## Question & Response

### Overall Remarks:
Applicants are encouraged to carefully study the Call for Proposal document which contains details about the design and intended objectives of the grant. This is the document that will guide the assessment of proposals by the independent reviewers and final selection of successful proposals for award.

### How do we handle the challenge of finding technologies to be commercialized, most technologies in my university have already been patented in western countries as they are products of joint research?
It is recommended for the university to conduct an intellectual asset audit; this will help to identify existing research outputs with potential for commercialization. Alternatively, one can reach out to the Intellectual Property owners for the specific technology and negotiate to commercialize through licensing.

### Are applicants restricted to submit projects within the selected RSIF PhD Program for the University?
Yes, the project proposal must be linked with the RSIF PhD program in the African Host University.

### Is it possible to submit more than one application from each African Host University?
Yes, there is no limit to the number of proposals to be submitted by eligible applicants from RSIF African Host University.

### If a researcher wants to begin a start up company from his research, are they obliged to seek partnerships with a private sector company?
No, as provided in section 4 of the call for proposal document, there is an exception to partnership with a private sector entity if it is envisaged and it is clear that the proposed project aims to establish a new company/spin-off in SSA region by researchers from a scientific research institution or through a public-private partnership. In such a case, the applicant should provide a clear plan and written evidence of future seat of the new company in the business incubator, business accelerator or technology hub located in one of the SSA countries.

### Are the international partners mainly expected to be incubators?
No, these could be scientific research institutions, higher education institutions and business entities (including business incubators and private companies with experience in innovation development and commercialization of research knowledge). Refer to Section 4 on Eligibility Criteria.

### How do we meet the matching funding requirement when working with an internal-university based incubator?
Matching funding can be provided in cash or in kind. Applicants are encouraged to engage with the university administration for guidance on possible funding that can be provided as matching funds to the proposed projects.

### How do we handle private sector partners who are not willing to provide matching funding and instead expect payment from the grant?
Project teams are advised to identify private sector partners who have a need for the proposed technological solution, this will facilitate a win-win situation between the researcher and the private sector entity for a cordial discussion on potential collaboration.

### A concern was raised that some African countries do not have a strong private sector base which makes it challenging to meet the eligibility requirements.
Project teams are advised to explore partnerships with existing innovation support organizations such as incubators, accelerators and tech hubs as per the eligibility requirements in Section 4 of the Call for proposal document.