

PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT SME PARTICIPATION

- Background on Government policy
- DST Programmes to support innovation
- Current Technology Stations
- Other government programmes for SME support

BACKGROUND ON GOVERNMENT POLICY

White Paper on National Strategy for the Development and Promotion of Small Business in South Africa

- access to appropriate technology as a constraint to SMEs in SA.
- renders SMEs uncompetitive and unable to contribute to economic growth, jobs creation and improved quality of life of all SA people.

White Paper on Science and Technology 1996

- broad vision focuses on maintaining cutting edge global competitiveness.
- established a policy framework for S&T in South Africa based on the concept of a National System of Innovation (NSI).

- national R&D strategy is based on the NSI.
- prime objective of NSI is to enhance the rate and quality of technology transfer and diffusion from SET sector

by provision of quality human resources, effective hard technology transfer mechanisms and the creation of more effective and efficient users of technology in the business sector.

DST PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT INNOVATION

The SA National R&D Strategy states that:

- technology and innovation missions have galvanizing effect on industry and the research community as they provide a rationale to focus effort,....and develop new technologies.
- focus is on key technological innovation, demonstration of technology, incubation of new businesses and enhanced networks of knowledge workers and firms.

DST strengthened programmes that support technology transfer and diffusion

- Tshumisano Technology Stations Programmes is a partnership programme among the DST, CTP and Germany Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ).
- Tshumisano provides technical and financial support to technology stations based in UoT.

- The technology stations offer technical support to existing SMEs in terms of technology solutions, services and training.
- The vision of DST is to realize an environment where technology-based SMEs will improve their operations, product and quality through technology assimilation and improve their innovation capabilities & UoT will enhance their R&D, teaching and learning activities by improving their equipment as well as commercialization of technology.

CURRENT TECHNOLOGY STATIONS

Free State Central University of Technology

- support on metals value adding and product development (Rapid Prototyping).

Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)

- support on electronic product development (surface mount technology)
- chemicals (product development & testing, etc.)

Mangosuthu Technikon

- chemicals (training & detergents and cosmetics development)

Nelson Mandela Metro University of Technology

- automotives components including robotics and mechatronics
- support downstream chemical industries

Cape Peninsula University of Technology

- clothing and textiles (lab infrastructure for textiles and courses in textiles engineering)
- agrifood technology (product development)

Vaal University of Technology

- materials and processing technologies

University of Johannesburg

- metal casting technology

Durban Institute of Technology

- product design on reinforced and moulded plastics

OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES FOR SME SUPPORT

DST initiated Godisa (nurturing) Technology and Business Incubation Programme with the assistance of the EU and later joined by DTI.

- Service range (innovation support, market & finance access, office space, etc)

Enactment of the National Small Enterprise Development Act of 200- establishment of Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA)

- This change in government strategy resulted to the merging of the Godisa programme and the National Technology Transfer Centre (NTTC) to form SEDA Technology Programme.
- Godisa/Seda Technology Programme has the following centres in these sectors; Egolibio (Biotechnology), Softstart^{BTI} (ICT), Timbali (cutflower), Acorn (life sciences), Chemin (chemicals), Embizeni Innovation support (ICTe) and Zenzele Technology Demonstration (small scale mining).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN FP7

Integration

- UoT generate knowledge for SMEs

Strep

- Some projects are undertaken with assistance of international experts.

Craft/Collective

- R&D for SMEs is funded by Technology Stations (co-funding)

www.tshumisano.co.za

www.godisa.net

THANK YOU