



**Technological Innovation Development in Africa to Enhance Employability,
Entrepreneurship and Job Creation (TIDE)**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE AWARD (TICA)

Date of issue: **20 March 2023**

Deadline for Submission: **10 April 2023 at 2359hrs**

**✚ DO YOU HAVE A TECHNOLOGY, OR INNOVATION THAT CAN BE UPSCALED TO
ENHANCE EMPLOYABILITY AND JOB CREATION ALONG KEY PRIORITY
SECTORS IN AFRICA?**

**✚ ARE YOU WILLING AND CAPABLE TO APPLY SUCH TECHNOLOGY, OR
INNOVATION TO START NEW BUSINESSES, SUPPORT LIVELIHOODS, AND
CREATE MORE JOBS ?**

✚ If your answer to the above questions is a Yes, then this Call is for you

A. Background and Rationale

Africa's youth population is rapidly growing and is expected to double to over 830 million by 2050 (African Development Bank [AfDB], 2016). If properly harnessed, this increase could support increased productivity and stronger, more inclusive economic growth. The youth are Africa's greatest asset. Unfortunately, the majority of the youth do not have access to stable economic opportunities. Of Africa's nearly 420 million youth aged 15-35, one-third are unemployed and discouraged, another third are vulnerably employed, and only one in six is in wage employment (AfDB, 2016). One of the aspirations of the Africa's Agenda 2063 is to reposition Africa in its growth and sustainable development pathway. This requires that Africa makes substantial investments in education, skills, entrepreneurship and youth development with the core goal of developing human and social capital through the application of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). STI has been widely acknowledged as indispensable for Africa's development with higher education (HE) and research institutions expected to play critical roles in providing the required skills for employability, productivity and sustainable livelihoods (Addaney, 2018). It also offers greater expectations on its impacts in promoting intra-trade development across African countries and beyond. Africa requires

a skilled workforce to boost technological advancement, increase trade and promote competitive economic growth. However, low-skill production has posed a challenge for African economies. Also, mismatch of skills witnessed in the labour market which is one of the main causes of the high unemployment rate in Africa is as a result of the poor linkages with industry and businesses in general and the poor mainstreaming of the culture of entrepreneurship in higher education institutions (HEIs). This limits Africa's private sector from investing in research and Development (R&D), and as a result, Africa's private sector suffers from low innovation and productivity, which contributes to the low level of economic development. Lack of robust policies, plans and institutional frameworks for technological innovations, skills development, job creation and entrepreneurship has slowed down Africa's progress in attaining industrialization and economic development.

It is against this backdrop that the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) with the support from Africa Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) is launching this call to bridge the gap between research-technological innovation and upscaling and commercialization/entrepreneurship. This Call for Proposal is aimed at supporting technologies and innovations that can be applied in Africa to solve major problems in different priority sectors such as Agriculture, Environment & Climate Change, Energy and Health to scale and create opportunities for employment especially for the youth and marginalized.

B. Objective of the Call for Proposals

The overall goal of this call is to empower young innovators/entrepreneurs through the Technological Innovation Challenge Awards (TICA) programme with the view to enable them scale-up their innovations, start new businesses, support livelihoods, and create more jobs in their communities. We will support projects that:

- ✚ Are novel approaches that are promoting disruptive innovations.
- ✚ Are backed by evidence of potential impact.
- ✚ Have the potential to scale to create more jobs.
- ✚ Demonstrate that their innovations can support livelihoods.

C. General eligibility criteria

Eligible Applicants should:

- Have an existing Technology, or Innovation that is ready to be upscaled.
- Have a clearly defined ownership or rights to promote their Technology, or innovation.

D. Who can apply?

This call is purposely limited to entrepreneurs and innovators with existing technologies for scaling or commercialization with the target to create new jobs especially for the youth. ATPS reserves the right to reject any proposal that does not meet this criteria.

The following eligibility criteria apply:

- The applicant must be a consortium or partnership between a **private sector and research/university establishments**. The lead entity must have a legal status in the country of operation.
- Applicants must come from any of the following Africaximbank countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and Zimbabwe
- Applications from individual persons will **NOT** be accepted. Only applications with affiliations to a legal entity will be accepted and must have at least two partners drawn from the private sector and research/university.

- The grant cannot be used to undertake a new research study but to scale or commercialize an existing innovation/technology into a business opportunity with the target to create jobs especially for young people.

Only Proposals that meet the eligibility criteria will be considered for review.

E. Grant Amount and Duration

The research and innovation projects' lifespan is for **12 months**. Each project will be required to have a budget ranging between **US\$5,000** and **US\$10,000** depending on the scope and scale of the proposed project which must be well justified. Kindly use the budget template provided to prepare your budget.

F. The application process

Applicants are required to duly fill out the application template (Annex 1) and submit to procurement@atpsnet.org with a copy to executivedirector@atpsnet.org on or before **2359hrs EAT 10th April 2023**. Applications that are submitted later than the stipulated deadline will not be considered.

Documents to be submitted in one PDF or Word Format

- Completed application document (See template in Annex 1)
- Budget (using the template in Annex 1)
- Two-page CVs of the two main applicants
- List of other personnel that will be involved and their roles in the project
- Letter of support from the participating institutions (One research/university and one private sector)

ANNEX 1: CALL FOR PROPOSALS APPLICATION TEMPLATE

INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Your application will be considered under all the ATPS policies and procedures. For more information about ATPS, visit our website <https://atpsnet.org/>
- b) Use 11-point Calibri font.
- c) Applicants should carefully review the eligibility criteria on the Call for Proposals.
- d) Submit the application fully completed to procurement@atpsnet.org with a copy to executivedirector@atpsnet.org on or before 2359hrs East African Time (EAT) on 10th April 2023.
- e) Applications submitted later than the mentioned date and those that will be submitted to any other emails other than the ones provided here will not be reviewed.
- f) All applicants will receive a response on email confirming receipt of their applications. Our current response time will be within five (5) working days.
- g) By submitting the proposal, the applicant is certifying that the information provided is accurate to the full extent of his/her knowledge.

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

1.1 Lead Applicant's information

Name of the lead applicant:
Position held:
Contact address:
Email:
Mobile:
Name of institution:

1.2 Second Applicant's information

Name of the second applicant:
Position held:
Contact address:
Email:
Mobile:
Name of institution:

SECTION 2: OVERVIEW INFORMATION

2.1 Total funding requested in USD

2.2 Which of the following best describes the sector your solution addresses? (Please select one or more from the table below):

	Sectors	Tick
1.	Agriculture and Food Security	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Environment, Natural Resources Management and Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Transport and Infrastructural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Trade, Industry and Entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Gender, Youth, Culture, Art and Social Enterprises	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Tourism and Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Financial Management and Digital Economy (ICT)	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Education, Science and Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	Other(s) please specify	

2.3 Primary country where the innovation/ technology will be implemented:

SECTION 3: PROJECT INFORMATION

- 3.1 What is the title of your technology/innovation? (Not more than 20 words)
- 3.2 What problem is your technology/innovation addressing? (400 words)
- 3.3 Describe your specific innovation, its goal and objectives. Who are your customers/ beneficiaries? How will your innovation/ technology significantly address the problem at a lower cost in a way that has not been feasible before? (1,000 words)
- 3.4 What specific activities do you intend to carry out under this project and what are the expected outputs and outcomes that will sustain the viability of the business? (500 words)
- 3.5 Describe your experience working in this area of innovation/technology and what resources are available at your disposal to ensure the sustainability of the proposed business (250 words)
- 3.6 Describe current solutions that exists in the geographic area where you will implement your innovation and outline how your solution will be a better alternative. (400 words)
- 3.7 Describe the ownership arrangements of your technology, product or innovation. Is it patented? Are there other owners that you will work with? How would you make your innovation accessible? (300 words max)
- 3.8 ATPS recognizes that innovations can take a variety of scale paths but expects these innovations to grow without continued support. How will your scale path facilitate growth beyond this funding from both an operational and financial perspective? (400 words)
- 3.9 What are the characteristics and estimated number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of your technology/innovation? How many jobs are expected to be created by your business within the first one year? Justify these numbers. (400 words)
- 3.10 What are the relevant metrics or key performance indicators you will use to assess the success of this project? Use an activity, output, means of verification, outcome, and timeline table to summarize your results framework (300 words)
- 3.11 Budget template (This budget template serves only as a guide for your budget. Please feel free to make relevant adjustments that suit your proposed business).

Budget Category	Allocation	%	Comments/Explanations
Personnel			
Consultants			
Equipment			
Research			
Communications			
Indirect Costs (at 5%)			
Total Costs			