

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS SEEKING FUNDING FOR R&D PROJECTS LEADING TO INNOVATIONS IN MATERIALS, METALS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

The Innovation Fund, through its Technology Advancement Programme (TAP), invites all South Africans (inventors, techno-entrepreneurs, engineers and researchers) who are engaged in the research and development of their novel and inventive technologies to submit their proposals. The investment sought must be for research and development resulting in a working prototype, or similar, which is ready for commercialisation. The proposed technologies must fall within the following technology areas:

### METALS AND MATERIALS

The Innovation Fund seeks to invest in the development of novel and inventive metals and materials that have commercial application. These inventions must fall within the following cluster of materials and metals:

- Light Metals and Super Alloys
- Ferrous Alloys
- Hard Metals
- Stainless Steels
- Metal Matrix Composites

### MANUFACTURING

The Innovation Fund seeks to invest in novel and inventive manufacturing technologies that have commercial application and fall within the following groups:

- Metal Casting Technologies
- Machining Technologies
- Powder Metallurgy

### RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

The Innovation Fund seeks to invest in novel and inventive generation and storage technologies. The technologies must have commercial application and can fall within these domains, as examples:

- **Solar Power:** the proposed technologies must improve solar energy capturing and conversion devices. These technologies could relate to the manufacture of novel semiconductor materials for use in photovoltaics, ways of improving the efficiency of photovoltaic cells and the use of different types of semiconductors.
- **Rechargeable Battery Technologies:** the proposed technologies must improve one or a combination of the following: storage capacity, energy to weight ratio, battery life span, charging/discharging rates, internal resistance and safety. The technologies could be in the development of novel and inventive materials which can be used either as cathodes, anodes, cell separators and or novel and inventive chemistry of the electrolyte.

#### INVESTMENT CRITERIA

The investment will be for a maximum of fifteen million Rands (R15 million) over a period of three years. The investment decision will be based on the following:

- Existence of proof of science
- Project being in the late stage of its research and development
- Novelty and inventiveness
- The commercial case of the technology
- The capacity of the team to develop the proposed technology
- The applicant must be a company or be willing to register as such

#### CLOSING DATE

The closing date for this call is the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2009

#### ABOUT THE INNOVATION FUND

The Innovation Fund (IF) is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology, set up in 1999, and managed by the National Research Foundation. The mandate of the Innovation Fund is to promote technological innovation through investing in late – stage research and development, intellectual property protection and commercialisation of novel and inventive South African technologies. To date, the Innovation Fund has invested over R1 billion in projects that fall within different scientific and technological areas – from biotechnology to aeronautics.

The IF operates on an open call basis. This means that proposals for investment in the development of novel and inventive technologies are invited throughout the year. In addition, closed calls (technology specific) are issued from time to time.

INVESTING IN THE SUCCESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

w w w . i n n o v a t i o n f u n d . a c . z a

