

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

1ST BRICS STI FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME INNOVATION CALL 2025

PURPOSE OF THE CALL

In pursuance of the XVI BRICS Summit Kazan Declaration this BRICS STI Framework Programme special action is aimed at building up new cooperative ties for high-tech and innovation driven institutions within BRICS. This is a critical catalyst for economic development and improved quality of life for people in the BRICS nations by allocation of funding for research and development.

The BRICS STI Framework Programme Member Organisations invite applicants from member countries to identify potential partners in other BRICS countries and to jointly prepare proposals for collaborative R&D projects addressing societal challenges through innovation. Applicants from each country must identify potential partners in other BRICS countries and to jointly prepare proposals for collaborative R&D projects addressing societal challenges through innovation. The call supports multinational R&D projects based on technology maturation, commercialisation, and market deployment across all technology areas. Project proposals must be based on validated, scalable, and demonstrated technologies.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Researchers, Innovators, SMME's, and Universities
- Partnerships involving at least 2 BRICS Countries

The joint application for funding must include, at least two principal parties one from South Africa and one from any other participating BRICS Member Organizations. Both parties must be legally registered entities in line with the prescribed legislations of South Africa and the other participating BRICS Member Organization.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following general evaluation criteria will be considered:

- Projects can run for up to 3 years and are designed to turn innovative ideas into impactful solutions
- Technical content, excellence and relevance of the proposals
- Credibility and consistency of the financial forecast
- Added value to be expected from the international collaboration and complementarities of Project consortium
- Expected impacts: e.g. technological, economic, societal

Each participating institution will fund according with its funding guidelines.

NON-FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

- Early-stage research projects
- Student bursaries, research projects and extended periods of work. Students can be contracted to perform specific tasks that are only directly related to the project
- Equipment, except for specialised equipment that is within the budget constraints and required to enable qualifying activities

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

For assessment criteria, project duration and project requirements, visit <http://ams.rfbr.ru/BRICS>

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORMS

This is a two-stage application process

1. Applicants must submit a national funding application to their respective national funding body.

For TIA applications, complete application form on:

<https://www.tia.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/BRICS-Joint-Call-Application-Form.docx>

Applications for TIA are to be submitted via email to tia-brics@tia.org.za.

2. Applicants must also submit the Joint Application Form (JAF) to the BRICS STI FP Secretariat via the online application submission tool by 15:00 (Moscow Time, UTC+3) on 5th of November 2025.

To submit the Joint Application Form (JAF), an online-submission form must be completed via the BRICS STI Framework Programme Application Management System (BRICS AMS) at <http://ams.rfbr.ru/BRICS>

The project coordinator should complete the following steps:

1. Register and log in on BRICS AMS,
2. Create a proposal for the 1st BRICS STI Framework Programme Innovation Call 2025.
3. Complete all the required fields and submit application

The online submission form fields are identical to the information provided in JAF template, however the completed JAF (in *PDF or *DOC format) must be uploaded in the “upload file” section of the online submission form.

Submission and timelines:

Commencement date: 28 August 2025

Closing date: 05 November 2025