

# Expression of Interest

## Hosting a Biomanufacturing and Bioprocessing Innovation Platform

### Applicant Information Pack

#### **SAVax Programme**

*Vaccines for Africa: Roll-out and Production of Vaccines in South Africa*

*A joint initiative of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Sartorius South Africa (Pty) Ltd, in partnership with the South African Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI).*

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# 1. Background

The [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini](#) implements the SAVax programme (Vaccines for Africa: Roll-out and Production of Vaccines in South Africa) on behalf of the [Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung \(BMZ\)](#) and the European Union. SAVax is therefore integral to the implementation of the [Team Europe Initiative MAV+ \(Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technology Africa\)](#) in South Africa and extends from ongoing efforts by the EU and BMZ for sustainable production of vaccines and their distribution in South Africa. The programme is implemented in cooperation with the Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation (DSTI) and the Department of Health (DoH). The programme's overall objective is to support the implementation of South Africa's plans to increase local manufacturing of vaccines, medicines, and health technologies, improving access for the population. The specific objectives are to: support the enabling environment for local pharmaceutical and health technologies production through research, development, and skills development; strengthen the regulatory environment; and support the demand and supply of locally produced health goods.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2025, GIZ and Sartorius signed a global Memorandum of Understanding at the Sartorius campus in Göttingen, Germany. The Memorandum establishes a framework for collaboration on the integration of Sartorius expertise, equipment and training in emerging and developing markets, covering biologics, upstream and downstream process development, workforce development, and the strengthening of pharmaceutical value chains. Under this global framework South Africa has been identified as a key market for localised implementation. The initiative described in this document is the first concrete activity arising from that decision.

South Africa's biotechnology ecosystem is characterised by a small number of well-established manufacturers with strong infrastructure and resources, alongside substantial research and development capacity distributed across academic institutions, science councils, and university-based incubators and accelerators. Despite this foundation, a critical gap persists in the innovation pipeline. A growing number of biotechnology start-ups and small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) are emerging from this research base, yet they face limited access to the process development and pre-commercial scale-up infrastructure required to move validated laboratory results through process development and optimisation, towards scale-up and, ultimately, to market access. This gap, between demonstrated research capability and commercial readiness, is commonly described as the "missing middle". It is the gap that this initiative is designed to address.

The GIZ SAVax programme and Sartorius South Africa in partnership with the DSTI, invite Expressions of Interest from South African entities wishing to host a centralised biomanufacturing and bioprocessing innovation platform. The platform will place upstream and downstream bioprocessing equipment, together with associated training and technical assistance, with a host entity that will make the capability available to biotechnology SMMEs in the wider ecosystem.

## 2. Key Information

| Item                                                                                                                        | Detail                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                              | Selection of a host entity for a centralised biomanufacturing and bioprocessing innovation platform serving biotechnology SMMEs in South Africa.                                                                                               |
| <b>Nature of Support</b>                                                                                                    | Predominantly in-kind. Bioprocessing equipment placed, free of charge, on loan, by Sartorius South Africa, together with service level agreements, consumables, training and technical assistance. See section 3. The Opportunity.             |
| <b>Eligible applicants</b>                                                                                                  | Legally registered South African entities that are existing biotechnology innovation hubs, incubators, accelerators, research platforms, or institutions demonstrably supporting biotechnology SMMEs. See section 5. Eligibility Requirements. |
| <b>Initial Term</b>                                                                                                         | Twelve (12) months from equipment installation, under a Loan Agreement, with the possibility of extension subject to review.                                                                                                                   |
| <b>EOI Launch</b>                                                                                                           | 15 September 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Queries</b>                                                                                                              | <a href="mailto:savaxjointaction@giz.de">savaxjointaction@giz.de</a>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Deadline for queries</b>                                                                                                 | 01 October 2026, 17:00 SAST                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Closing date</b>                                                                                                         | 06 October 2026, 17:00 SAST                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Award notification</b>                                                                                                   | 20 October 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Equipment placement</b>                                                                                                  | From December 2026, following needs assessment and conclusion of the Loan Agreement                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Submission platform</b>                                                                                                  | <a href="#">KoboToolbox</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <i>These timelines are indicative and provided for planning purposes. Any changes will be published on the GIZ website.</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

### 3. The Opportunity

#### What the Host Entity Will Receive

The successful host entity will receive a package of support assembled by Sartorius South Africa and GIZ. The precise composition of the equipment package will be confirmed following a needs assessment conducted jointly with the successful applicant. Below is an indication of the support.

| Provided by Sartorius South Africa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Provided by GIZ                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstration equipment for upstream (UPS) and downstream (DSP) process development, placed under a 12-month Loan Agreement.</li><li>• Indicative scope includes bioreactor systems, tangential flow filtration, chromatography, HPLC, and bio-layer interferometry.</li><li>• Training on bioprocessing and on the specific equipment for nominated host entity staff, delivered in South Africa, and/or at the Sartorius Application Centre in Göttingen.</li><li>• Training on bioprocessing for between eight and ten SMME beneficiary entities.</li><li>• Introduction of the host entity and participating SMMEs to the Sartorius client and partner network, to encourage partnership, knowledge exchange and market development.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The means for attaining service level agreements covering installation, servicing, maintenance and repair of the equipment placed at the host entity.</li><li>• The means for attaining essential bioprocessing consumables to support the operational capacity of the platform during the initial period.</li><li>• Travel and accommodation support for nominated SMME beneficiaries and host entity staff to attend training in South Africa and/or abroad.</li><li>• Technical assistance to the host entity and to beneficiary SMMEs, with scope to be determined jointly following award.</li></ul> |

#### What is Expected of the Host Entity

The host entity is a partner in this initiative. The following obligations will be reflected in the agreements concluded with the successful applicant.

- **Provide** and maintain suitable, secure laboratory space for the equipment for the duration of the loan period, and bear the associated facility running costs, including electricity, water, security, and insurance.
- **Release** nominated permanent staff to be trained, in South Africa and/or abroad, and retain a named technical lead and equipment custodian for the duration.
- **Operate** an open, documented and transparent process through which biotechnology SMMEs apply for and are granted access to the platform.
- **Provide** technical supervision, induction and safe operation of the equipment by third-party users (SMMEs).
- **Host** equipment demonstrations, training events and client engagements by Sartorius at the site, on reasonable notice.
- **Participate** in defining key performance indicators, and report against them at agreed intervals to GIZ, Sartorius, and DSTI. These are likely to include, but not limited to; Number of SMMEs supported, Number of personnel trained, Geographic distribution of beneficiaries, Participation of women-led and black-owned enterprises.
- **Contribute** to the joint planning of subsequent project phases, including the pathway towards institutionalisation of the platform.

- **Comply with** the visibility and communications requirements set out in the 7. Rules and General Provisions.

## 4. Timeline and Process

### Indicative Timeline

| Date                  | Stage          | What happens                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 September 2026     | Launch         | Call published on the GIZ website. <a href="#">KoboToolbox</a> application form opens.                                                             |
| 01 October 2026       | Query deadline | Final date for written queries. Questions of general application and their answers are published to all applicants.                                |
| 06 October 2026       | Closing        | Applications close at 17:00 SAST. The <a href="#">KoboToolbox</a> form closes. Late submissions cannot be accepted.                                |
| 07 to 19 October 2026 | Evaluation     | Eligibility screening, technical scoring by the Selection Committee, clarification calls and site visits where required, and moderation of scores. |
| 20 October 2026       | Award          | Applicants are notified in writing about outcome of their application.                                                                             |
| From November 2026    | Implementation | Needs assessment, conclusion of the Loan Agreement, equipment placement and commissioning, followed by initial training.                           |

### Evaluation Process

#### Step 1

Eligibility screening. Every submission is checked against the mandatory requirements in the 5. Eligibility Requirements. This is a pass or fail assessment and is not scored. Applications that do not meet eligibility requirements will not move forward to evaluation by the selection committee.

#### Step 2

Technical scoring. Eligible applications are scored independently by each member of the Selection Committee against the weighted criteria in the 6. Technical Scoring and Selection.

#### Step 3

Clarification, where required, including possible interviews and site visits. The Committee may seek written clarification, convene a short interview, or conduct a site visit to verify the infrastructure described. Applicants should therefore be available during the evaluation period.

#### Step 4

Recommendation and award. The Committee recommends the highest-ranked applicant that meets the minimum thresholds in the 6. Technical Scoring and Selection. Award is subject to the successful conclusion of the needs assessment and the relevant agreements.

## 5. Eligibility Requirements

The following requirements are mandatory. They are assessed on a pass or fail basis before any scoring takes place. An application that does not satisfy every requirement will be excluded from further consideration, regardless of its merits in other respects. Applicants are strongly advised to confirm each item before submitting.

| Requirement                                                                                                                                                                            | Evidence required                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The applicant is a legal entity registered in South Africa.                                                                                                                            | Certificate of registration or incorporation; founding or enabling legislation for statutory entities.                   |
| The applicant is an existing biotechnology innovation hub, incubator, accelerator, research platform or institution that demonstrably supports biotechnology SMMEs or start-ups.       | Narrative in the application, supported by evidence of entities supported over the past thirty-six (36) months.          |
| The applicant can make available dedicated laboratory space suitable for the installation and operation of bioprocessing equipment, available to receive equipment from December 2026. | Description of the space, floor plan or photographs, and a signed statement of availability from the accounting officer. |
| The proposed site has reliable electricity, including a backup arrangement, together with potable and purified water, drainage and appropriate ventilation.                            | Description of utilities and backup provision in the application.                                                        |
| The applicant employs at least one permanent staff member with a biotechnology, biomanufacturing, or biopharmaceutical background who will act as nominated technical lead.            | Curriculum vitae of the nominated technical lead, maximum two (2) pages.                                                 |
| The applicant is located in, or is readily accessible from, an urban centre, such that biotechnology SMMEs and existing and prospective Sartorius clients can reach the site.          | Physical address and a brief statement on accessibility.                                                                 |
| The applicant is willing to host equipment demonstrations, training and client engagements by Sartorius at the site on reasonable notice.                                              | Declaration in the application form.                                                                                     |
| A complete application, including all mandatory supporting documents, is submitted through <a href="#">KoboToolbox</a> by the closing date and time.                                   | Automatic.                                                                                                               |

## 6. Technical Scoring and Selection

### Approach

Applications that pass the 5. Eligibility Requirements are scored against six weighted criteria. Applicants are encouraged to read the criterion definitions and the guiding prompts in detail. The prompts indicate what the Selection Committee is looking for; they are not a rigid question list, but an application that leaves a prompt unaddressed is likely to score below an application that addresses it with evidence.

### Summary of Criteria and Weightings

| Criterion                                                     | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Weighting  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Institutional Fit &amp; Ecosystem Position (500 words)</b> | <p><b>Definition</b></p> <p>The extent to which the applicant is already established as a biotechnology innovation hub, incubator, accelerator, or research platform, and the extent to which it already serves, or demonstrably reaches, biotechnology SMMEs, and/or start-ups within the South African ecosystem. This criterion assesses whether the platform would be placed into a functioning environment with existing users, rather than one that must first be built.</p> <p><b>Guiding prompts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe your organisation's support already given to biotechnology SMMEs or start-ups: the number of entities supported over the past thirty-six months, the nature of that support, and what came of it.</li> <li>• Describe existing partnerships with universities, science councils, industry, funders, and government, and their relevance to this platform.</li> <li>• Explain how hosting this platform aligns with your organisational strategy and identify where it is already reflected in your institutional plans.</li> <li>• Identify the demand you expect the platform to serve, and the basis for that expectation.</li> </ul> | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>Technical &amp; Human Capacity (500 words)</b>             | <p><b>Definition</b></p> <p>The depth and relevance of in-house scientific and technical expertise in biotechnology, biomanufacturing, or biopharmaceutical process development, and the applicant's demonstrated ability to operate, maintain and supervise the safe use of bioprocessing and laboratory equipment. This criterion carries the highest weighting because the value of the platform depends on the competence of the people who will run it.</p> <p><b>Guiding prompts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List the permanent staff who will be involved in the platform, with qualifications, years of relevant experience related to upstream and downstream bioprocessing.</li> <li>• Identify the nominated technical lead and the nominated equipment custodian and confirm the proportion of their time to be allocated.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>25%</b> |

| Criterion                                                      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Weighting  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
|                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe prior experience operating comparable equipment, including bioreactor systems, tangential flow filtration, chromatography, HPLC and analytical instrumentation.</li> <li>Describe your laboratory quality management arrangements, standard operating procedures, calibration and maintenance practices, and health and safety governance.</li> <li>Confirm your capacity to release nominated staff for training in South Africa and/or abroad.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |            |
| <b>Infrastructure Readiness (500 words)</b>                    | <p><b>Definition</b></p> <p>The physical readiness of the proposed site to receive, install and operate the equipment from the fourth quarter of 2026, including space, utilities, environmental control, security, and insurance, together with the applicant's ability to sustain the associated running costs.</p> <p><b>Guiding prompts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the proposed laboratory space: area in square metres, benching, services, and current use. Attach a floor plan or photographs.</li> <li>Confirm the availability and reliability of electricity, including backup or generator arrangements, together with potable and purified water, compressed air, gases, and drainage.</li> <li>Describe environmental controls, including temperature, humidity and ventilation, and any additional elements available.</li> <li>Describe physical security, access control, and the insurance arrangements that would cover high-value equipment held on loan.</li> <li>State the earliest date on which the space could receive equipment, and identify any preparatory work required before that date.</li> </ul> | <b>20%</b> |
| <b>SMME Access &amp; Platform Management Model (500 words)</b> | <p><b>Definition</b></p> <p>The credibility, transparency and practicality of the proposed model for making the platform available to third-party biotechnology SMMEs, including how access is applied for, prioritised, scheduled, and supervised.</p> <p><b>Guiding prompts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the process by which a biotechnology SMME would apply for and be granted access to the platform.</li> <li>Explain how you will select and prioritise between competing applicants transparently, and how you will manage the conflict of interest that arises where your own portfolio companies or affiliated entities apply.</li> <li>Describe scheduling, user induction and technical supervision arrangements.</li> <li>Give an indicative target for the number of SMMEs to be served in the first twelve months, and the basis for that target.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>20%</b> |

| Criterion                                                            | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Weighting   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Sustainability &amp; Institutionalisation Pathway (300 words)</b> | <p><b>Definition</b></p> <p>The strength of the applicant's plan to sustain and grow the platform beyond the initial twelve-month loan period, and its realistic potential to develop into a national core facility for bioprocessing accessible to the broader South African biotechnology ecosystem.</p> <p><b>Guiding prompts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how the platform would be sustained after the initial loan period, including cost recovery, institutional budget commitment or co-funding.</li> <li>• Identify the principal risks to sustainability and the measures you would take to mitigate them.</li> </ul> | <b>10%</b>  |
| <b>Inclusion, Transformation &amp; Ecosystem Reach (300 words)</b>   | <p><b>Definition</b></p> <p>Measures to ensure that the platform benefits a broad and representative cross-section of the South African biotechnology ecosystem, rather than a narrow group of established users already close to the host entity.</p> <p><b>Guiding prompts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the measures you would take to ensure access for women-led, youth-led and black-owned biotechnology enterprises.</li> <li>• Describe how you would reach SMMEs beyond your immediate institutional network and, where relevant, beyond your own province.</li> </ul>                                                  | <b>10%</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>100%</b> |

## 7. Rules and General Provisions

### General

Participation in this Expression of Interest is free of charge, and applicants bear their own costs of preparing and submitting an application. No costs incurred in connection with an application will be reimbursed, whether or not the application is successful.

The issue of this Expression of Interest does not oblige GIZ or Sartorius to make an award. Award is subject to the successful conclusion of a needs assessment, the internal approvals of the GIZ, Sartorius, and the DSTI, the conclusion of the relevant agreements, including a Loan Agreement in respect of the equipment.

### Number of Applications

- **An** applicant may submit no more than one application under this call.
- **An entity** may not appear as a partner or co-applicant on more than one application.
- **Where multiple** applications received from the same applicant, the last complete submission received before the closing time will be assessed.

### Conflict of Interest

Applicants must not be affected by any conflict of interest, and must disclose any existing or prospective commercial, financial or personal relationship with GIZ, Sartorius, or DSTI. Disclosure does not in itself disqualify an applicant; non-disclosure will. Any attempt by an applicant to obtain confidential information about the evaluation, to enter into unlawful agreements with competitors, or to influence the Committee, will result in exclusion.

### Ethics and Code of Conduct

Applicants and their staff must comply with applicable human rights obligations, environmental legislation, and core labour standards. Applicants must comply with all applicable laws, regulations and codes relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption. GIZ and/or Sartorius reserve the right to suspend or cancel participation where corrupt practices of any kind are suspected, and to recover any amounts disbursed.

### Rights of Use and Intellectual Property

Intellectual property generated by third-party users of the platform in the course of their own work remains the property of those users. The host entity is responsible for putting in place appropriate agreements with users to that effect, and for protecting the confidentiality of user data and materials.

For the purpose of documenting results for public-benefit purposes, the host entity grants GIZ and Sartorius a non-exclusive, royalty-free right to use reports, images and non-confidential project results produced under this initiative. This right does not extend to the confidential technical or commercial information of third-party users of the platform.

### Visibility and Communications

The host entity must take reasonable steps to publicise the fact that the initiative is supported by GIZ, on behalf of the BMZ and co-financed by the European Union under the Team Europe Initiative MAV+, together with Sartorius and the DSTI. All public communications, signage and publications relating to the platform must be agreed in advance with GIZ, Sartorius and DSTI, and must carry the appropriate logos and acknowledgements.

## **Data Protection**

Information submitted in an application will be processed by GIZ, Sartorius, and DSTI for the purposes of evaluation and award only, and will be treated as confidential. Applications will be retained in accordance with GIZ record-keeping requirements. Personal information is processed in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA). By submitting an application, the applicant consents to this processing.

## **Reservation of Rights**

GIZ, Sartorius, and DSTI reserve the right, at their sole discretion and without liability, to amend the terms or timelines of this Expression of Interest, to request clarification or additional information from any applicant, to conduct site visits, to cancel the process in whole or in part, to make no award, or to re-issue the call on amended terms. Any change of substance will be communicated to all applicants and published on the GIZ website.

## 8. Application and Submission

### Submission Platform

Applications must be submitted through the [KoboToolbox](#) online application platform. Submissions by email, or through any other mechanism cannot be accepted.

The form may be saved as a draft and completed over several sessions. Only submissions that have been finalised and uploaded before the closing time will be assessed. Applicants are strongly advised not to leave submission to the final hours.

### Structure of the Application Form

The form has seven sections and is designed to be completed in approximately two to three hours by an applicant that has the required information on hand. Indicative word limits are shown; these are upper limits, with concise answers being preferred.

| # | Section                                    | Content                                                                                                         | Indicative length                       |
|---|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 | Instructions and Declarations              | Eligibility declarations; conflict of interest disclosure.                                                      | <i>No narrative</i>                     |
| 2 | Applicant Details                          | Legal name and registration, physical address, entity type, contact person, and nominated technical lead.       | <i>No narrative</i>                     |
| 3 | Institutional Profile & Ecosystem Position | Role in the ecosystem, evidence of SMMEs supported, partnerships, and strategic alignment.                      | <i>500 words</i>                        |
| 4 | Technical Capacity & Personnel             | Staff, qualifications, prior equipment experience, quality management, health and safety, and training release. | <i>500 words plus CVs</i>               |
| 5 | Infrastructure & Facilities                | Space, utilities, backup power, environmental control, security, insurance and running costs.                   | <i>500 words plus floor plan/photos</i> |
| 6 | SMME Access & Platform Management          | Access and application process, prioritisation, conflict management, induction and supervision, usage targets.  | <i>300 words</i>                        |
| 7 | Sustainability & Inclusion                 | Post-loan sustainability, funder relationships, institutionalisation, risks, and inclusion measures.            | <i>300 words</i>                        |

## Queries

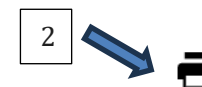
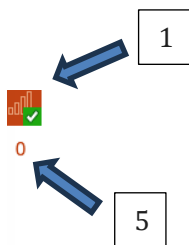
Written queries may be directed to [savaxjointaction@giz.de](mailto:savaxjointaction@giz.de) until 17:00 SAST on 01 October 2026. Questions of general application, and their answers, will be published to all applicants without identifying the questioner. No response will be given to queries received after the deadline.

## 9. Frequently Asked Questions

| Question                                                                       | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>How many host entities will be selected?</b>                                | One. The initiative is deliberately structured around a single centralised platform so that a critical mass of equipment, training and technical assistance is concentrated in one place rather than dispersed.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Is this a grant? How much money will the host entity receive?</b>           | The support is predominantly in-kind, comprising equipment on loan, there is provision for the means to attain service level agreements, consumables, training, and technical assistance.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Who owns the equipment?</b>                                                 | The equipment remains the property of Sartorius South Africa throughout and is placed with the host entity under an initial 12-month Loan Agreement. The host entity is responsible for its custody, safe operation and insurance.                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>What happens at the end of the twelve months?</b>                           | The arrangement will be reviewed jointly by GIZ, Sartorius, DSTI and the host entity. Continuation, extension or an alternative arrangement will be determined at that point, informed by performance against the agreed indicators.                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>May a consortium apply?</b>                                                 | A single legal entity must be identified as the applicant and prospective host, because the equipment is placed at one site under one agreement. Applicants are nonetheless encouraged to describe partnerships.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Can the host entity charge SMMEs for access to the platform?</b>            | No. A cost-recovery fee model is not permitted at this stage for access to the platform. Applicants should set out their future proposed cost-recovery model under the Sustainability and Inclusion portion of the application, explaining how affordability for early-stage enterprises is preserved. A model that in practice excludes the intended beneficiaries will score poorly. |
| <b>May we apply if our laboratory space is not yet built or refurbished?</b>   | The equipment is scheduled for placement from October 2026, so the space must be available to receive it. An application contingent on future capital works will score poorly on that criterion.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Will there be a site visit?</b>                                             | Possibly. The Selection Committee may conduct site visits during the evaluation period, to verify the infrastructure described. Applicants should be available for a site visit or any clarifying questions.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Can we submit after the deadline if we experience technical difficulty?</b> | No. The <a href="#">KoboToolbox</a> form <b>closes at 17:00 SAST on 06 October 2026</b> . Applicants should submit well in advance. Technical difficulty encountered in the final hours is not a ground for an extension.                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Where can we direct further questions?</b>                                  | To <a href="mailto:savaxjointaction@giz.de">savaxjointaction@giz.de</a> , <b>until 17:00 SAST on 01 October 2026</b> . Questions of general application and their answers are published to all applicants.                                                                                                                                                                             |

## 10. Kobo Toolbox

1. **Signal Bars:** The signal bars indicate whether the form can be launched offline or not. Web forms are built to be able to collect data while you are offline, however, it is essential to visit the form URL with an internet connection before going offline. Once your form has been loaded and cached, you'll see the offline availability icon (empty "signal bars" and a check mark) in the top-left corner indicating that you can now access the form offline.
2. **Printer Icon:** The printer icon provides you access to print your form or save it as a PDF version. For this, press the printer icon and then select Destination (an appropriate printer connected to your device to print out your survey form or Save as PDF to save your survey form as a PDF).
3. **Save as Draft:** Use this feature to edit or update your records before submitting it to the KoboToolbox server. Once you have checked Save as Draft you will have an option to Save Draft. The draft record gets queued but does not sync with KoboToolbox server. To sync it with the server you will have to open the record from the queued list and uncheck Save as Draft and press Submit.
4. **Submit:** Press the Submit button if you have completed collecting information and wish to send the filled-up form to the KoboToolbox server. After pressing the Submit button, you will not have an option to edit the records on your device.
5. **Queued Records Counter:** The Queued Records Counter shows you the total number of records submitted and waiting to be uploaded to a server. The queued records are uploaded automatically in the background every 5 minutes when the web page is open, and an internet connection is available.
6. **Queue Records Pane:** Clicking the side button shows you the records that are available as drafts (which can still be edited) and finalized submitted records queued to be either uploaded to your server with an internet connection or exported as zip file as outlined in the [support article here](#).
7. Please note that the platform does not send confirmation of submission. Once submitted, if you require confirmation that your submission has been received, please use the [savaxjointaction@giz.de](mailto:savaxjointaction@giz.de) mailbox for any queries. Please note that we cannot provide immediate feedback, and it is therefore advisable to leave sufficient time between your submission and any query, prior to the deadline.



## Expression of Interest (Hosting a Biomanufacturing and Bioprocessing Innovation Platform)

### ▶ Instructions

### ▶ Lead Applicant Details

### ▶ Eligibility, Institutional Profile, & Ecosystem Position

### ▶ Technical & Human Capacity

### ▶ Infrastructure Readiness

### ▶ SMME Access & Platform Management Model

### ▶ Sustainability & Institutionalisation Pathway

### ▶ Inclusion, Transformation & Ecosystem Reach

3



Save Draft



Submit



4

End of Applicant Information Pack