

2020-2021 Global Cleantech Innovation Programme Top 10 Finalists

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), an initiative of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation has announced the top ten finalists for the TIA Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP-SA) on Friday, 12 February 2021. The announcement follows the last round of 2020-2021 GCIP -SA pitching sessions by innovators and entrepreneurs in Cape Town and Johannesburg in February 2021.

The process started in March 2020 and attracted 81 prospective participants from various parts of the country. Following an intensive drive of screenings that were conducted only 20 participants were shortlisted to partake in the second round.

Alexander Burger one of the judges said, "Being a venture capitalist and understanding the importance of business sustainability, the GCIP programme and contestants have shined a ray of hope for investors like ourselves".

The top 10 finalists for the 2020-2021 GCIP-SA are:

No	Team Leader	Team Name	Province
1	Sean Perry	AMD Solutions	Gauteng
2	Gabriella Nxumalo	GABResources	Gauteng
3	Nhlanhla Ndlovu	Hustlenomics	Gauteng
4	Farai Dziike	Indoni Yamanzi Hydrotech Solutions-SA	KwaZulu Natal
5	Cornelius Ssemakalu	Iraka Biotech	Gauteng
6	Gift Lubele	Kudoti	Gauteng
7	Khosi Kumkani	RenewablesZA	Eastern Cape
8	Elijah Djan	Nubrix	Gauteng
9	Nkateko Ncube Nkosinathi Ngoma	Sanineat	Limpopo/Gauteng
10	Marlene Badenhorst	SlideLuvre	Western Cape

The acting Head of the Programme, Ms Senisha Moonsamy said, "The aim of the programme is to promote clean technology innovation and support entrepreneurs in growing their small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and start-ups into viable, investment-ready businesses. The programme offers entrepreneurs training, mentoring, access to capital, cash awards and opportunities to showcase their products.

"The deliverables of the programme are in line with TIA's key performance indicator which aims to assist SMMEs with receiving technological support. Our 2020 GCIP contestants have truly shown the immense potential and growth we have as a country that thrives on innovation and curbing youth unemployment through their innovative and needed products and services" Moonsamy explained.



The judging panel for this year's programme includes, Mpathi Nyewe—Black Business Council, Foresight and Innovation, Strategy; Alex Burgher – Specialist in Private Equity and Venture Capital; Xolela Sohuma Global Partner Wadwani Foundation (WF) – Entrepreneurship; and Irfan Pardesi – Crowd Sourcing and Strategy.

The GCIP-SA is part of a joint global initiative in conjunction with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Project Developer and International Implementer), the Global Environmental Fund and the Black Business Council.

Congratulations to all the finalists, the overall winner will be announced at a Gala Dinner on 26 March 2021 at a venue to be announced.

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About TIA

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) is a public entity in South Africa that serves as the key institutional intervention to bridge the innovation chasm (gap) between research and development from higher education institutions, science councils, public entities, and private sector, and commercialisation (beneficiation). TIA was established in 2010 and has a national reach with offices in KwaZulu Natal, Western Cape and Gauteng. The main thrust of the mandate of TIA is funding and supporting innovative technologies that show potential to be commercialised. The organisation also has programmes that provide non-financial support to innovators and SMMEs. Lastly, TIA is a catalyst and enabler of innovation through various partnership initiatives locally, in the African continent and globally.

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