



Call for Expression of Interest

Chemin Bio-Life Science programme: Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) Manufacturing of Herbal Infusions, Cosmeceuticals and Nutraceuticals based on Indigenous Knowledge



1. Invitation

The Chemistry Incubator (Chemin) would like to invite SMMEs in the Indigenous Knowledge Systems sector and community of practice to submit Expressions of Interest (Eols) to develop Indigenous Knowledge-based products or processes on a semi-commercial or commercial scale. The current Eol call is targeted at entrepreneurs, small enterprises and Indigenous Knowledge Holders who are interested in developing herbal infusions, cosmeceuticals and nutraceuticals made from indigenous plants and extracts, with specific focus on the entire value chain, from primary processing to product and process development for commercialisation.

2. Parameters

The following parameters will be applicable to this Eol:

Item	Limits
TRL/Stage of development	3-upwards
Focus areas	Primary Processing to product and process development of herbal infusions, cosmeceuticals, and nutraceuticals based on Indigenous Knowledge
Funding period guideline	Maximum 12-18 months

3. Requirements

- Applying SMMEs must be South African owned and must be registered with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC),
- Valid tax clearance certificate or pin code,
- Company Profile
- Processes and product prototypes that are already -- under development will receive preference,
- Demonstration of potential or current markets (verifiable market interest) and business plan,
- The applicant must demonstrate competitive know-how,

The potential for greater economic and social impact through, for example, local manufacture and job creation must be clear,

- Current company financials, if any, and
- Clear description of the type of technical assistance required, prioritised in terms of commercial market requirements.
- Preference will be given to the following in underserved regions of South Africa:
 - **SMMEs owned and managed by women SMMEs owned and managed by people with disabilities**



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- **SMMEs owned and managed by the Youth [persons under the age of 35 years in the year of application]**

4. Exclusions

The following will not be covered under this call:

- Requests for infrastructure or purchase of land,
- Requests for start-up costs,
- Requests for operational costs (for example salaries, rent, telephony),
- Requests to establish farming enterprises of the plants (primary agriculture),
- Equity holding or purchase rights,
- Clinical trials
- Accreditation of facilities.

5. Disqualification criteria:

- Applications by individuals without registered companies, and
- Illegible (difficult to read) and incomplete applications,

6. Chemin will provide the following:

- Infrastructure and skilled human resource support (scientists, technologists, process engineers),
- Technical incubation support,
- Analytical support, shelf life, nutritional studies, experts in medicinal chemistry and quality control,
- Bio-based product development, formulation and labelling or packaging,
- Business and marketing entrepreneurship,
- Mentoring and training in processing and manufacturing,
- Liaise with other organisations to build and expand the network of the SMME, and
- Facilitation of the acquisition of permits and licenses for successful applicants.

7. Submission requirements

To apply, please complete the attached Eol form and e-mail the **signed** PDF version of the completed form to

Mahlatse Phala: mahlatse@chemin.co.za, 0767062343

Neo Ndlovu: neo@chemin.co.za, 076 282 7950

8. Interviews

Successful applicants *may* be invited for an interview.



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9. Closing date and time

The closing date for applications is 05 February 2023, at 16:00pm.

10. Expression of Interest Template

Please e-mail PDF versions of the completed EOI, accompanied by a cover letter and your resume to

mahlatse@chemin.co.za and/ neo@chemin.co.za

Name and Surname	
e-Mail Address	
Telephone number	
Gender (Male / Female)	
Company Name and Registration Number	
Are you below 35 years old?	
In which province is the company located	
Company website	
1. Describe your company's current operations	
2. Describe the product(s) you are currently selling and those under development	
3. High-level description of the competitive advantage of your products	
4. Have the products been subjected to nutritional and safety testing – What other tests have you done?	



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5. Please indicate how products are currently manufactured and whether you need improvement in your formulations

6. Please provide a picture or artist rendition of your branded products

7. How many Units of each product do you currently sell per month?

8. Where / How do you sell your products?

9. What do your customers like about your product?

10. What new products are you planning to launch and at what stage of development are these?