



NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INNOVATION

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Call for Proposals

DEVELOPMENT OF A PROFILE OF BEST PRACTICES IN THE NSI

1. Purpose

The objective of this project is to produce a profile of national and international best practices in key spheres that account for a significant portion of the productivity, effectiveness and efficiency of the NSI.

2. Expected Outputs

The expected output is a report (not to exceed 100 pages) which:

- (i) Summarises national and international best practices that account for a significant portion of the productivity, efficiency and effectiveness of the NSI, and
- (ii) Makes informed recommendations on best practices that should be adopted in South Africa. The policy recommendations will then be converted into a Ministerial advice document.

3. Design

The service provider will use the following critical areas that have been identified by SC1 as a point of departure for establishing best practices, and making recommendations on the applicability and transferability of these practices to the South African context:

- Monitoring infrastructure needs, availability and utilisation.
- Technology transfer.
- Governance of the NSI.
- Role of innovation in public-private linkages.
- Incentives for innovation.
- Smart ways of accessing foreign funding.
- Incentives for regional co-operation.
- Capacity building.
- Role of FTE in innovation capacity provision.

The service provider will also need to consult widely with recognised local and international experts in order to ascertain the full spectrum of areas that are regarded as being critically important for the productivity of the NSI.

In addition, the service provider will be expected to:

- (i) Collect and synthesise information on best practices obtained from: interviews with key local and international experts, a review of scientific publications, and Internet searches.
- (ii) Compile a collection of 'best practice' case studies from both local and international experience.
- (iii) Contextualise the profile of best practices in the South African environment, in particular the current NSI practice and policy landscape.
- (iv) Demonstrate a clear link between this research and the SETW4 study.
- (v) Synthesise the findings into a succinct draft report.
- (vi) Organise and facilitate a workshop of experts. The purpose of the expert meeting is to critically discuss the draft report prepared by the service provider. In particular, the experts will be asked to evaluate the relevance of the profile of best practices for the South African situation, and to assess the feasibility of 'transferring' the best practices to the South African NSI.
- (vii) Modify the draft report by incorporating the suggestions and comments of the experts.
- (viii) Prepare the final, consolidated report. The service provider should strive for brevity when reporting the findings and making recommendations.

INSTRUCTIONS

All submitted proposals should provide:

- Detailed information on the proposed design of the project.
- A detailed project management plan.
- An indication of the timeframe for the project.
- A detailed project budget.
- An indication of how the different tasks will be executed.
- List of at least three current and/or recent projects directly related to the present call for proposals.
- Résumés (i.e. qualifications and experience) of all consultants who would be involved in the project.

Submissions should reach the NACI Secretariat on or before Friday, 28 October 2005 at the following postal address: The National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), PO Box 1758, Pretoria, 0001. All enquiries should be directed to Ms Charlotte Mzolo: Tel (012) 392 9351; Fax (012) 392 9353; Email: Charlotte.Mzolo@dst.gov.za.