Moses Kotane Research Institute

Research · Innovation · Excellence

CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

COMMERCIALISING INNOVATION AND RESEARCH (CIR)

[ALSO KNOWN AS BRINGING RESEARCH TO LIFE]

REF: CIR26/27

CLOSING DATE: 15 November 2026

@moseskotaneresearchinstitute

www.moseskotaneinstitute.com

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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 funding support for researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs), and Indigenous Knowledge Holders who are developing innovative technologies, products, or solutions grounded in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), local resources, and community-based innovation. 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, entrepreneurs, Indigenous Knowledge innovators and SMMEs residing in KwaZulu-Natal.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (Submission of the following documents is mandatory)

- Completed application form.
- Certified copies of identity documents
- Proof of residence
- Proof of company registration
- BBBEE certificate (if applicable)
- 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, indigenous knowledge practitioners and SMMEs who are NOT residing in KwaZulu-Natal

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants must submit their applications via the following link: https://forms.gle/36JS4vfVVxuYmGVPA, together with all required supporting documents, on or before 13 November 2026 (the closing date). Shortlisted applicants will be required to present or demonstrate their products or solutions before an evaluation panel. For enquiries, please contact Ms Asebenzile Mkunyana at innovation@moseskotane.com.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Applicants who 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.
- The Commercialisation 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 four weeks of closing may consider their application unsuccessful.

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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 – Not supported
- 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

Applicants who applied in the previous cycles (unsuccessful ONLY) are encouraged to re-apply.