science & innovation
Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

technology innovation
A G E N C Y
Innovating Tomorrow Together

Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), an entity of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) 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: DIGITAL ECONOMICS

PURPOSE OF THE CALL

TIA is calling for the submission of funding applications for Information and Communications Technologies Digital Economies Innovations. This call aims to support the develop and stimulate innovations based on the ICT/4IR/AI domain in support of the South African Digital Economy agenda. Solutions supported by this call are expected to stimulate development of local economy through, amongst others, digitisation, service delivery improvement and job creation. Applications are invited from any recognised South African legal entity, including start-up companies, small, medium and micro enterprises, private individuals, science councils and higher education institutions.

CALL SPECIFICATION

The technological focus areas / industrial sectors are as follows:
- ICT/4IR/AI based products and solutions supporting the country's digital economy agenda.
- ICT/4IR/AI based products and solutions supporting (cross-cutting) Agriculture (AgTech), Health (HealthTech and MedTech), Social Services and Education (EdTech).
- ICT/4IR/AI applications supporting the various local Smart Cities Model.
- FINTECH applications.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed against the following:

- Alignment with the priorities outlined in the Decadal Plan on Science, Technology and Innovation.
- Novelty of the proposed innovation.
- Capacity and ability to commercialise the innovation.
- Understanding of market need and how to address it.
- Impact (economic and/or social).
- Suitability and capacity of team to execute project plan.
- Localisation of core/key technologies.
- Co-funding or in-kind contributions from the applicant or other partners is preferred, particularly for applications relating to technology readiness level (TRL) 4 to 5 or higher.
- Preference will be given to women, youth, persons with disabilities, black entrepreneurs and applicants from underserved provinces.

Compulsory requirements:

- The technology or process development must be aligned with the technology focus area or industrial sectors as described above.
- Demonstrate a viable, feasible and sustainable business case.
- Demonstrate a positive socio-economic impact.
- Have a proof of concept, viz. an idea that has been proven, tested and validated, i.e. TRL 4 or higher.
- Ideally should Must have an industry partner.
- Applicants must declare all sources of previous funding received from the public sector.
- In the instance where the application relates to foreign-owned intellectual property, this will need to be licensed or assigned to the applicant before funding is approved.
- Primary technology development activities must be operated within South Africa.
- Applicants must attend a compulsory briefing session.

ELIGIBILITY

- Individual applicants must be South African citizens with valid identity documents.
- Must be registered or in a process of registering with the Companies and Intellectual Commission.
- Must be registered or in the process of registering on National Treasury's Central Supplier Database.

TIMELINES

Full applications submission deadline: **31 July 2024 at 17h00.**

Applications must be submitted on the following portal: **https://funding.tia.org.za/gateway** Late applications will not be accepted.

COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION

A compulsory briefing session will be conducted on Microsoft Teams (link will be shared upon RSVP) to facilitate and assist applicants in understanding the Call requirements. The briefing session will take place on **01 July 2024 from 10h00 to 13h00.**

Individuals that will be attending the compulsory briefing session, must send a confirmation email to   **customerservice@tia.org.za** by no later than **27 June 2024.**

ENQUIRIES

For further information regarding the call or the applications process, please contact **customerservice@tia.org.za**