



2019 OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROTOTYPE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALISATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS IN NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES: 30MAY 2019

1.0 Background

The Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ) is seeking proposals to enable technology innovators and entrepreneurs pursue promising scientifically proven concepts, validate proof of concept (POC) and commercialisation. RCZ is supporting the Nation's holistic and strategic transformation (Vision 2030) anchored on the quest for modernisation and industrialisation. Therefore, focus is on heritage based science and technology innovations in order to turnaround the country's socio-economic fortunes. The Government of Zimbabwe has supported R&D to the level of 0.3% of GDP. RCZ in particular, has been capacitated to make this Call.

2.0 The Call

The Call is highly competitive, encouraging entrepreneurs to seek out research results with potential for commercialisation. By funding establishment and validation of POC, RCZ wishes to help innovators/researchers and entrepreneurs advance an idea to commercialisation/implementation in the form of technology or service licences or creation of start-up companies or raising investments for the company.

3.0 Objectives

The broad objective is to support innovations in National priority areas for national competitive advantage. The specific objectives are five-fold to:

- i. Stimulate and support demand driven technological innovation, prototyping and commercialisation.
- ii. Stimulate and support demand driven service innovation.
- iii. Contribute to meeting the Nation's impactful R&D requirements.
- iv. Foster and encourage participation in innovation and entrepreneurship by women, youth and persons from informal sectors.
- v. Increase private-sector/industrial commercialisation of innovations derived from national R&D funding.

4.0 Funding Information

Funding of up-to \$250 000 over a maximum period of 18 months.

5.0 Nature of Projects

- i. Projects that have a process/product innovation with significant socio-economic impact and ready for prototyping or commercialisation.
- ii. Projects with clear technology and/or commercialisation objectives.
- iii. Projects of collaborative nature i.e. research institutions/academia and business enterprise/entrepreneur/SME.

6.0 Processing of Proposals

- i. The evaluation and selection of proposals will comprise verification of the proposal eligibility (guidelines available on www.rcz.ac.zw).
- ii. Confidential peer review of the proposals by experts.
- iii. Short listing of reviewed research proposals.
- iv. Communicating results and funding decisions to applicants by **30 July 2019**.
- v. All proposals will be received and processed in confidence and with complete acknowledgment of intellectual property rights of the proponents.
- vi. RCZ's decision is final.

7.0 How to Apply

- i. Applications must be submitted via email on rgcc@rcz.ac.zw cc technical@rcz.ac.zw
- ii. Approval from the host institution of affiliation is a prerequisite. Proposals without institutional approval will not be considered.
- iii. Applicants should declare originality of their work and sign off to confirm ownership.

Eligibility: Zimbabwean Nationals as Lead Investigators. Execution of the Projects in terms of prototyping and commercialization should be conducted largely in Zimbabwe and the commercialization of the outputs should result in Zimbabwe made goods and services.

Writing Guidelines:

RCZ particularly encourages collaborative projects across institutions, disciplines and individuals from focus areas set in the Specific Call for Proposals. The following should be taken into consideration.

- i. Proposals should be well presented meeting known scientific and commercialisation potential criteria.
- ii. The management structure should be well defined as well as a clear sustainability plan.
- iii. Applicants should "**make the case**", i.e. to explain the steps that led to the proposed research concept and focus.
- iv. Demonstrate the strategic value of the Research to Zimbabwe.
- v. Demonstrate commercialisation potential and/or Research capacity building.
- vi. Budget should not be inflated and/or expenses should be adequately justified.
- vii. All documents (application form, full research proposal, annexes, etc.) have to be submitted in both PDF and MS Word files to rgcc@rcz.ac.zw and copied to technical@rcz.ac.zw. Proposals should not exceed 3000 words, font size should be 12 Times New Roman.

Submission Deadline: **30 May 2019**

8.0 Contact Information

" For additional information on the Call visit www.rcz.ac.zw

" For any queries or additional information, contact **RCZ: Tel. 263-24-2304733, 2304787 cell 0712 954 330/2**

Contact Persons

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