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# OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS: GRASSROOTS INNOVATION PROGRAMME

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## PURPOSE OF THE CALL

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) is calling for the submission of technology development & funding support applications from grassroots innovators.



## DEFINITION

A grassroots innovator is defined as "an individual who undertakes innovations to solve local challenges using local resources and capabilities through working outside the realm of formal innovation institutions".

## WHO CAN APPLY?



The programme is targeting South African citizens particularly people from marginalised communities.



The proposal must be a concept at early proof of concept stage and addresses a social challenge or potential technology solution to a specific or identified need.



The innovator must be willing to commit time to the programme activities.

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

- ▶ Grant funding for the proposed innovation including the following support activities:
  - IP Support;
  - Product and technical development expertise, design, infrastructure & hard/software materials, & manufacturing;
  - Business development support;
  - Networking and market access activities;
  - Training, mentorship and incubation support;
  - Industry compliance and certification.

## FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

The following is a list of fundable activities:

- ▶ Development & production of fully functional prototypes of product innovations that respond to social challenges;
- ▶ Operational & capacity building activities for innovators through product development, training and mentoring (acceleration);
- ▶ Specialised equipment that is within the budget constraints and required to enable innovation activities;
- ▶ Introduction of a proof of concept where a viable business case can be demonstrated;
- ▶ Attaining compliance of already registered enterprises;
- ▶ Registration of intellectual property rights, copyright and trademark protection and licensing;
- ▶ Stipend to the innovators in support of the development of their innovation.

## NON-FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

The following is a list of non-fundable activities:

- ▶ Operational activities not related to innovation activities;
- ▶ Acquiring of licenses to replicate external innovations;
- ▶ Research projects;
- ▶ Research institutions and organisations;
- ▶ Student bursaries, research projects and extended periods of work. Students can be contracted to perform specific tasks that are only directly related to the project; and
- ▶ Infrastructure development.

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- ▶ The application must be at concept design/early proof of concept, that is pre-revenue, and with less than R100 000 in previous external investment;
- ▶ The technology is novel and addresses market or social need;
- ▶ A working prototype and proof of concept is technologically and financially viable and uses sustainable design and production methods and materials;
- ▶ A clear market need has been identified;
- ▶ Whether the innovation addresses a real social challenge and is flexible to conditions (geography, locality, etc.); and
- ▶ Whether a vision for the commercialisation viability of the innovation has been articulated.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Applications must be submitted on the Grassroots application form and can be emailed to [Grassroots.Innovation@tia.org.za](mailto:Grassroots.Innovation@tia.org.za); and / or hand delivered to TIA House, 83 Lois Avenue, Menlyn.  
ENQUIRIES: For further information regarding the call for applications, please email [Grassroots.Innovation@tia.org.za](mailto:Grassroots.Innovation@tia.org.za) or call Simphiwe Mntambo 012 472 2739 / 2773.