

CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (CITT)

Call for Innovation Applications 2022/2023

The Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer (CITT) of Mbarara University of Science and Technology is pleased to announce a call for innovations at the level of Product Development. This call is part of the Research and Innovation Funds from the Government of Uganda for the Financial Year 2022/2023. This cohort of funding will enable innovators to turn their prototypes into commercially viable products for MUST and have them on the market. Each of the **two winning teams** will be awarded UGX **16,650,000/=** (Sixteen Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Uganda shillings only) to support product development and commercialization.

Application deadline: April 19th, 2023 (11:59 pm E.A.T)

CITT will follow a two-step process in the identification of possible CITT Seed grant recipients

1. High level selection: Up to 12 applicant teams, nominated by various MUST incubation hubs (**PHARMBIOTRAC (Faculty of Science/Medicine), CAMTech Uganda (Faculty of Medicine), Software Incubation Unit (Faculty of Computing and Informatics), Business Incubation Clinic (Faculty of Business and Management Sciences), Agriculture Innovation Hub (Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies) and the Engineering Hub (Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology)**), after careful review will be assessed to have high end with potential for impact, commercial viability and technical feasibility. The teams will be invited for a Product Development Workshop running in the last week of April 2023 to further refine their ideas.
2. Winning teams will be competitively selected from all disciplines by a multi-disciplinary and independent panel of judges after detailed concept review and grading followed by team presentations to an independent panel in a Project Qualification Review (PQR) exercise. Selection will be based on successful applications in each of the disciplines or industrial value chains.

In addition, the Seed grant awardees will receive the following support from CITT's Co-Creation Lab (CCL)

- Each project will be incubated in CITT's Co-Creation Lab (CCL).
- Training in financial management of grants including financial reporting.
- Access to prototyping equipment stores in the CCL.
- Assistance in project activity planning.
- Guidance in Intellectual Property filing where needed.
- Priority access to fast internet vital to accelerating research and project development.
- Guidance on research ethics approval processes
- Publicity planning and management.

Eligibility Criteria and requirements

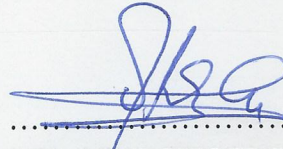
- Applicants should be an innovation team affiliated to Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST).
- The Innovation should be at least at the level of an initial prototype or a developed product.
- The Prototype / Product should have undergone a market survey and obtained user feedback. Proof of market survey is essential.
- The Innovation teams should be nominated by the Innovation Incubation Unit leaders or Deans of the Faculties. A letter of recommendation/support from the Innovation Hub or Faculty is a requirement.
- The teams should have participated in a PQR exercise at MUST or beyond.
- Both students and staff from any faculty / institute of MUST are eligible.
- Proposal concept should be a maximum of 4 pages, Arial font 11 (minimum). References are not considered as part of page limit. Applications that do not conform to this criterion will be administratively rejected.

Signed:



DR. MEDARD TWINAMATSIKO KATONERA

Director CITT – MUST



MR. MELCHOIR K BYARUHANGA

University Secretary – MUST



Proposal Requirements

Proposal Body should include the following sections

- Problem statement
- Technology Innovation
- Commercial Viability
- Team Composition
- Partnerships

Evaluation Criteria:

Taking into consideration the stage of the technology/innovation, proposals will be evaluated by the following criteria:

1. Problem statement (15 points)

- Identifies a clear need/gap and illustrates how the innovation will address this need/gap
- Demonstrates potential for widespread impact
- Clearly states the objective/purpose

2. Technology Innovation (15 points)

- Offers rationale for a new and creative technology solution ('better/faster/cheaper')
- Detailed description of the solution
- Addresses significant technical issues relevant for global settings, including low-resource settings
- Shows promise for strong intellectual property and can demonstrate limited direct competition

3. Commercial Viability (10 points)

- Demonstrates with evidence a strong market demand and unmet needs
- Outlines a feasible business model, including a path from prototype to commercialization to scale
- Discusses clear partnership opportunities with industry, NGOs, governments or entrepreneurial venture
- A clear illustration of how the team will make money out of the innovation with a clear value proposition.
- Clearly states the business sustainability plan.

4. Team Composition (6 points)

- Brings a multidisciplinary gendered team with relevant expertise according to the nature of the innovation.
- Part of the management team should be member(s) affiliated to MUST
- Clear articulation of roles and responsibilities of team members.

5. Partnerships (4 points)

- Documents a plan to work in the field and incorporate end user feedback
- Mentions institutions the team hopes to partner or is currently partnering with and why

How to Apply:

Email your endorsed applications as PDF to: citt@must.ac.ug with a letter of support the MUST innovation hub/unit or Faculty.