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TIA Good News Story

ICT Sector – Pelebox

TIA's Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector supports the development and exploitation of ICT driven innovations with a broad social-economic impact. It further supports grassroot innovators and the development of technologies that will increase South Africa's competitiveness and participation in the fourth industrial revolution.

In 2014 Neo Hutiri the innovator that came up with Pelebox, was diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB). While collecting his medication from a public clinic in Bophelong township in Vanderbijlpark his biggest challenge was the long waiting times on the ques. On average, Neo was losing over 3 hours waiting in long queues. He then looked at how he can turn a challenging situation into an opportunity.

Pelebox is a smart locker facility that enables patients to collect their repeat chronic medication in under 2 minutes instead of waiting hours queuing at public clinics. An administrator logs in a request to reserve a cubicle for the patient to collect their medicine, the medication is placed inside the cubicle, a one-time pin (OTP) is sent to the patient's cellphone to collect their medication when its ready.

TIA assisted Pelebox in developing cloud based modules, which enable the facility to control their devices offsite as well as generating rich analytics of their usage. These modules are key in their journey of introducing automation to their technology.

Pelebox concept won the Royal Academy of Engineering's 2019 Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation making Hutiri the first South African to win the prestigious medal – and accompanying £25,000 (R470,000) cash prize – from the London-based organization.

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