

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) focus area(s)



APPLICATION DEADLINE

15th September 2021 (mid-night 00h00)

BACKGROUND

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) in collaboration with the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) is pleased to announce the release of its **third SAMRC-TIA Seed Fund call for the 2021/22 FY** (SAMRC-TSF) with a focus on **Biosimilars and Indigenous Knowledge System related technologies** (African Traditional Medicines, Cosmeceuticals, Nutraceuticals and Health infusions). The purpose of the SAMRC-TIA Seed Fund (SAMRC-TSF) is to assist **researchers and innovators** from **Science Councils** and **Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs)** with financial support necessary to adequately advance and further develop research outputs towards **new or improved products**. The SAMRC-TSF is aimed **at increasing the pipeline of commercially viable health technologies in South Africa**, by providing seed capital to de-risk these inventions and positioning them for follow-on funding.

Similar to other SAMRC funding mechanisms, the SAMRC-TSF will be provided for an agreed set of focused activities, with **clear deliverables, achievable within a period of 12 months**. All innovators from SMMEs who are working on new Biosimilar and Indigenous Knowledge System related innovations are hereby invited to apply for the SAMRC-TSF.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Qualifying applicants include **researchers / inventors who aim to further develop their IP or technology towards new or improved products**. The following criteria apply to the selection of fundable projects from Science Councils and SMMEs as part of the SAMRC-TSF:

- **Under-developed ideas** that when properly prepared and presented hold **significant potential** for further investment by TIA or other investors.
- **Competitive intellectual property** position where the applicants have the freedom to operate and commercialise their proposed opportunity.
- Opportunities that involve technology development, customization, localization, enhancement, integration and/ or validation.
- Applicants from SMMEs must have a **valid tax clearance certificate** at the time of the application and award.
- Applicants **may not be insolvent, under debt counselling or black-listed** before or at the time of investing.
- The market need, stage of development, planned fundable activities, and team's ability to execute the project within the stipulated timeline must be clearly articulated in the application.
- Projects with a **clear socio-economic impact** (contribution to solving societal challenges and delivery of a decent standard of living as per the National Development Plan 2030) will be prioritised.
- **Women and people living with disabilities are encouraged to apply.**

For further information, please refer to the [website](#) and the attached the SAMRC-TSF guidelines and the TSF application form (HEI and SMME application templates).

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS:

The SAMRC TTO, within Grants, Innovation and Product Development (GIPD), will receive and coordinate applications to submit to a Steering Committee and to TIA for consideration, and is available to assist the applicants with such applications.

- The **maximum allowable amount** per application for this call is **R650, 000**, including VAT.
- Projects must be for a duration of **12 months** and can be extended to a **maximum of 18 months**.
- TIA reserves the first right of refusal to fund further development of the outputs of the project.
- Funding will be provided by way of grants.
- Protected or protectable **intellectual property** is required.

HOW TO APPLY

The application forms (HEI and SMME application templates) and guidelines are attached. Completed application forms, queries and requests for information should be directed to:

Zenzele Ndlovu
Project Manager: Technology
Grants, Innovation and Product Development
South African Medical Research Council
Email: Nkululeko.ndlovu@mrc.ac.za
Tel: 021 938 0363

Please send a complete copy with all supporting documents, that you have submitted online to the Faculty Research Office – natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za

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CONTACTS FOR CALL QUERIES

Faculty Contact person: Natasha Jeftha – R4-15 HW Snyman North, Prinshof Campus, 012 319 2378, Natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za
Institutional Contact person: Leanne van Zyl - Department of Research & Innovation, Graduate Center - West Entrance, Office No 1-54 /1-55, 012 420 6639, leanne.vanzyl@up.ac.za
SAMRC Project Manager: Zenzele Ndlovu, 021 938 0363, Nkululeko.ndlovu@mrc.ac.za