

TANZANIA COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

2018 Call on Opportunities for Fostering Innovation

1.0 Introduction

The Commission for Science & Technology (COSTECH) and The Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) invite applications for the 2018 call on “*Opportunities for Fostering Innovation*”. COSTECH and HDIF are in collaboration to fund creativity and innovation generated from innovative ideas of citizens and institutions of Tanzania through a competitive call. The initiative is jointly funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). The aim of the Call is to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in Tanzania through facilitating the building up of capacity to innovate amongst researchers, private entrepreneurs, innovators and others.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Innovation Fund is to provide financial support to implement innovative projects, which could contribute to the social-economic development of Tanzania. This will provide financial support to the enterprise domain and research community to contribute to the technological advancement and innovation in Tanzania. The fund is a limited resource made available for an agreed set of focused activities with clear deliverables.

3.0 The Context

The Innovation Fund is a tool to create platforms for innovative activities by providing incentives for collaboration, support innovation intermediaries' roles and improve relevance and dissemination of new technologies, productive partnerships, and links to markets. It aims to bridge the gap in financing for innovation processes and supports innovators and their links to public institutions, private entrepreneurs and other key actors such as producers and service providers.

4.0 Commencement Date 9th August, 2018

5.0 Closing Date 8th September, 2018 @ 15:00hrs

6.0 Who can Apply

The fund will be provided to support innovations from three categories namely:

- i. Innovation from researchers
- ii. Innovation from innovators in enterprises and organizations

- iii. Innovation developed jointly by researchers and entrepreneurs.

7.0 Types of funding Schemes

7.1 Prototype Development: The purpose of this funding scheme is to assist an applicant or innovator to advance their research and technological outputs to develop prototypes, establish proof of concept and validate business cases.

7.2 Technology Development: This fund assists innovators to advance technologies along the innovation value chain, from proof of concept/prototype to technology demonstration. The focus is on the activities that will make early stage technology development more attractive and reduce market risk.

7.3 Commercialization: This funding scheme is designed to support market testing and validation. The purpose is to connect technology innovators to onward business and investment opportunities.

8.0 Fundable activities for each funding scheme

8.1 Prototype Development

- a) Development of minimal viable solution
- b) Protecting Intellectual Property (IP)
- c) User Acceptance Test
- d) Validation of Idea/Primary market research

8.2 Technology Development

- a) Development of the final solution
- b) Demonstration and piloting solution
- c) Support for certification activities
- d) Protection of Intellectual Property (IP)

8.3 Commercialization Support Fund

- a) Acquiring required approved certification and licenses
- b) Business Plan development
- c) Promotion and marketing activities
- d) Up scaling
- e) Contract management
- f) IP management.

9.0 Assessment Criteria

The relevance of the proposal to call objectives needs to be conclusively established. The proposal relevant to call objectives will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

9.1 Innovation

- i. Novelty of the proposed work

- ii. Newness of the product, service or business model in Tanzania OR a Significant improvement in an available product, service or business model
- iii. Newness in a way to make an existing product or service available to the targeted group
- iv. Competitiveness of the product or service in the market

9.2 Viability

- i. Needs assessment and demand for proposed work
- ii. Affordability of the solution be to the targeted end user group
- iii. Sustainability of the project beyond the funding period
- iv. Practicability and how realistic is the innovation

9.3 Impact

- i. Scientific appropriateness of deliverable of proposed approaches and technical merit
- ii. The societal impacts aimed to achieve through the project.
- iii. How the project will minimize negative impacts

9.4 Team effectiveness

The team could be an individual or a group of persons.

- i. Availability and accessibility of necessary competences
- ii. Commitment of the team members' innovation project.

9.5 Commerciality and competitiveness of the application

- i. Does the innovation have potential for commercialization?
- ii. Competitiveness of the Innovation

10.0 Grant period: Up to 12 months (2018-2019)

11.0 Grant amount per project: Maximum of TZS 40,000,000. About 15 successful innovative projects will be funded. Maximum of four project (4) from researchers, four (4) from innovators in enterprises; and seven (7) from jointly project by researchers and entrepreneurs.

12.0 Application process

- 12.1 It is important that applications are submitted through the COSTECH email account to be provided by COSTECH. Completed application packs must be submitted to COSTECH through this E-mail: **innovationfund@costech.or.tz**

For further information, please visit the website: www.costech.or.tz

NOTE: This is for submission of applications ONLY.

12.2 Application packs must include: Fully executed copies of completed application forms. Incomplete application forms will not be assessed. All fields in the Application Form should be completed. Application packs received after the due date will not be considered. The application forms are available through the COSTECH website.

12.3 The project's budget should not exceed the amounts stipulated per project in the investment parameters set out in paragraph 10 above.

12.4 If Applicants are submitting via a host institution (legal entity) they should submit a letter from the institution. For successful applicants, all project funds will be disbursed through host bank account.

13.0 Gender Consideration: This is among the affairs for consideration during team composition and implementation of the project. The proposal must show how it will have an impact in both men and women, as well as indicate the strategic action for inclusiveness of the less represented gender.

14.0 Language: Applications may be submitted in Kiswahili or English Language.

15.0 Inquiries and Application forms: To get application forms and further enquiries please use the below link: <https://goo.gl/forms/rSVQyTm27cJTpX2X2>. Application forms can also be downloaded in the COSTECH website: www.costech.or.tz