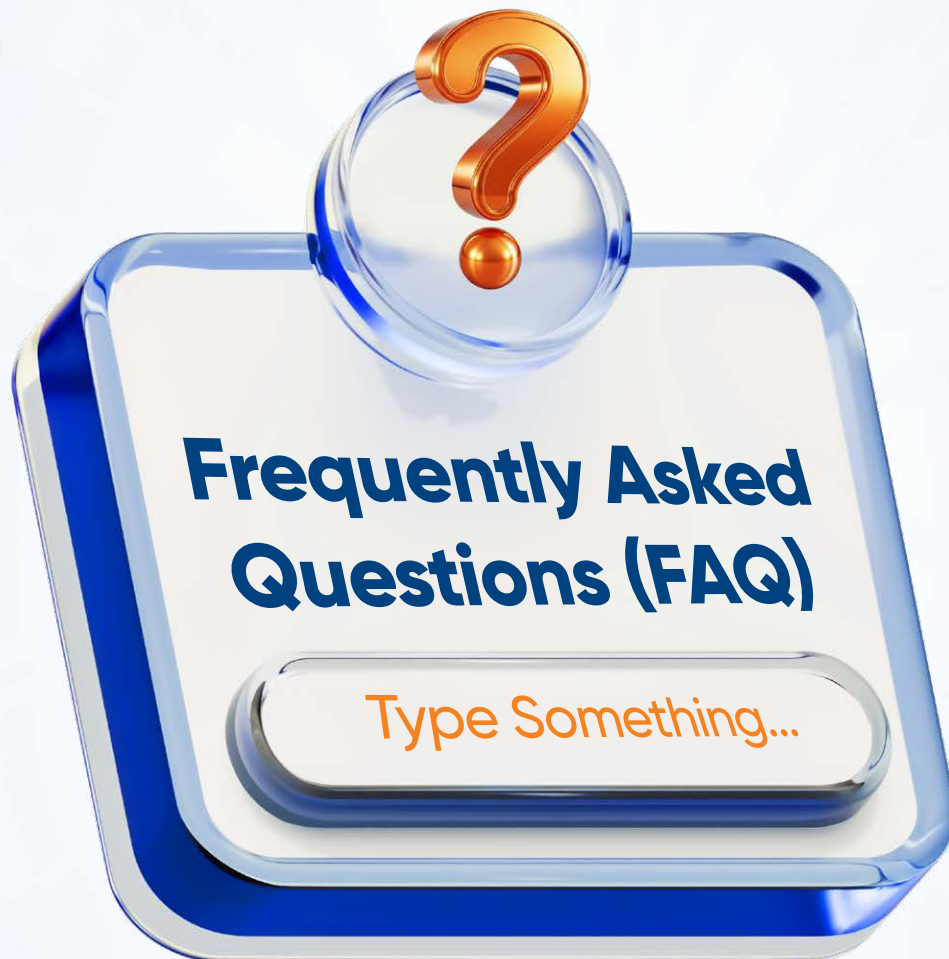




science, technology
& innovation

Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





1

Who can apply for TIA funding?

TIA funding is available to:

- Start-up companies
- Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs)
- Private Individuals
- Science Councils (SCs)
- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

The technology must be based in South Africa.

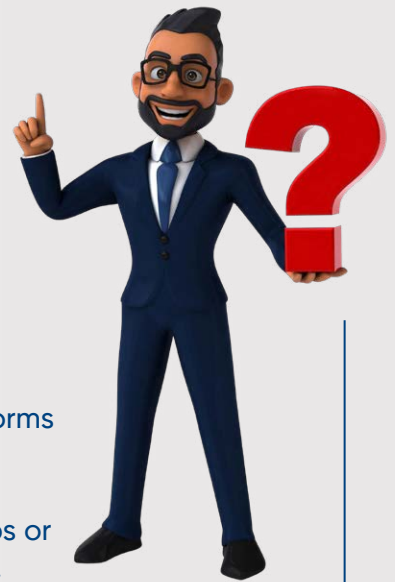
Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed project aligns with TIA's mandate.

2 What are the application requirements?



- Your product, service, or process must be based on technological innovation and fall within the sectors listed above. It cannot already be protected by existing intellectual property rights, patents, or trademarks.
- You need to show that your idea is viable, practical, and sustainable.
- Your project should have a positive social and economic impact.
- You must have a proof of concept, an idea that has been tested and proven to work.
- You must be a South African citizen with a valid ID.
- If you're applying as a registered business:
- You must be, or be in the process of registering, with the **Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC)**.
- You must also be, or be in the process of registering, on the **National Treasury's Central Supplier Database (CSD)**.
- All main technology development work must take place in South Africa.
- If your project involves foreign-owned intellectual property, it must be licensed or assigned to a local institution. Proof of this will be required during the TIA due diligence phase.
- Projects with foreign-owned IP must also meet the **Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI)** Localisation Framework and **B-BBEE** requirements.

3 How do I know which funding call to apply for?



TIA issues both Open and Closed calls.

Open calls are publicly advertised on various media platforms including the TIA website.

Closed calls are targeted and may be issued through partnerships or specific programmes to specific designated groups or individuals.

You should carefully review the call guidelines to ensure that your project meets the eligibility criteria before applying.



4 What is a proof of concept?

A proof of concept shows that your idea or technology actually works. It's the stage where you've tested the science or mechanics behind it and confirmed that it functions as intended.

Once the concept works, you move on to creating a **prototype**, which is a working model of your product. The prototype must be fully functional. After that, you refine and improve it so that it works well in the hands of real users. This is called the **technology development stage**, and TIA's **Technology Stations** often provide support here.

At the same time, you start **testing the market**. This means talking to potential customers to see if they would buy or use your product. If they are interested, they can provide a **letter of intent**, which is a written confirmation of their willingness to purchase. You can then use this letter to approach funders such as banks, development finance institutions (DFIs), or TIA for support. This stage is known as **piloting**.

Once the product has been successfully piloted, the next step is **expanding into production or manufacturing**. At this point, TIA may step back, allowing other partners and investors to support the business's growth.



5

What is a Statement of Interest (SOI)?

The SOI is an initial expression of interest that gives TIA an understanding of your technology, its stage of development, and its potential market success.

Submitting an SOI allows TIA to determine whether your project fits within its funding requirements before you are invited to submit a Full Application.



6

What is a Full Application?

Some calls may not have the SOI applicable. However, you may be required to submit a Full Application at the initial stage.

A detailed application providing in-depth explanation of your technology, its stage of development, and its potential market success.

7

Can I get assistance when completing my application?

Yes. TIA provides advisory support to help applicants understand technical and administrative requirements. You may contact TIA for guidance during the application process, particularly when completing your SOI or Full Application.

8 How long does the full process take?

Timeframes vary depending on the type and complexity of the project. In general, the full investment process from submission of interest to final approval and contracting can take up to 26 weeks. Applicants are encouraged to monitor communication from TIA through the Funding System for updates at each stage.

9 What happens if my application is not successful?

If your application is not approved, you will receive written feedback outlining the reasons. You may revise and resubmit your proposal in future funding calls if the necessary improvements are made.



10 What is conditions precedent?

Conditions precedent are specific requirements that must be met before TIA can release funding. These may include submission of additional documentation, signing of agreements, or meeting compliance standards.

11

When will I receive funding after approval?



Initial disbursement is triggered once all conditions precedent has been fulfilled and the Funding Agreement has been signed by both parties.

Where conditions precedent is not applicable the first disbursement will be initiated after the project kick off meeting.

Subsequent disbursements are linked to project milestones and satisfactory reporting.

12

What are my reporting obligations once funded?



You are required to submit quarterly progress reports that include technical and financial updates. TIA will review these reports in line with the project plan and anticipated milestones, conduct site visits where necessary to monitor progress. Timely and accurate reporting is essential for continued disbursement of funds.

For more detail refer to the TIA Funding Guidelines.



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