



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF INNOVATION UNDER THE SECTOR BUDGET SUPPORT (SBS) PROGRAMME BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. BACKGROUND

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) seeks to boost socio-economic development in South Africa through research and innovation. To achieve its goals, the Department provides leadership, an enabling environment and resources for science, technology and innovation.

The SBS Programme under the International Innovation Support Actions is aimed at supporting learnings from different approaches to facilitate the creation of social or commercial value for Research and Development (R&D) outputs or the translation of those R&D outputs into adopted policy, social and/or commercial value. These may originate from International Cooperation Programmes, in particular from the collaborative cooperation in the European Union (EU) Framework Programme for R&D.

South African researchers within the National System of Innovation (NSI) from Academia, science councils, NGOs and the private sector who completed projects funded under the EU Framework Programmes (FP), e.g. (FP6, FP7 and Horizon 2020) are invited to submit proposals for funding of their projects. These proposals should be from the results of completed projects with international partners, which can be escalated to the next level in order to ensure maximum impact.

The escalation/development of projects refers to:

- Scaling up towards market readiness;
- Policy advice (evidence-based policy making); and
- Business support and development.

2. SCOPE OF THE CALL

The call is open to all South African researchers who participated and completed projects from the previous Framework Programmes (FP) i.e. (FP6, FP7 and H2020). Applicants are invited to submit research and innovation project proposals which are related to a closed project as per **paragraph 1** above. Each applicant researcher or SME is required to submit only one proposal in one of the following categories:

2.1 Scaling Up Towards Market Readiness

- The project idea, product, process or service must be innovative, market-driven, result oriented and there must be a technological risk involved. There must at least be a proof of concept in place (e.g. prototype);
- The project should have an obvious advantage and benefit resulting from the technological cooperation between the participants, (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure etc);
- The project should benefit all involved partners in a well-balanced consortium (No single organisation can be responsible for more than 70% of the project budget);
- The project should generate an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the technological cooperation between the participants (new technologies, standardisation, prototyping, field trials, new or improved products, increased knowledge, access to R&D infrastructure etc.);
- Economic and Societal benefits to be obtained (where relevant) must be highlighted in the project proposal.
- Participation by international partners is allowed, funding can be negotiated with the SA partner(s). Participation by international partners with own funding would be preferred.
- Inclusion of Historically Disadvantaged Institutions/individuals is strongly encouraged
- **Budget: maximum R5 000 000 per project.**

2.2 Policy-advice and demonstration

- The project, process or service must be innovative and able to influence policy direction in the specific thematic area to enhance the research that has already been done – possible research on expanding some elements to ultimately giving advice that could help policy makers;
- The demonstration must be novel to the environment but in line with the objectives of the original project;
- The project should benefit all involved partners in a well-balanced consortium (No single organisation can be responsible for more than 70% of the project budget);
- The proposal should be able to clearly define possible policy changes/amendments in line with government rules and regulations.
- Participation by international partners is allowed, funding can be negotiated with the SA partner(s). Participation by international partners with own funding would be preferred.
- Inclusion of Historically Disadvantaged Institutions/individuals is strongly encouraged
- **Budget: Maximum R1 500 000 per project.**

2.3 Partnership building and business support

- Applicants do not need to submit funding proposal for this category;
- **This category will consist of proposals that were excellent but not approved to qualify for funding from the scaling up towards market readiness or policy-advice categories;**
- Proposals must provide an in-depth business plan with milestones to translate the results of the project to enhance collaboration and forming of international partnerships therefore enabling the opportunity to apply for funding on future international opportunities;
- **Budget: maximum R500 000 per business plan for support.**

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Researchers/Companies from South Africa who successfully completed projects funded under the European Union Framework Programmes, e.g. (FP6, FP7 and Horizon 2020- including ERANETS and the EDCTP).
- Project should be implemented within South Africa. Participation by international partners is allowed, funding can be negotiated with the SA partner(s). Participation by international partners with own funding would be preferred.
- Inclusion of Historically Disadvantaged Institutions/individuals is strongly encouraged.
- A signed Consortium Agreement is mandatory before the actual start of the project. The agreement should at least include the ownership and use of know-how and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) settlements where applicable.
- The project idea, product, process or service must be innovative with relevance to the completed project;
- **Duration of the project may not exceed 24 months (2 years);**
- The project should benefit all involved partners in a well-balanced consortium (No single organisation can be responsible for more than 70% of the project budget)It is the responsibility of the South African applicant to obtain consent/permission in writing from initial project partners to approve the utilization of results as appropriate with the work on the project. If such a document is not available on submission of the proposal, the proposal will not be rejected outright, however such written consent will be required before evaluation of the project;
- **The inclusion of women, emerging researchers and youth innovators is strongly encouraged.**
- Please note that only the following eight universities will be recognized as historically disadvantaged in line with the Department of Higher Education and Training November 2015 Ministerial Statement on university funding:
 - 1) University of Limpopo (UL)
 - 2) University of Fort Hare (UFH)
 - 3) University of Venda (Univen)
 - 4) Walter Sisulu University (WSU)
 - 5) University of the Western Cape (UWC)
 - 6) University of Zululand (UniZulu)
 - 7) Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT)
 - 8) Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU)
- Historically Disadvantaged Institutions and Individuals also refers to: SMEs owned by Black and Female Individuals.

4. ELIGIBLE COSTS

Each project proposal will go through a financial assessment process to finalise the exact funding. The funding will be transferred in tranches in accordance with the project duration. The following costs will be covered;

Costs of personnel

DSI will cover personnel costs including MSc and PhD bursaries to be incurred over the duration of the project implementation

Travel and Daily subsistence allowance including accommodation

The DSI will cover travel costs in line with the guidelines of South African government regulations.

Consumables and supplies

Any consumables necessary for the implementation of the project.

Equipment

Equipment needed for the project should be justified and reasonable.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

Proposal template will be accessed on the following link: <https://esastap.org.za/call-for-proposals-sbs/>

Call timelines:

No	Activity	Date
1.	Publish call	31 August 2022
2.	Closing date for the submission of proposals Late submissions will not be accepted	31 October 2022 @18h00 CAT
3.	DSI Review and selection process complete	30 November 2022
4.	Communication with successful applicants	From 15 December 2022

For further enquiries please send an email to contact@esastap.org.za .