

Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), an entity of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) was established in terms of the TIA Act, 2008 (Act No. 26 of 2008), with the objective to stimulate, intensify and exploit technological innovation to improve economic growth and the quality of life of all South Africans.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

SOUTH AFRICA-CUBA BIOTECHNOLOGY COLLABORATION

SA-CUBA BIOTECHNOLOGY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME

PURPOSE OF THE CALL

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), located in Pretoria, South Africa, and BioCubaFarma (BCF), located in Havana, Cuba, are jointly calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from entities in South Africa for Technology Transfer, Joint Development and Joint Ventures on the development of biotech products between SA and Cuba. This initiative aims to foster global technology transfer and cross-border commercialisation.

BACKGROUND

A bilateral agreement signed between South Africa and Cuba has given rise to joint research and development projects in the health sector. In July 2025, a Framework Agreement joint cooperation in the biotechnology sector was signed between TIA and BioCubaFarma.

The need for this partnership of TIA and BioCubaFarma was established to provide financial and non-financial support for bringing products to the market and BioCubaFarma bears testament to the intention of being a global industry participant, with both organizations strategically positioned to achieve this goal.

This partnership will ensure transparency of Cuban technologies available for technology transfer, joint product development, and commercialisation as part of the Multilateral initiative for combating neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Dementia, lung cancer and Alzheimer's Disease between South Africa and Cuba.

OBJECTIVE

The goal is to internationalize promising South African and Cuban biotechnology products and bring them to market through joint ventures and partnerships through co-development projects proposed by BioCubaFarma, attached in this call, and through Technology Transfer Projects.

SCOPE

This EOI is open to organizations with capabilities in biotechnology, clinical research, diagnostics, and therapeutic development. These include Research Institutions, Universities or Biotech Companies from each country that will co-develop projects and participate in technology transfer initiatives.

PRODUCTS FOR PARTNERING

The list below shows Cuban projects and products;

1. CNEURO 221 (CNEURO) for Parkinson’s Disease
2. Phycocyanobilin (PCB) for Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer’s Disease, and ischemic
3. PanHer vaccine (CIM): Multivalent Vaccine targeting HER Family of Oncogenes, useful for the treatment of solid tumors.
4. CNEURO 201 (CNEURO) for treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease
5. CIMEDIT (CIM): a vaccine targeting EGF for the treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD).
6. CIMAVAX EGF (CIM), a novel vaccine for the treatment of lung Cancer (NSCLC)
7. NeuralCIM (CIM), a nasal formulation of human EPO, for the treatment of dementia (including Alzheimer’s disease)

These projects reflect a few of the projects/products currently in different TRL. [Click here](#) for the detailed scope of project profile.

Below are the Cuban institutions involved in the various projects:

1. CNEURO: Cuban center for Neuroscience
2. CIGB: Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
3. CIM: Center for Molecular Immunology
4. AICA: AICA pharmaceutical lab

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Eligible applicants include biotechnology companies, research institutions, and healthcare innovators based in South Africa and Cuba.
- Respondents must submit Curriculum Vitae and valid identification documents from both South African and Cuban participants.
- Applicants must demonstrate the capacity for collaborative research and product development.
- Required documentation (listed below) must be submitted to support the proposed project and show prior experience with similar initiatives.
- Late submissions or those sent to any email address other than the one specified will not be considered.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested parties must submit the following:

- Cover letter expressing interest
- Company profile and relevant experience
- Project proposal or collaboration concept
- Supporting documentation (e.g., case studies, technical capabilities)
- Completed Questionnaire - [Click here](#)

Submission and timelines:

Commencement date: 20 October 2025

Closing date: 30 January 2026

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For inquiries and submissions, please email: tia-bcf@tia.org.za