

Terms of Reference (TOR) for Intellectual Property Filing Support

The Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI) is a leading research institute in growing the economy through research and development in KwaZulu-Natal. It develops practical research-based solutions that contribute to the needs of the provincial economy by using research recommendations towards policy development and service delivery interventions. As part of development, a support opportunity exists for researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and SMMEs who wish to protect the intellectual property for their research and innovative products or solutions (inventions).

Objective

The primary goal of this program is to provide essential support for researchers, entrepreneurs, innovators, and SMMEs in KwaZulu-Natal to successfully file intellectual property for their innovative projects.

Scope of Services

1. Conduct a preliminary assessment of the innovation and its potential for intellectual property protection.
2. Offer guidance on the appropriate type of intellectual property protection (patents, trademarks, copyrights, etc.).

3. Provide assistance in preparing and filing the necessary documentation for intellectual property protection.
4. Facilitate communication with relevant intellectual property offices and agencies.
5. Offer general advice on intellectual property strategy and management.

Duration of Support

The assistance will be provided contingent upon the outcome of a novelty search. If the invention is determined to be novel, the applicant will receive support throughout the entire process, spanning from the Provisional to the Complete Patent filing stages.

Application Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated based on the uniqueness of the innovation, its potential impact, and adherence to the eligibility criteria.

Selection Process

A selection committee will review the applications and select candidates based on the evaluation criteria.

Applications Outcome/Feedback

Successful applicants will be notified by **21 February 2024** and provided with further instructions on the next steps, including a requirement for a short presentation.

Contact Information

For inquiries or additional information, please contact Ms Sbongile Khumalo at innovation@moseskotane.com.

NB: MKRI reserves the right to withdraw the call in the event of other pertinent considerations.