible given the scope of the project;
- 5.7 Whether the outcomes will add to the valorization of existing or potential IP that section may emerge from the project; and
- 5.8 The likelihood that the planned outcomes and outputs could qualify for follow on funding from TIA and MRIC or other funders.

6. Funding terms and conditions

- 6.1 The funding provided is considered as grant funding;
- 6.2 a clear unique value/ selling proposition of the product or technology must be indicated;
- 6.3 protected or protectable intellectual property is preferred;
- 6.4 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;
- 6.5 applicants are advised to demonstrate their contribution to the project. The applicant's contribution can be in-cash and/or in-kind; and
- 6.6 The duration of the project should not exceed 24 months.

7. Application process

- 7.1. It is important that concept note application forms are submitted to both Institutions through an email account to be provided by TIA and MRIC, and that the Project Leaders indicate the level of funding requested from each of the two institutions. Complete concept note application packs must be submitted to the designated TIA/MRIC designated Programme Manager;
- 7.2. Application packs must include: fully executed copies of completed concept note application forms;

- 7.3 Incomplete application forms will not be assessed;
- 7.4 All mandatory fields in the Application Form should be completed;
- 7.5 Application packs received after the due date will not be considered; and
- 7.6 The project's budget should not exceed the amounts per project stipulated in the investment parameters set out in paragraph 6 above.

| Programme Managers | |
|---|---|
| <u>South Africa</u> Mr Teboho Seseng The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) | Contact Details teboho.seseng@tia.org.za |
| <u>Mauritius</u> Mrs Poonam Veer Ramjeawon Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) | Contact Details pvramjeawon@mric.mu rib@mric.mu |

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The SA-Mauritius Joint Call innovation programme will be monitored and evaluated as follows:

- 8.1 Each project team (comprising of start-ups/MSMEs/large enterprises and academic/research institution) will report as per TIA and MRIC reporting mechanisms indicating the activities, milestones reached and any notable achievements of the project;
- 8.2 The following application achievements must be reported by the project team and evidence should be submitted to substantiate these:
 - the completion of the intended prototype or technology;
 - market reports;
 - copies of IP registration documents;
 - outcome reports of trials;
 - award letters where applicants have secured follow on funding or additional financial or non-financial support from the research and development institution or any other entity;
 - license agreements, contracts, and/or
 - purchase orders where outputs have been commercialized.



- 8.3. The project team are encouraged to include any multimedia to demonstrate these where applicable;
- 8.4. Quarterly reports shall be completed on the TIA/MRIC template provided;
- 8.5. Where projects have closed, project team must provide TIA and MRIC with a close-out report on the template provided by the funding agencies; and
- 8.6. TIA and MRIC will conduct an annual evaluation of the individual project team's project performance and the overall performance of the funds allocated to the institution using a common evaluation criterion.