

GUIDELINE DOCUMENT FOR FUNDING APPLICATION



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1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides guidelines on applying for funding to the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA). It provides an overview of the TIA's objectives, funding criteria, activities excluded from funding, the application process, who may apply, and TIA's Funds. These guidelines must be read and fully understood in completing such application.

2. FUNDING AND SUPPORT SCHEMES

TIA will offer Risk Funding Schemes (RFS) and Innovation Enabling and Support Programmes (ISP) as its core offerings.

2.1 Risk funding schemes

2.1.1 TIA offers three risk funding schemes (illustrated graphically below) aimed at directly funding technology development projects with commercial potential.

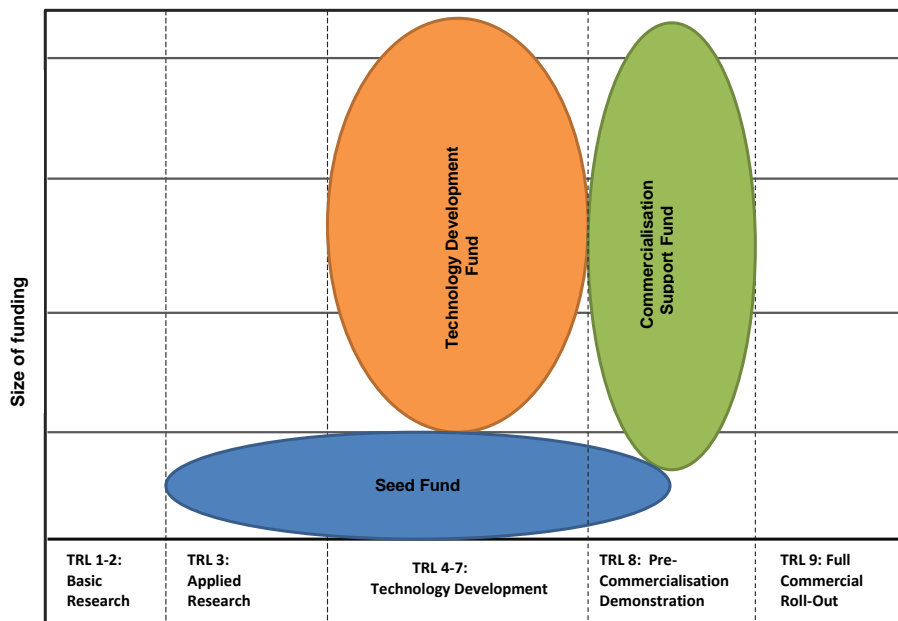


FIGURE 1: TIA RISK FUNDING SCHEMES

2.1.2 The access points to the funding schemes are differentiated based on a combination of the amount of funding the applicant requires for technology development, the stage of technology development as defined by the technology readiness level (TRL) and how the applicant's funding request aligns with the purpose of the TIA funding schemes.

NAME OF FUND	PURPOSE OF THE FUND	TRL
Seed Fund (SF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist innovators at HEIs, Science Councils and SMMEs to advance their research outputs and ideas, to develop prototypes, establish proof of concept and validate business cases. This could be used to access further funding. This fund will be managed in partnership with Seed Fund Programme Partners. 	3-7
Technology Development Fund (TDF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist innovators to advance technologies along the innovation value chain, from proof of concept to technology demonstration. The fund is designed to make early stage technology development 	4-7
Commercialisation Support Fund (CSF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prepare innovators for follow-on funding through limited support for market testing and validation. In this space, TIA's role is to connect technology innovators to onward 	8

3. ELIGIBILITY

The discussion below outlines the high-level eligibility for consideration for TIA funding.

3.1 Who is eligible?

i) SCs and HEIs; ii) Start-up companies; iii) Small, medium and micro-sized enterprises; iv) participating stakeholders as per the specific Innovation Support Programmes and; v) Private Individuals.

3.2 Minimum requirements

Applicants, except SCs and HEIs, applying for financial assistance from TIA must fulfil the following requirements:

- a) Applicants must be South African citizens with valid South African identity documents
- b) Already existing legal entities:
 - i. must be registered with CIPC;
 - ii. the enterprise must be compliant with generally accepted corporate

governance practices appropriate to the client's legal status;

- c) Applicants must have the necessary contractual capacity to engage with TIA;
- d) All primary technology development activities must be operated within South Africa;
- e) For foreign-owned IP, the IP should be licensed or assigned to a local institution such as a University or Science Council or to an existing legal entity registered with CIPC,
 - i. applicants with foreign owned IP must meet the dti's Localisation Framework requirements of a minimum of 20% equity ownership by a South African entity or B-BBEE requirements as per the B-BBEE Act.

3.3 What TIA funds?

TIA provides funding for ideas developed from any sector of the economy where:

- i. there exists innovative technology-based ideas for either new or improved products, processes or services;
- ii. there is proof of concept (TRL3) and requires support to technology development level (TRL7);
- iii. technologies require facilitation for commercialisation at TRL 8;
- iv. inbound technologies can be further improved, developed and exploited by South Africans themselves or in collaboration with international partners. Further technology development work must be performed in South Africa and in compliance with the Intellectual Property from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act 2008 (Act No. 51 of 2008); and
- v. there is an opportunity for the promotion and development of capacity to reduce barriers to technological innovation in South Africa through Technology Platform and Technology Stations Programmes.

4. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

TIA will assess the attractiveness and suitability of project opportunities in terms of (among others):

- i. the innovativeness of the technology and/or envisaged product/process/service;
- ii. the current stage of technology development (TRL);
- iii. the planned path of innovation;
- iv. the feasibility and viability of the technology being developed;
- v. the attractiveness of the product or service in the targeted market;
- vi. the viability of the business model;
- vii. the structure and processes required to commercialise;
- viii. the competence, capability and readiness of the team or entity to commercialise the opportunity;

- ix. alignment with TIA strategy and national policy objectives;
- x. the availability of funds;
- xi. the potential impact of the technology innovation on the economy and society;
- xii. TIA will assess the attractiveness and suitability of a TPP, TIP, TSP, ISD and YTIP opportunities in terms of the criteria contained in their respective frameworks.

5. FUNDING APPLICATION STAGES

TIA has a three-stage application process; the Submission of Statement of Interest and Basic Assessment, Full Assessment and Approval.

Stage 1 - Submission of Statement of Interest and Basic Assessment

The applicant is required in this stage to submit the Statement of Interest (SOI), via the online application system. The Statement of Interest describes the intellectual property, commercial, team, proposed technology innovation and budget. Once the SOI have full met all the criteria, a detailed full application will be requested.

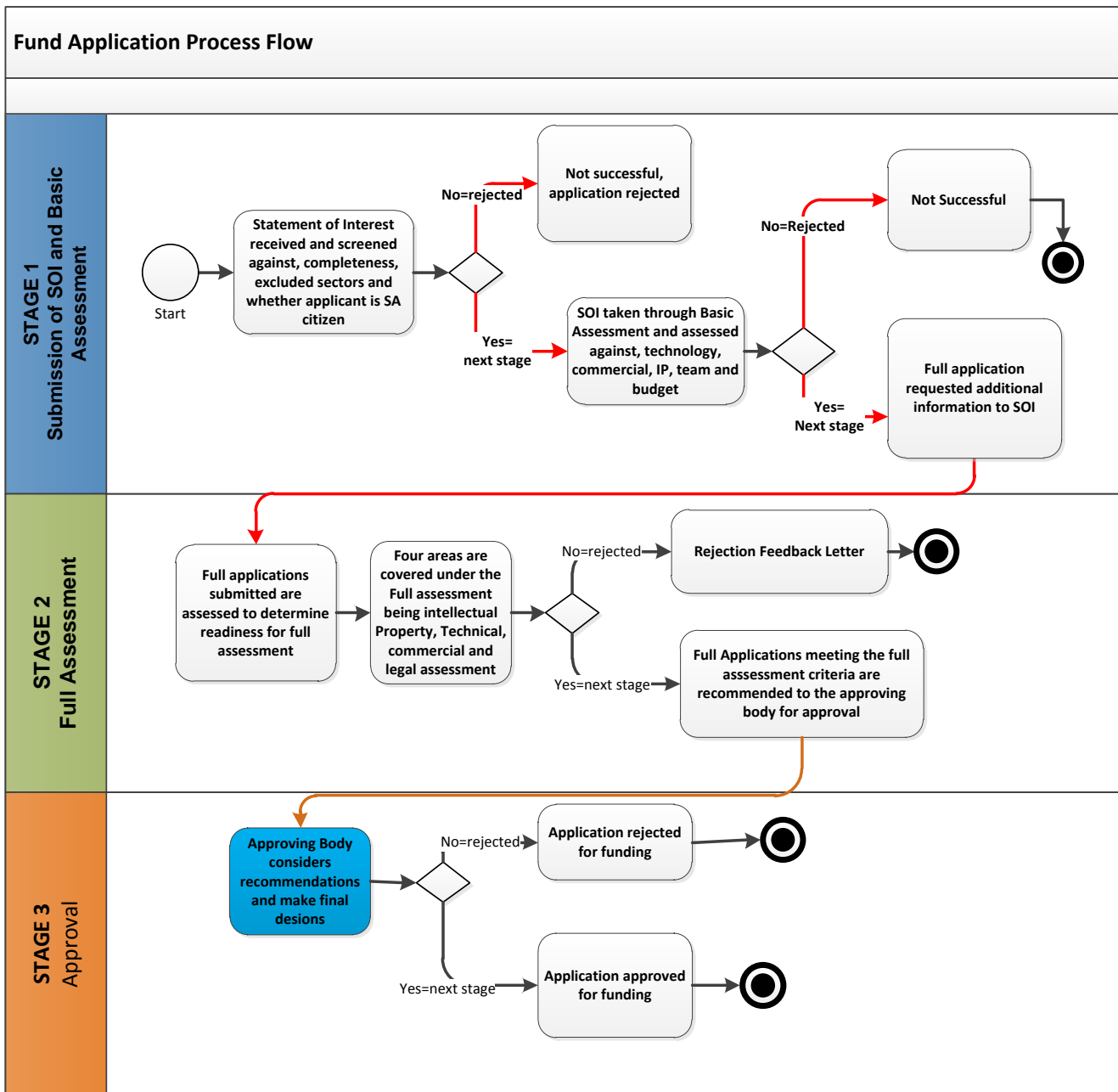
Stage 2 - Full Assessment

Once the full application has been submitted, there will be an assessment conducted to determine whether the application has submitted all the necessary information to proceed with the full assessment. The full assessment involves opportunity evaluation in commercialisation, intellectual property, technical and legal. Deal structuring and project execution plan will be developed at this stage.

Stage 3 – Approval

Approval of applications is always subject to availability of funding. Applications that preceded the full assessment stage are approved by TIA approving body.

6. FUNDING APPLICATION PROCESS



7. Apply for Funding

<http://gms.tia.org.za/funding>