



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) was established in terms of the TIA Act, 2008 (Act No. 26 of 2008), with the objective of stimulating and intensifying technological innovation in order to improve economic growth and the quality of life of all South Africans by developing and exploiting technological innovations. TIA's core business objective is to support the development and commercialisation of competitive technology-based services and products.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION AND DEPLOYMENT FUND (TADF) PILOT PROGRAMME

TADF MODE 1: CALL FOR PROPOSALS – ROUND 2

The objective of the TADF Mode 1 is to take locally developed technologies to the user client (Public sector) and provide market entry support to innovators (Start-ups, Spin-outs and SMMEs) by providing funds as the first purchaser for market entry samples for a customer's first use and that can lead to the innovation SMME / Entrepreneur securing an offtake agreement. The respondent to this TADF Mode 1 call is the applicant to the TADF fund (innovator / Innovation SMME).

BACKGROUND

DSI and TIA are launching a Technology Acquisition and Deployment Fund (TADF) pilot programme. The aim of the TADF is to facilitate the commercialization of locally developed technologies, promoting their uptake by government and its entities i.e public sector, to improve their operations, enhance service delivery and address pressing socio-economic challenges.

Through the Fund, South African entrepreneurs, SMMEs and/or Start-Ups will have the opportunity to access much-needed capital for market testing, demonstration and validation in real market and operational settings, thereby enabling exploitation and market uptake of locally developed innovative products and technology solutions.

This pilot programme will run for a limited period of 24 months. The experiences and lessons from this pilot will serve as baseline information and input into the establishment of a more comprehensive, well-capitalized and long term Acquisition and Deployment Fund for locally developed technologies into the future.



WHO CAN APPLY

- ✓ A South African SMMEs and/or Start Up registered with the Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office (CIPRO);
- ✓ You have a technology solution and/or product that has been developed locally that is ready for demonstration / piloting.
- ✓ You can demonstrate that your product and/or technology solution can assist to solve a social-economic challenge, and/or a service delivery challenge;
- ✓ Has potential to be sourced and deployed by government departments and municipalities to enhance and/or improve operations and service delivery and to enable the entity to fulfil their mandate.
- ✓ Innovator /SMME should be the applicant to the TADF and will provide a technology solution for deployment to an identified user client (department / municipality) who has a challenge / technology need. (*Proof of engagements with user clients must be provided in the form of a signed "Letter of Intent"*)

Researchers and research institutions do not qualify to apply under this Call.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- a) **Local content:** The technology must be locally developed
- b) **Readiness for commercialization:** The technology solution and/or product must be fully developed and ready for market testing, validation and demonstration. If not certified, the applicant must demonstrate that the technology and/or product is in the process of certification and/or an appropriate SABS standard exists for such certification;
- c) **Use of the technology:** To be considered, the applicant should demonstrate how the solution will solve and/or improve a service in the public sector and or operations in the delivery of services in various sectors such as water, connectivity, human settlements, water treatment, energy, safety, waste, ICT, education and sanitation. (Not Health)
- d) **Target Market:** The applicant must clearly articulate who their potential customers and or potential product/technology users of the proposed product and/or technology solution. Potential customers could include, amongst others, government departments, municipalities and public facilities. Proof of engagements with user clients must be attached to your application i.e. Letters of Intent
- e) **Route to market and sales plan:** The applicant must, where possible demonstrate that the technology has a clear existing route to market and sales plan including an indicative/conditional off take agreement and/or evidence of interest for use and purchase from the potential client where possible.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Stage 1:** Screening and Shortlisting - This stage will evaluate applications against a Utility Criteria. This will involve assessment the problem that the technology is intended to solve; the extent of the challenge (market size) and the level of readiness of the technology for deployment. From this process, a limited number of applicants will be shortlisted to proceed to the next stage.
- **Stage 2:** Pitching/Interviews - Shortlisted applicants will be given an opportunity to present or pitch the technology and/or product to a Selection Panel of experts including the potential customers. Where appropriate, this phase may include site visits for verification.



FUNDING PARAMETERS AND PROCESS

Successful applicants will be provided with a once off grant funding of up to R1 million (including VAT) to support deployment (market testing, demonstration and validation activities) of the product and/or technology for a maximum period of up to 24 months for the actual project execution with the identified potential customers and end-user (government departments or municipalities).

Funding will be provided on agreed milestones and any activities directly related market testing, demonstration and validation.

Detailed Budget needs to be provided aligned to TIA's allowable cost guidelines

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Applications must be completed on the application template, to access the form click here <https://gms.tia.org.za/funding>

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is **2 August 2021, 5pm**

CONTACTS US

For further information and enquiries regarding the call for Expressions of Interest, please contact the Technology Innovation Agency

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