

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), an entity of The Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), was established in terms of the TIA Act (No. 26 of 2008) with the objective to stimulate, intensify and exploit technological innovation to improve economic growth and the quality of life for all South Africans.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SOUTH AFRICA-RUSSIA JOINT INNOVATION CALL

INTRODUCTION

TIA in collaboration with the Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE) invite Proposals for funding in a joint call initiative for the South Africa-Russia call to be implemented in the 2025/26 financial year. The aim of the TIA-FASIE Call aims to facilitate the scaling up of joint projects undertaken through the programme. This will enable the progression of the projects and facilitate better promotion of targeted social impact and market-oriented innovation partnerships between SA and Russia.

The purpose of the TIA – FASIE Call is to facilitate partnership between South African and Russian small medium enterprises (SMME's), innovators, universities, science councils and research institutes by bridging their financial requirements and leveraging bankable joint projects for further development and commercialisation. The fund is expected to increase the number and quality of project proposals to other TIA and FASIE funds and improve the commercialisation probability of technologies that emanate from the projects. The fund is a limited resource made available for an agreed set of focused activities with clear and measurable deliverables. One of the deliverables should be a viable plan to progress the project such that it can be considered by other funders.

TIA has been collaborating with Russia and other BRICS member countries through its implementation of the DSTI's International Cooperation and Resources Programme.

WHO CAN APPLY

The joint application for funding must include, at least two principal parties one from South Africa and one from Russia. Both parties must be legally registered entities in line with the prescribed legislations of South Africa and Russia.

The Call is open to the following Technology Areas:

- Digital technologies
- Medicine and health-saving technologies
- New materials and chemical technologies
- New devices and intelligent manufacturing technologies
- Biotechnology
- Resource-saving energy

FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

The following is a list of fundable activities:

- Initial product, process (comprehensive technology package) and prototype development
- Sourcing of intellectual property opinions
- Production of market samples and/or associated testing
- Refining and implementing designs
- Conducting field studies to test the assumptions made about the technology, market and/ or customer needs
- Support of certification activities and specification sheet development
- Piloting, and technology scale-up
- Techno-economic evaluation studies
- Detailed primary market research
- Business plan development

NON-FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

- 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

All applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Whether the application fits within the post technology readiness level 4 to level 8 (TRL 4 – 8) and commercialisation
- Whether the proposed project and applying team have a direct link to the research and development institution through employment or an intention for the valorization of the research and development institution's intellectual property
- Whether a clear, relevant need has been articulated by the applicant
- Whether the planned budget and activities will enable the applicant's objectives
- Whether the planned work will progress the project along the technology readiness level value chain
- Whether the project timeline (24 months) is feasible given the scope of the project
- Whether the outcomes will add to the diffusion of existing or potential IP that section may emerge from the project
- The likelihood that the planned outcomes and outputs could qualify for follow on funding from TIA and FASIE or other funders

THE INVESTMENT PARAMETERS FOR THE APPLICATION ARE AS FOLLOWS

- Grant funding for 24 months
- The project must contribute to the development of intellectual property. Any deviation from this requirement should be well motivated, demonstrating a clear link between the projects objectives in contributing to socio-economic development
- Up to R 5,447,790.00 (\$300 000.00) will be provided per project in total. Any amounts in excess of this approved amount should be well motivated, with clear indication of the cost breakdown, linked to deliverables
- TIA and/or FASIE will retain the first right of refusal to fund any further development of the outputs of the project
- The duration of the project shall be for a maximum period of 24 months. Any period in excess of this should be well motivated, clearly indicating the deliverables associated with the extended period and reasons why it is not feasible to achieve the project within the given period

APPLICATION PROCESS

- All applications for South African applications are to be submitted via email to tia-fasie.call@tia.org.za
- All applications for institutions from Russia are to be submitted online through the FASIE online application portal
- All mandatory fields in the Application Form should be completed
- Application packs received after the due date will not be considered
- The project's budget should not exceed the amounts per project stipulated in the investment parameters set out in paragraph 6 above
- **Incomplete application forms will not be assessed**

PROGRAMME MANAGERS

SOUTH AFRICA

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)
Mr Zipho Zwane
Portfolio Manager: International Partnerships
Email: zipho.zwane@tia.org.za
Phone: +27 12 472 2837

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)
Mishumo Phundulu
Strategic Partnerships, Strategic Engagement
Email: Mishumo.Phundulu@tia.org.za
Phone: +27 12 472 2700

RUSSIA

The Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE)
Ms Olga Vinogradova (Levchenko)
Head of International Programs
Email: vinogradova.og@fasie.ru
Phone: + 7 (495) 229-249-2 (add 165)

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The TIA – FASIE Call will be monitored and evaluated as follows:

- Each research and development institution will report quarterly to TIA and FASIE Joint Innovations Committee indicating the activities, milestones reached and any notable achievements of the project
- The research and development institutions are encouraged to include any multimedia to demonstrate these where applicable
- Quarterly reports shall be completed on the TIA/FASIE template provided
- Where projects have closed, research and development institution must provide TIA and FASIE with a close-out report on the template provided by the funding agencies
- TIA and FASIE will conduct an annual evaluation of the individual research and development institution's project performance

COMMENCEMENT DATE :

29 May 2025

CLOSING DATE:

31 July 2025 @ 16h00 (Central African Time)