

TIA AT A GLANCE



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ABOUT TIA

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) is an entity of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). TIA promotes 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. In bridging the innovation chasm, TIA is an active funder, connector, facilitator and enabler.

Partnerships and collaborations are vital to TIA effectively fulfilling this role. TIA serves as the key national institutional intervention to facilitate the translation of South Africa's knowledge resources emanating from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Science Councils (SCs), other public entities, and the private sector into sustainable socio-economic opportunities.

TIA's mandate and role in the South African NSI aligns to the role of "Industry Builder". Industry Builders focus on transforming an economy by developing a specific set of new sectors or technologies such as green-tech, biotech, or nanotech industries. Activities that lead to the creation of innovative businesses are centred around making direct investments or providing funding for companies in selected sectors or industries, whilst also investing in the wider support 'ecosystem' for innovative businesses such as investments in incubators or accelerators.



VISION

Be a leading technology innovation agency that stimulates and supports technological innovation to improve the quality of life for all South Africans.



MISSION

Facilitate the translation of South Africa's knowledge resources into sustainable socio-economic opportunities.



TIA VALUES

Our values are **Teamwork, Professionalism, Excellence, Integrity, Transparency, Innovation.**

POSITIONING

TIA supports the realisation of the mandate by enabling the progression of ideas across the innovation value chain through:

- Providing risk funding to enable the exploitation of technological innovation
- Supporting the commercialisation of industry enhancing technologies
- Providing access to infrastructure, enabling innovators to develop new technologies
- Promoting innovation skills development initiatives between academic institutions and industry
- Enacting innovation related programmes targeting specific groupings to provide access to specialised equipment, technical experts, and workspace support.

ROLE OF TIA

In bridging the innovation chasm, TIA is an active funder, connector, facilitator and enabler.



SECTORS WE FUND

TIA enables and supports technology innovation across all sectors of the economy to deliver socio-economic benefits for South Africa and to enhance its global competitiveness.



Advanced Manufacturing

Supports the development of a knowledge economy in manufacturing by accelerating both the manufacturing capability and the knowledge intensity of the industry, and to increase and sustain competitiveness and innovation in South Africa's manufacturing industry.



Agriculture

Supports technologies with potential for commercialisation and that contribute towards competitive, sustainable and inclusive agriculture and agri-business value chains. This includes improving the diffusion of appropriate agricultural technologies to small-scale and emerging farmers.



Energy

Supports the development of an innovative, competitive and sustainable energy industry and South Africa's transition to a low carbon economy, contributing to the energy security of supply and the creation of emerging industries.



Health

Supports innovations to enhance South Africa's global competitiveness in the health arena and to deliver socio-economic value through technological innovation in healthcare products and services, addressing the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of priority disease areas in South Africa.



Information Communication Technology

Supports South African innovators in applying their skills to create new ICT services and products that present high potential of establishing sustainable social or commercial enterprises.



Natural Resources

Supports innovations to improve the competitiveness of mining, minerals, water resources, environmental and waste management sectors and to foster the development of new cutting-edge and knowledge intensive technologies.



Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Supports innovations to harness indigenous knowledge and ideas with a focus on African traditional medicines, IK-based cosmeceuticals, nutraceuticals, and health infusions to serve as a source for technology transfer and commercialisation opportunities.



Industrial Biotech

Supports innovations to make impact in sectors such as the chemicals sector and various bioprocessing industries to produce high-value products with commercial application in various sectors including cosmetics, mining, as well as crop and animal health

WHO WE FUND



UNIVERSITIES

To support researchers, students and facilitate the development and commercialisation of intellectual property generated from higher education institutions.



Science Councils and Research Institutions

To support and facilitate the development and commercialisation of intellectual property from publicly funded research and development to support creation of new industries, localisation, industry competitiveness.



SMMEs and Industry

To support businesses and facilitate the development and commercialisation of innovation from growth companies and newly established technology-based companies

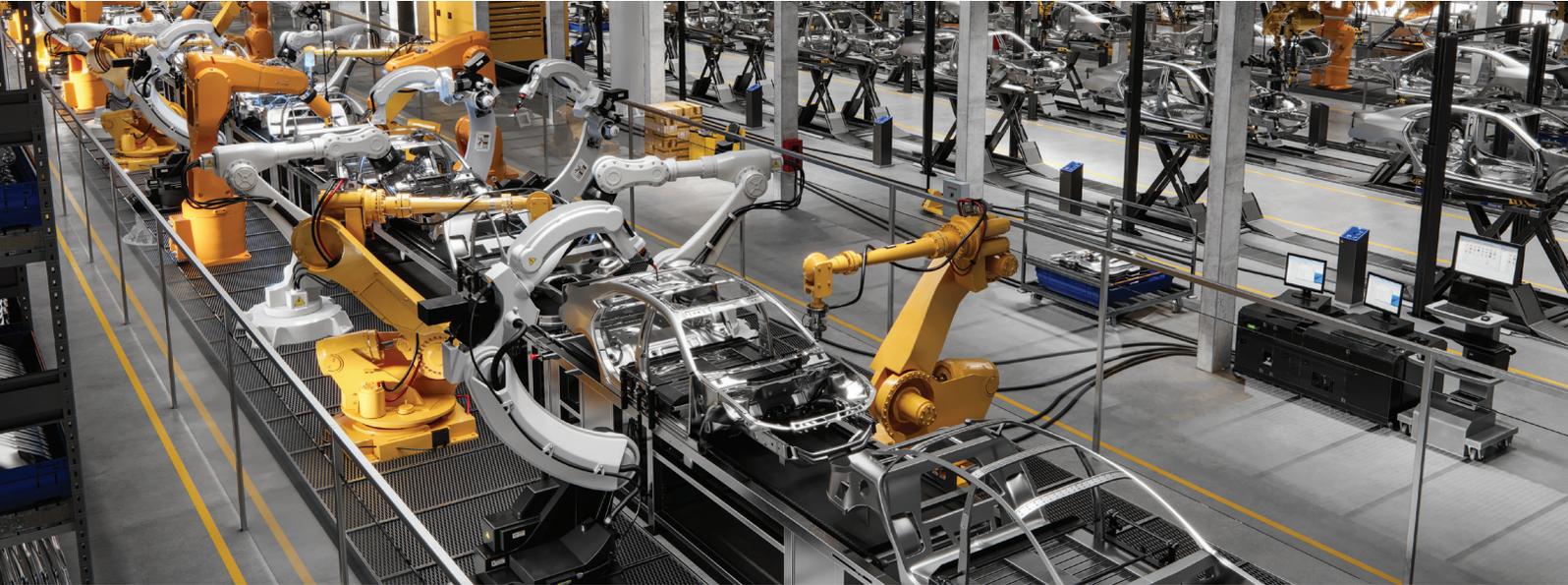


Grassroots Innovators

To support the innovators operating outside formal innovation institutions and have limited access to infrastructure.



FUNDING INSTRUMENTS



Technology Development Fund

The fund supports innovators to advance technologies along the innovation value chain, from prototype to technology demonstration. The fund is designed to make early stage technology development more attractive and less risky to the market, co-funding may be sourced from the private sector.

Pre-Commercialisation Support Fund

The fund prepares innovators for follow-on funding, through limited support for market testing and validation. TIA connects innovators with business and investment opportunities.



Seed Fund

The fund supports innovators at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Science Councils (SCs) and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to advance their research outputs into prototypes and fundable ideas for commercialisation. The Seed Fund enables innovators to de-risk research outputs for follow-on funding from TIA and other funders.

Industry Matching Fund

The purpose of the Industry Matching Fund Programme (IMFP) is to leverage TIA funding, through risk sharing with other funders and to attract industry participation that offers market access and incubation to TIA invested companies. The structure of the fund has made the journey of funding and access to markets easier for beneficiaries.



INNOVATION SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

01

Technology Stations Programme

Enables Universities of Technology to provide technology development services to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). There are 18 Technology Stations (TS) based at 11 Higher Education Institutions in South Africa, that focus on a range of services from agro-processing, chemicals, clothing & textile, automotive industry and tooling sector. These centres house technical experts with the requisite skills and expertise that render world class engineering services to SME's.

The goal of the Technology Stations Programme is to contribute towards improving the competitiveness of industry through the application of specialised knowledge and technology by facilitating the interaction between industry and academia, in order to enable innovation.

02

Technology Platforms Programme

Provides cutting-edge infrastructure, knowledge, and world-class expertise to the life- sciences industry as a means of developing the South African bioeconomy. They support innovative technical development through collaborative and service-based models in health, agriculture, industrial biotechnology and indigenous knowledge systems.

03

Innovation Skills Development Programme

Aims to enhance and advance the entrepreneurial and critical thinking skills of the individuals who embark on the entrepreneurial innovation journey. ISD also provides skills to enable technology progression from ideation to pre-commercialisation. Through Enterprise Development, the ISD aims to support the TIA pipeline of projects to enable the projects to become sustainable businesses that positively contribute to the advancement of existing industries, discovery and mining of potential new industries and markets which ultimately drives economic growth, job creation and a better life for all South Africans.

04

Global Cleantech Innovation Programme

TIA and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) co-implement the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa (GCIP-SA), with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The Programme aims to spur local innovations in energy efficiency, green buildings, renewable energy, waste beneficiation, water efficiency, and green transport.

COLLABORATION PROGRAMMES



1

Grassroots Innovation Programme

Targets community-based Innovators focusing on developing solutions for local challenges. GIP offers prototype development and business support.

2

Technology Acquisition and Deployment Fund

The TADF is intended to promote and enable the acquisition and deployment of locally developed technology solutions by government to enhance service delivery and address persistent socio-economic challenges. This would facilitate the commercialisation and market entry for South African innovations.

PARTNER WITH US

TIA operates within the National System of Innovation (NSI) made up of various stakeholders, including higher education institutions, science councils, industry bodies and entrepreneurs. Collaborations with various partners locally and internationally ensure that TIA finds innovative solutions to make social impact and improve the country's global competitive edge.



Universities

Supports researchers, students and facilitates the development and commercialisation of University/Higher Education Institutions generated/created intellectual property from publicly funded research and development. This is aimed at creating spinouts or university based start-ups towards the creation of new industries and fixing market challenges.



Research Upscale Programme

Supports the commercialisation of research outputs from historical funded research and development entities in collaboration with international funders.



Science Council Engagement Programme

Supports researchers, scientists, engineers and facilitate the development and commercialisation of science council generated/ created intellectual property from publicly funded research and development. This is aimed at supporting the creation of new industries, localisation, and industry competitiveness.



Bi-lateral R&D Programme

Funds and supports South Africans who collaborate with international funders



Eureka

Supports start-ups, SMMEs and industry and grassroots innovators



Innovation Support Intermediaries

Supports start-ups SMMEs and industry and grassroots innovators

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