

# TIA SEED FUND



INNOVUS



UNIVERSITEIT  
STELLENBOSCH  
UNIVERSITY

The TIA Seed Fund has the overarching goal of removing early barriers to commercialisation for technologies emerging from South African universities.

The funding is unique in the sense that it places the accountability on the universities, and allows for streamlined local decision making and execution at a very early stage of commercialisation. TIA will not claim any royalties or equity in the projects that are successfully commercialised. However, TIA will have a first right of refusal to fund further development of the outputs of the programme.

## TIA Seed Fund: An overview

### Potential Funding

Up to R650 000 in the form of a non-repayable grant.

### Who can apply

- Projects with
- Protected or protectable IP
- Projects at TRL 3 and pre-commercialisation technology

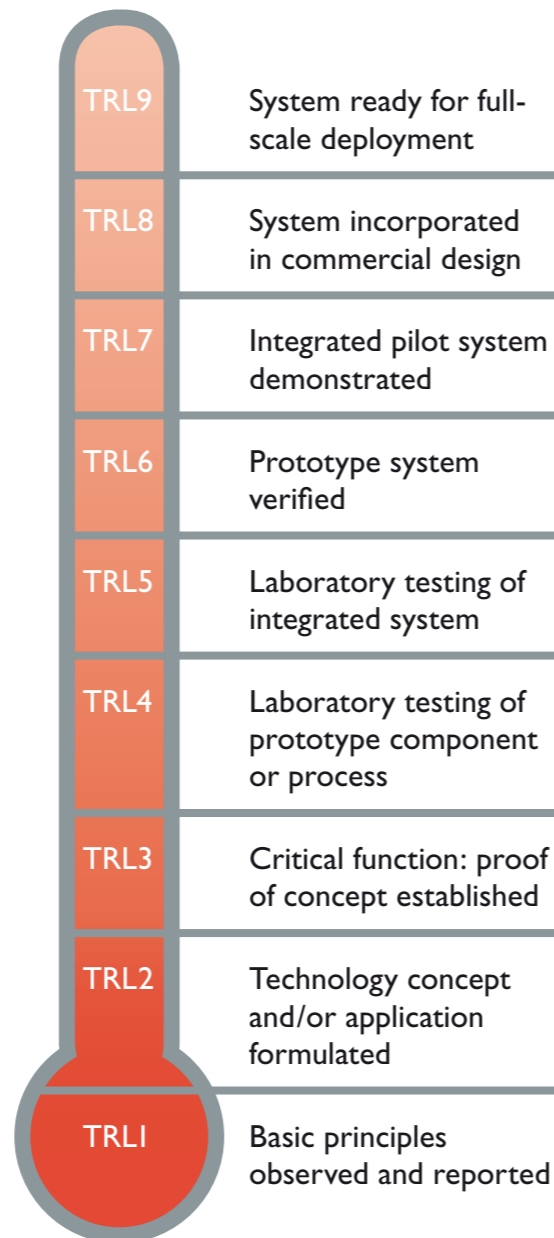
### What funding can be used for:

- Development:
  - Proof of concept
  - Product, process and prototype development
  - Refining and implementing designs
  - Business plans
- Testing
  - Production of market samples, associated testing, analytical data and method
  - Conduction field studies
  - Techno-economic evaluation studies
  - Market research, or specialist consulting
- Piloting and technology scale up
- Purchase of project-specific equipment, maximum price R30 000
- Remuneration
  - Consultants
  - SU students and technicians as technical assistants
- Sourcing IP opinions
- Support of certification activities and specification sheet development

### Non-fundable activities

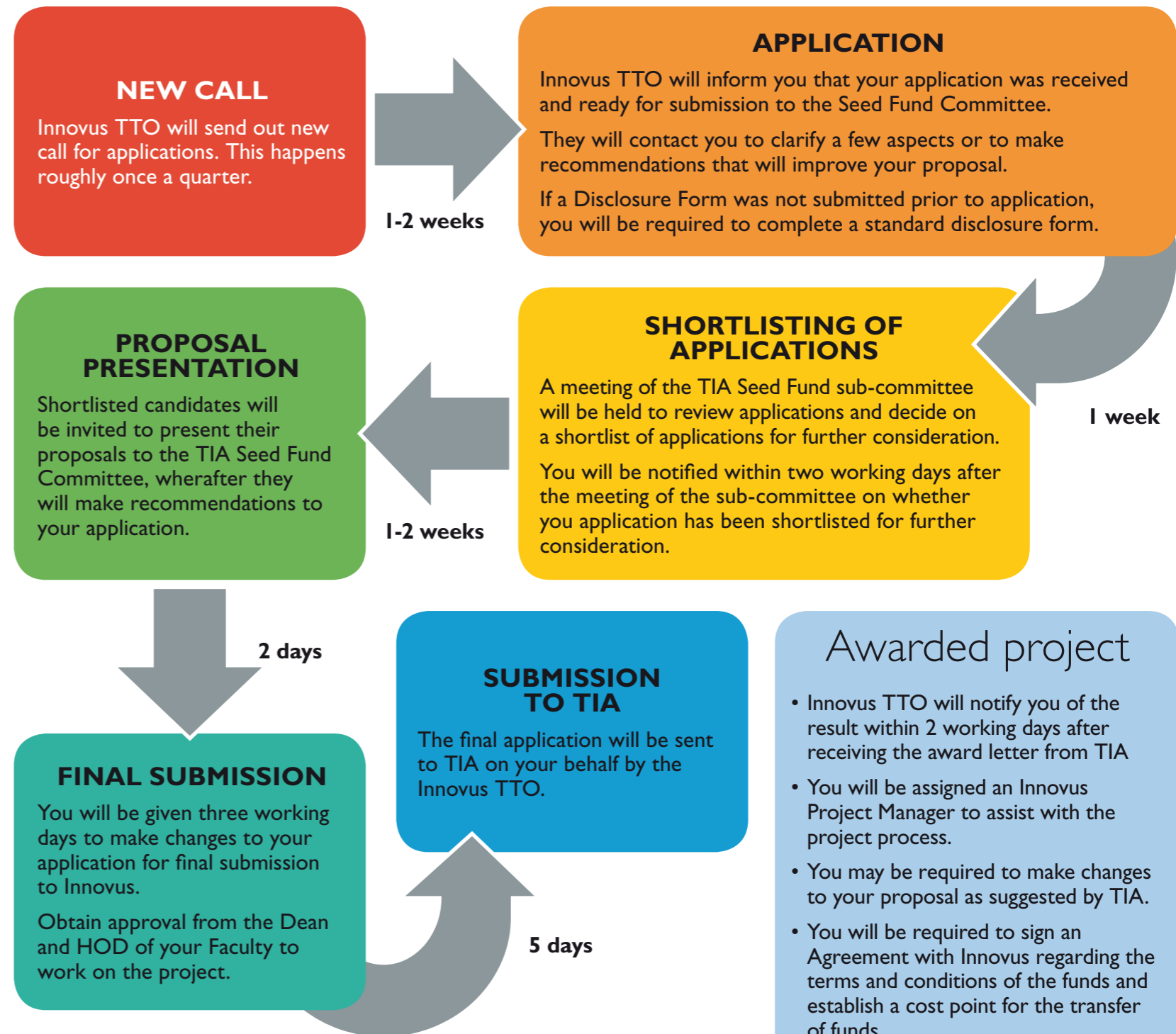
- Salary contributions to SU staff members and all inventors of the projects
- Early stage research projects
- Student bursaries, research projects and extended work period.
- Non-specialised, project-specific equipment to a maximum value of R30 000.

## Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)



Reference: [http://www.innovationseeds.eu/Virtual\\_Library/Knowledge/TLR\\_Scale.kl](http://www.innovationseeds.eu/Virtual_Library/Knowledge/TLR_Scale.kl)

## Application process



## Awarded project

- Innovus TTO will notify you of the result within 2 working days after receiving the award letter from TIA
- You will be assigned an Innovus Project Manager to assist with the project process.
- You may be required to make changes to your proposal as suggested by TIA.
- You will be required to sign an Agreement with Innovus regarding the terms and conditions of the funds and establish a cost point for the transfer of funds.
- You will be required to submit a quarterly report on the progress of the project and financial expenditure to be presented by the Innovus Project manager at the quarterly TIA Seed Fund Committee meeting.
- At the end of the project you will be required to present a close-out presentation to the TIA Seed Fund Committee.

## Contact us

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15 de Beer Street,  
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## Frequently asked Questions

**1 What is the TIA Seed Fund?**  
It is funding made available by the Technology Innovation Agency to assist innovators at higher education institutions and SMMEs to advance their research outputs and ideas to develop prototypes, proof of concept and business cases that could be used for further development.

**2 Is the funding taxable?**  
VAT is not applicable because this is seed funding.

**3 Who can I contact to assist me with the funding process?**  
You can contact Innovus:  
**Nolene Singh**      **Anita Nel**  
nsingh@sun.ac.za      ajnel@sun.ac.za  
Tel: 021 808 4192      Tel: 021 808 3079

*Please do not contact TIA directly regarding these applications.*

**4 What happens if I do not obtain the desired outcome at the end of the project?**  
You are required to submit quarterly reports on the progress of the project to the Seed Fund Committee. In this report you are requested to ensure that your project plan aligns with the funding activity for that quarter, any problems encountered must be reported to the committee. The committee will decide on the way forward with the project if problems were experienced. At the end of the project you will be required to present a close-out presentation to the committee members demonstrating the outcome of your project.

**5 Is the 20% university levy applicable for the TIA Seed Fund?**  
The TIA Seed Fund is exempted from the 20% levy.

**6 What happens to the funds not used for the project?**  
All unused funds must be returned to Innovus at the end of the project.

**7 Can the funds be used to pay student bursaries, HEI staff or inventors?**  
The fund can not be used for payment of student bursaries, HEI staff members and/or inventors of the project. Students can be paid as technical assistance on specific project related tasks only. HEI staff members and inventors can not be paid from the funds, however should you require a specialized service from a HEI staff member who is not associated with the project or department, they can be paid as consultants to the project.

**8 Can students apply for the fund?**  
Undergraduate students can not apply. Should post graduate students wish to apply, please contact **Anita Nel** or **Nolene Singh** for confirmation.

**9 What is the role of Innovus in the TIA Seed Fund?**  
Innovus is responsible for the management of the TIA Seed Fund at Stellenbosch University. The seed fund will be managed by Innovus, from the initial applications, distribution of funds and quarterly and close-out reports.

**10 Who approves the funding and progress reports?**  
Innovus has appointed a TIA Seed Fund Committee that meets quarterly to review project progress and financials. All new applications have to go through the TIA Seed Fund Committee for approval.

## TIA Seed Funding (TSF) Criteria

### WHAT QUALIFIES FOR TSF

- 1 A Stellenbosch University inventor
- 2 Protected or protectable IP
- 3 Proof of technology concept
- 4 Prototype development, product development or process development
- 5 Pre-commercialised technology
- 6 Commercialising potential of your research
- 7 Market for this product or technology
- 8 Preference to South African Technology

### WHAT DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR TSF

- 1 Not employed by Stellenbosch University
- 2 No IP or possible IP development
- 3 Basic research or technology concept
- 4 Need to establish proof of concept
- 5 Inventor require remuneration from the TSF
- 6 Research project for Masters or PhD studies
- 7 Projects funding student bursary
- 8 Extended research (over 12-18 months)

### CONTACT INNOVUS

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