

**Moses Kotane  
Research Institute**  
Research · Innovation · Excellence






# **CALL FOR FOR FUNDING COMMERCIALISING INNOVATION AND RESEARCH (CIR) APPLICATIONS**

REF: CIR01

**CLOSING DATE: 27 JUNE 2025**

Visit our website to apply



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[www.moseskotaneinstitute.com](http://www.moseskotaneinstitute.com)

## CALL FOR FOR FUNDING COMMERCIALISING INNOVATION AND RESEARCH (CIR) APPLICATIONS REF: CIR01

### BACKGROUND

The Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI) is a leading research institute dedicated to fostering economic growth in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) through research and development. MKRI focuses on developing practical, research-based solutions that address the needs of the provincial economy. By leveraging research recommendations, MKRI aims to influence policy development and enhance service delivery interventions.

In collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), MKRI offers a funding opportunity for researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs). This initiative supports individuals and organisations seeking to commercialise their research and innovative products or solutions, thereby contributing to economic development and growth in the province.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Projects that have been piloted (proof of concept, tested/evaluated/assessed/ prototyped, etc.) to activate commercialisation.
- Projects that seek to innovatively solve KZN socio-economic challenge/s.
- South African researchers, innovators, students, entrepreneurs, and SMMEs residing in KwaZulu-Natal.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (Submission of the following documents is mandatory)

- Completed application form
- Certified copies of Identity Document
- Proof of residence
- Company profile (with the CV of the Director) or the applicant's CV (in the case of individuals)
- Written proposal (well-articulated problem/challenge, solution, benefit to the province) not exceeding 5 pages including a detailed budget (financial) breakdown of funds requested, describing clearly what the funds will be used for in an itemised manner.

### DISQUALIFICATION

- Applicants who do not meet the requirements.
- Applications received after the closing date.
- Non-submission of the required documents
- Applications not submitted to the designated email address
- South African researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and SMMEs who are NOT residing in KwaZulu-Natal

### COMMUNICATION

- English / IsiZulu

### HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants must email all the required documents to **innovation@moseskotane.com** on or before **27 June 2025 (closing date)**. Shortlisted applicants will be required to present or demonstrate their products/solutions before a panel.

### PLEASE NOTE

- Applicants that applied in the previous cycles (unsuccessful ONLY) are encouraged to re-apply.
- Applicants/beneficiaries who have been supported before under the same programme will NOT be considered for this call.
- Proposals submitted for research purposes will not be considered for this call.
- Applicants who qualify under this call will receive support to a maximum cap of R300 000 per project.
- Projects with a budget requirement exceeding R300 000 will not be supported. Applicants are encouraged to ensure their proposed budgets align with the funding cap.
- The Commercialising of Research and Innovation fund is subject to the availability of funds. MKRI reserves the right not to award funding.
- Applicants who have not heard from MKRI within two weeks of closing, may consider their application unsuccessful.

### TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS (TRL) – FUNDING CONSIDERATION

Please note that funding under this call will only support projects that are at **TRL 3 to TRL 7**

Projects at **TRL 1, TRL 2, TRL 8, or TRL 9** will not be supported.

Below is a guide to help applicants understand the TRL stages:

- TRL 1 – Basic principles are observed and reported – **Not supported**
- TRL 2 – Technology concept and/or application formulated – **Not supported**
- TRL 3 – Critical function, proof of concept established
- TRL 4 – Laboratory testing of prototype component or process
- TRL 5 – Laboratory testing of integrated system
- TRL 6 – Prototype system verified in relevant environment
- TRL 7 – Integrated pilot system demonstrated in operational environment
- TRL 8 – System complete and qualified – **Not supported**
- TRL 9 – System proven in full operational environment – **Not supported**