



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

LIVING LABS PILOT PROGRAMME: NAMAKWA DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The DSTI and TIA invite funding applications from eligible implementing agents to establish a new Living Lab in the Namakwa Digital Hub, Namakwa District, Northern Cape province under the auspices of the DSTI Living Labs Programme.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Implementors who have a demonstrable track record of working in communities and have demonstrated the ability to deliver Innovation Support Programmes (ISP).
- The implementor must demonstrate competence in the development of ICT solutions and context-relevant innovative solutions that can create local economic opportunities.
- The implementor must demonstrate competence in collaborating with various local actors (especially local government, academia, communities, enterprises and innovators) to develop solutions that can create local economic opportunities.
- Applications will only be acceptable from organizations/entities with offices/ operations in the province.
- Living Labs currently funded through the Living Labs Pilot Programme are not eligible to apply.

INVESTMENT PARAMETERS

- Grant funding up to a maximum of R3.5 million.
- The duration of the project shall be for a maximum period of 24 months

FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

The following is a list of fundable activities:

- ISP for a minimum of 35 LED focused innovations (inclusive of stipends for beneficiaries) – 80% of the beneficiaries must be youth, 50% must be women and 5% must be people with disabilities. The funding will provide support for 30 innovations, and the implementing agent is expected to raise co-funding for the additional five innovators.
- Application of the quadruple-helix living labs methodology to co-create five systemic/spatial local economic development solutions. It is expected that the implementing agent co-funds this initiative.

NON-FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

The following is a list of non-fundable activities:

- Operational activities not related to innovation activities (e.g., short literacy courses for health care practitioners).
- Research projects.
- Student bursaries, research projects and extended periods of work.
- Office equipment (printers, furniture etc.), except for specialised equipment that is within the budget constraints and required to enable innovation activities.
- Infrastructure development such as buildings, ICT infrastructure, electric power supply, ablution facilities, security etc.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

MINIMUM CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED:

- Innovation Support Programme has been clearly articulated.
- Targeted beneficiaries (geographic location, marginalised communities, youth innovative enterprises).
- Local community need has been identified and clearly articulated.
- Application of the quadruple helix methodology has been clearly articulated.
- Compliance with the specifications of this call for proposals.
- A broad sustainability plan for the living lab has been articulated.

OTHER CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED

- The proposal meets the requirements for funding as per fundable activities.
- The proposal represents an active quadruple-helix collaboration with the community, local innovator/s, industry, local government and academia/scientist.
- The project timeline is feasible given the scope of the project.
- A clear, relevant community or systemic local economy need in marginalized communities has been articulated.
- The outcomes will contribute to an innovation pipeline with innovation outputs that address systemic community needs and advance the economic development of that particular locality.
- The amount of funding that could potentially be attracted/leveraged from other partners beyond TIA funding.
- The team capabilities.
- The governance, financial and operational systems are in place to manage and account for the grant.

CLOSING DATE

The completed proposals must be submitted by email to Ms Karabo Sibiya via email on karabo.sibiya@tia.org.za on or before **20 November 2025** at 23.59pm. Late applications will not be accepted.

ENQUIRIES

For further information regarding the call for proposals, please contact Ms Karabo Sibiya via email on karabo.sibiya@tia.org.za.



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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

LIVING LABS PILOT PROGRAMME

The DSTI and TIA invite funding applications from eligible implementing agents to establish a new Living Lab in the Free State Province under the auspices of the DSTI Living Labs Programme.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Implementors who have a demonstrable track record of working in communities and have demonstrated the ability to deliver Innovation Support Programmes (ISP).
- The implementor must demonstrate competence in the development of ICT solutions and context-relevant innovative solutions that can create local economic opportunities.
- The implementor must demonstrate competence in collaborating with various local actors (especially local government, academia, communities, enterprises and innovators) to develop solutions that can create local economic opportunities.
- The implementor must have identified and secured facilities where they can undertake innovation support activities.
- Applications will only be acceptable from organizations/entities with offices/ operations in the Free State province.
- Living Labs currently funded through the Living Labs Pilot Programme are not eligible to apply.

INVESTMENT PARAMETERS

- Grant funding up to a maximum of R3,9 million.
- The duration of the project shall be for a maximum period of 24 months.

FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

The following is a list of fundable activities:

- Setting up a lab into a creative space.
- ISP for a minimum of 35 LED focused innovations (inclusive of stipends for beneficiaries) – 80% of the beneficiaries must be youth, 50% must be women and 5% must be people with disabilities. The funding will provide support for 30 innovations, and the implementing agent is expected to raise co-funding for the additional five innovators.
- Application of the quadruple-helix living labs methodology to co-create five systemic/spatial local economic development solutions. It is expected that the implementing agent co-funds this initiative.

NON-FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

The following is a list of non-fundable activities:

- Operational activities not related to innovation activities (e.g., short literacy courses for health care practitioners).
- Research projects.
- Student bursaries, research projects and extended periods of work.
- Office equipment (printers, furniture etc.), except for specialised equipment that is within the budget constraints and required to enable innovation activities.
- Infrastructure development such as buildings, ICT infrastructure, electric power supply, ablution facilities, security etc.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

MINIMUM CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED:

- The Innovation Support Programme has been clearly articulated.
- Targeted beneficiaries (geographic location, marginalised communities, youth innovative enterprises).
- Local community need has been identified and clearly articulated.
- Application of the quadruple helix methodology has been clearly articulated.
- Compliance with the specifications of this call for proposals.
- A broad sustainability plan for the living lab has been articulated.

OTHER CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED

- The proposal meets the requirements for funding as per fundable activities.
- The proposal represents an active quadruple-helix collaboration with the community, local innovator/s, industry, local government and academia/scientist.
- The project timeline is feasible given the scope of the project.
- A clear, relevant community or systemic local economy need in marginalized communities has been articulated.
- The outcomes will contribute to an innovation pipeline with innovation outputs that address systemic community needs and advance the economic development of that particular locality.
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