



PRESS RELEASE

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TIA marks 15 Years of driving South Africa's innovation agenda

Pretoria, South Africa – For 15 years, the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), an entity of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) has stood at the forefront of South Africa's innovation ecosystem by supporting bold ideas, empowering visionary talent, and helping to build a future defined by possibility. From supporting emerging technologies to uplifting innovators, TIA's impact has been as diverse as it is transformative.

Established through the Technology Innovation Agency Act, No. 26 of 2008, TIA was created with the mandate to stimulate and support technological innovation in South Africa. Since inception, TIA has collaborated with government, industry, academia and entrepreneurs to build a robust foundation for a thriving innovation system in South Africa.

TIA has played a pivotal role in bridging the gap between research and commercialisation, providing funding and infrastructure support to innovators and start-ups across the country.

The 15th anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on TIA's journey while reaffirming the agency's ongoing commitment to advancing innovation in support of South Africa's development and socio-economic priorities.

"We remain focused on supporting innovation that responds to South Africa's challenges while positioning the country for global competitiveness. TIA has been central to advancing South Africa's innovation agenda over the past 15 years. Its work is aligned with government's priorities of inclusive economic growth, skills development, and the creation of industries through science, technology, and innovation. TIA's role in the National System of Innovation is vital to building a knowledge-based economy and securing a better future for all South Africans," says Loyiso Tyira, Board Chairperson of TIA.

Since inception, TIA has been instrumental in unlocking South Africa's innovation potential in various sectors of the economy. TIA has provided financial and non-financial support through its various programmes, Technology Stations, Technology Platforms and Technology Clusters. The agency has invested in high-impact innovation projects, with many resulting in viable commercial products, job creation, and improved quality of life for South Africans.

"South Africa's future depends on our ability to commercialise ideas and knowledge resources into sustainable socio-economic opportunities. Over the past decade and a half, TIA has played a catalytic role in translating research and innovations into market ready products and viable enterprises. In the past ten years TIA has commercialised 336 technologies in various sectors of the economy," said Ismail Abdoola, Acting Chief Executive Officer of TIA.

"Celebrating 15 years is not just a reflection of our longevity – it is testament to the resilience and brilliance of South African innovation. We are proud of the partnerships we've built, the technologies we've helped bring to life, and the role we continue to play in nurturing an inclusive, knowledge-based economy. As we enter this new chapter of TIA 2.0, we remain steadfast in our commitment to enabling innovation that serves South African citizens and the economy."

Partnerships have been central to this journey. Through collaborations with universities, science councils, private sector entities, and government, TIA has acted as a bridge between knowledge and market-ready solutions.

"These partnerships are not only about funding, they're about co-creation," Abdoola added. "We see ourselves as a partner in enabling the innovation process, walking alongside innovators to help them navigate risk, scale impact, and reach the market."

As South Africa continues to navigate complex economic, environmental, and technological challenges, TIA remains a beacon of possibility.

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“Innovation is a necessity. Our role as TIA is to ensure that the innovation ecosystem is not just functional, but thriving, inclusive and future-ready,” concluded Abdoola.

As the Agency steps boldly into its next phase, it invites all stakeholders, from grassroots innovators to global investors to join in co-creating a new innovation narrative: one that reflects the aspirations of a modern South Africa.

About the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)

- The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) is a public entity in South Africa that serves as the key institutional intervention to bridge the innovation chasm (gap) between research and development from higher education institutions, science councils, public entities, and private sector, and commercialisation (beneficiation).
- TIA was established in 2010 and has a national reach with offices in KwaZulu Natal, Western Cape and Gauteng. The main thrust of the mandate of TIA is funding and supporting innovative technologies that show potential to be commercialised. The organisation also has programmes that provide non-financial support to innovators and SMMEs.
- TIA is a catalyst and enabler of innovation through various partnership initiatives locally, in the African continent and globally.
- Read more at <https://www.tia.org.za/who-we-are/>

Issued by Alkemi Collective on behalf of the Technology Innovation Agency.

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