

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.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ADVANCING CLEANTECH INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) is an entity of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI). TIA is mandated through the Technology Innovation Agency Act, No. 26 of 2008, to promote the development and exploitation of discoveries, inventions, and innovations to improve the quality of life for all South Africans by bridging the innovation chasm between research and commercialisation.

TIA's objective is to support the state in stimulating and intensifying technological innovation to improve economic growth and the quality of life of all South Africans through the development and exploitation of technological innovations.

TIA extends an invitation to Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) with innovative clean technology solutions to submit applications for the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP-SA) annual business accelerator and competition. The GCIP-SA Accelerator offers extensive mentoring, training, access to investors, opportunities to showcase innovations to the market, and a chance to win a cash prize and an overseas trip to compete with the best innovators globally.

UNIDO launched the second phase of the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme GCIP 2.0 at COP 27 in November 2022. UNIDO sees innovation as key to mitigating and adapting to climate change. UNIDO provides a platform for technology transfer, investment mobilisation and climate partnerships to accelerate this process.

The guiding principle of UNIDO's activities is low-emission, climate-resilient development. This means promoting policies, technologies, and practices so that countries can take climate action and, in doing so, create millions of new, decent jobs.

UNDERPINNED BY THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES

- Pillar 1: Identifying, fostering, and developing cleantech innovations and businesses.
- Pillar 2: Ecosystem connectivity, policy and institutional framework strengthening.
- Pillar 3: Monitoring and evaluation and project coherence and coordination with other partner countries

GCIP-SA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Under the GCIP 2.0 Hubs and Spokes initiative, the Accelerator will be delivered in collaboration with nine cleantech implementing partners across South Africa. These include innovation hubs, universities, and business incubators that offer tailored acceleration support, mentorship, and access to networks and finance. The implementing partners for this year's Accelerator are:

- Mafikeng Digital Innovation Hub
- Start-Up Culture
- Impact Amplifier
- Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct
- Propella Business Incubator
- South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre
- Uyilo e-Mobility Programme
- University of Johannesburg: Process, Energy, and Environmental Technology Station
- Snake Nation

Working together with TIA, these implementing partners will support innovators across all nine provinces, ensuring wide-reaching access and localised support throughout the programme.

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES

- Water Efficiency
- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Waste Beneficiation
- Green Buildings
- Green Transportation
- Agritech
- Advanced Materials & Chemicals
- Environmental Protection (land, sea and air)

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

- New and ground-breaking technologies in the cleantech sector
- Adaptation of existing technologies; or use existing inbound technologies in unique applications.
- Have protectable Intellectual Property
- Demonstrate a feasible concept and product with potential for commercialisation.
- Technology stage: Proof of concept up to pre-commercialisation
- Registered South African Entity

TO APPLY

- Applications must be submitted online at <https://gcip.tech/>
- Applications are open to all South Africans, preference will be given to women, youth, persons with disabilities and black entrepreneurs from previously marginalised provinces.

CLOSING DATE

Entries close 10 July 2026

ENQUIRIES

For more information contact 012 472 2760 or send an email to cleantech@tia.org.za

