



Moses Kotane Research Institute

Research · Innovation · Excellence

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

BUSINESS UNIT:	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
POST:	INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY MANAGER (INDEP. CONTRACTOR)
PAYSCALE:	EQUIVALENT TO DPSA LEVEL 12/1 LESS APPLICABLE TAX DEDUCTIONS
PERIOD:	12 MONTHS RETAINER CONTRACT
MODE:	FULL-TIME PHYSICAL
LOCATION:	DURBAN, KWAZULU-NATAL
REFERENCE:	IC/INNTECHM: 01/2026

CLOSING DATE: 20 JANUARY 2026

Visit our website to apply

   @moseskotanereseearchinstitute
www.moseskotaneinstitute.com



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BACKGROUND:

The Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI) is a provincial research agency of the KwaZulu-Natal Government, operating under the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA). The Institute seeks to appoint an Independent Contractor to manage innovation and technology programmes, platforms, and partnerships. Innovation and Technology Manager will be responsible for driving innovation, technology adoption, and commercialisation initiatives within the Development Services Unit and across the organisation's development ecosystem.

REQUIREMENTS:

The ideal candidate must be in possession of An Honour's Degree or equivalent (NQF 8) in Information Technology, Innovation Management, Engineering, Computer Science, Information Systems, or a related field. A postgraduate qualification, such as: Master's in Innovation, Technology, or Engineering, Business Administration (MBA), or a related discipline will be an added advantage. Must have at least seven (7) years' experience in managing innovation, technology, or digital programmes. Proven experience in innovation hubs, labs, incubation, or commercialisation support: Multi-stakeholder programme coordination; Technology adoption and innovation-led development initiatives. A minimum, 3 years' of experience in project management. Demonstrated understanding of innovation ecosystems, public-private partnerships, and development-oriented programmes. A valid driver's licence is compulsory.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES REQUIRED:

Knowledge and understanding of:

- Report writing.
- Excellent leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills
- Strong analytical, problem-solving, and decision-making capabilities
- Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously and meet deadlines
- Project Management

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The successful candidate will be required to:
- Oversee the planning, coordination, and operational management of innovation labs, incubation facilities, digital centres, and commercialisation support mechanisms
- Coordinate and implement innovation programmes aligned to priority provincial sectors including but not limited to: Agribusiness and agro processing, digital economy and emerging technologies & Green economy and sustainable technologies
- Facilitate and manage strategic partnerships with private sector entities, universities, research institutions, startups, and innovators to support innovation development, piloting, and commercialisation.
- Work closely with digital centre facilitators and regional stakeholders to expand access to innovation support services, technology resources, and skills development across communities
- Ensure effective governance of innovation and technology initiatives, including monitoring performance, managing risks, maintaining programme documentation, and reporting progress to management and relevant governance structures

DISQUALIFIERS:

A candidate with a pending or Criminal Convictions /Pending or Disciplinary Records, will be disqualified.

DIRECTIONS TO APPLICANTS:

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply by submitting their applications to: recruitment@moseskotane.com. The application must clearly state the position applied for and the corresponding reference number on the subject line must include a detailed copy of a CV, recently certified copies of (1) ID, (2) driver's license and (3) certified copies of relevant qualifications (not older than 6 months). Applicants are to ensure that they submit all required documentation stated above, as failure to do so may lead to disqualification of the application during the selection process. For any technical queries contact the HR Administrator at recruitment@moseskotane.com. Candidates who have not heard from MKRI within 6 weeks from the closing date can consider their application unsuccessful. Applicants will be disqualified for any incorrect information supplied.

After the interviews and technical exercises, where applicable, candidates recommended for appointment will be taken through competency testing and verification processes. The Moses Kotane Research Institute is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and preference will be given to suitably qualified candidates from designated groups in terms of Employment Equity Act, 1998. The Institute reserves the right not to make these appointments.



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