Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education

**PASET REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND INNOVATION FUND
MOZSKILLS[1] SUB-PROJECT**

**Call for Proposals
(Cooperability Award)**

Closing date: 18th November 2021, 23:59hrs CAT

1. Introduction

The Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) is an African-led initiative to strengthen skills in applied sciences, engineering and technology and further socio-economic transformation in sub- Saharan Africa (SSA). The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF) is a flagship program of PASET. The primary objective of RSIF is to train high quality PhD and post-doctoral scientists to address the human resource gap in the fields of applied sciences, engineering, and technology (ASET)[2] and to contribute to improving research and innovation capacities in those fields in SSA. RSIF supports PhD students, post-doctoral scientists, and universities in SSA to establish a high-quality training, research, and innovation environment and to develop their institutional capacity for the benefit of the continent. RSIF is currently funded by contributions from African governments, the World Bank, The European Union, and the Government of Korea; and implemented by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), Nairobi, Kenya, as the RSIF Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU).

The government of Mozambique through its World Bank funded Project on Improvement of Skills Development in Mozambique, (MozSkills) is contributing USD 6 million to RSIF to finance PhD scholarships in universities in SSA and to support research, and innovation activities. The support to innovation activities includes collaborative partnerships involving scientists/researchers and innovators at universities, research centers and private companies through competitive grants to fund innovation projects in ASET fields. The main objective is to strengthen the innovation enabling environment and capacity of Mozambican universities, public research institutes and the private sector to collaborate and foster innovation development in the country.

2. Innovation Grants

Innovation grants are for strengthening innovation environment of universities to enable commercialization of research outputs or ideas and also promote University-Industry linkages. The grants also support actual innovation projects, which translate research outputs into commercializable products.

Two types of innovation grants are available:

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[1] Improvement of Skills Development in Mozambique (MozSkills)
[2] PASET Thematic Areas include; ICTs including big data and artificial intelligence; food security and agribusiness; minerals, mining and materials engineering; energy including renewables; and climate change.

a. **Type 1 innovation grants:** also referred to as **RSIF Institutional Innovation Capacity Building Program** (RSIF ICBP) will be awarded competitively to Mozambican universities to create enabling environment within the university that encourages innovation and promotes university- industry partnerships.

b. **Type 2 grants**: also referred to as **RSIF Cooperability Grants** will be awarded competitively for collaborative innovation projects involving researchers, scientists, and innovators from Mozambican universities, public research institutes and private sector to develop commercializable products.

3. About this Call

This call is for Cooperability Grants. The grants are for innovation projects in areas aligned with PASET priority sectors. The innovation projects will be jointly carried out by researchers or scientists from Mozambican universities or public research institutes and private sector firms[3]. Where necessary, relevant international partners may be involved in the project. The grant will fund activities aimed at translating scientific knowledge into products, including materials, devices, systems and/or methods and technologies, that have commercial potential. Applicants may propose innovative ideas that address COVID-19 pandemic such as use of ICTs or digital manufacturing techniques like 3-D printing of personal protective equipment, etc. The Grant also supports creation of startup enterprises or spin-offs from universities. The support includes protection of intellectual property (IP).

4. Grant Size and Duration

Each grant is up to US$ 70,000 for **a maximum period of 2 years from the time of award.** A total of three (3) grants will be awarded to successful applicants.

5. Eligibility Criteria

a. The Call is open to researchers, scientists and innovators from Mozambican universities, public research institutes and private sector firms with innovative ideas that could be commercialized. University students at Masters or PhD may be part of a project proposal but cannot be lead applicants. Private sector companies must be registered legal entities. PASET-RSIF International Partner institutions[4] who have experience in innovation and commercialization of knowledge may be invited be part of the proposal.

b. Applicants may apply as individuals or as a team, but in all cases the proposal must demonstrate collaboration with either the private sector or university or public research institute in carrying out the activities of the project.

c. The lead applicant should be from a Mozambican university, public research institute or a legally registered private sector company.

d. Applicants must be full time faculty members or scientists, researchers and innovators at Mozambican universities, public research institutes or private sector firms.

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[3] Private firms include legally registered SMEs, for profit non-governmental and governmental organizations operating as business enterprises, multinational, regional and national corporate business entities among others.

[4] An international partner may be from one of the universities or institutions already enlisted as an international partner institution or from one of the AHUs (see list on the RSIF website) or another institution with a similar profile

e. Applicants should hold at least a Bachelors' or Masters' degree in a relevant field of the project. Female applicants are highly encouraged.

f. A private sector partner/applicant should be registered in the relevant national central register of business entities and should have been in operation for at least two years. The firm will be required to submit a copy of the operating license or certificate of incorporation from the Central Register of Business Entities (depending on the type of legal entity).

g. Applicants should not be recipients of another grant from any other source of funding for the very same project submitted to this call unless it is for complementary purposes, such as matching support.

h. Applicants must obtain authorization from their organization of affiliation to submit a proposal to this Call. This may be in form of a letter of support signed by the Dean or Principal of College or School of a higher education institution or head of a private enterprise, whichever the case might be.

6. Proposal Guidelines

a. The proposal should contain the following sections: introduction, description of the innovative idea/technology, objectives, expected outputs, methods to be used, description of activities, gender considerations, risk analysis, ethical considerations, intellectual property management, team composition including role of partners, budget, matching support, and references. The proposal should be no more than 15 pages including references. It should be written in Times New Romans font, size 12, single spacing, normal margins.

b. The applicant may submit only one proposal where he/she is the project leader and may also be a co-leader/applicant in **only one** other proposal submitted. The applicant should not appear in more than two proposals submitted.

c. The lead applicant should submit a letter of support from the head of their organization. In the case of universities, the letter may be signed by the Dean or Principal of the School or College.

7. Budget Guidelines

a. The applicants should use the budget template, which can be accessed from this link: Applicants should indicate a cash or in-kind matching funding of at least 15% of the total grant amount requested from RSIF. This can be shared among the partners in the proposal. The matching funding may be from a variety source, including the institution, private sector partner entity or international partner. The budget requested from RSIF should not exceed US**$70,000.**

b. Activities that can be financed include direct project costs such as the cost of laboratory or field work, travel, meetings, services, equipment and supplies for product development, business incubation costs e.g., developing business models, value chain, market feasibility studies/analyses and testing, branding, license registration, Intellectual property management and where possible pilot production.

c. The applicant's organization of affiliation may charge **overhead** not exceeding 10% of direct project costs. The organization may wish to waiver overheads or consider it as in-kind support to the project. See budget template for more details.

8. Evaluation process and criteria

a. Evaluation Process

i. All proposals are evaluated against the criteria stated below. Each proposal is reviewed by at least three internationally recognized independent experts.

ii. Evaluated proposals are submitted to the RSIF Grants Independent Technical Committee (GITC) for the final assessment, selection, and recommendation for award of the grant.

iii. The Mozambique Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education will make the final decision on the selected projects to be funded in line with the recommendations of the RSIF GITC, and the PASET Executive Board will be notified of the decision.

iv. The list of the projects selected for co-financing shall be published on the RSIF website (https://www.rsif-paset.org/) as well as Mozambique's Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education website.

b. Evaluation criteria (Table 1)

Table 1. Criteria for evaluation of proposals

Criteria	Max. Score Allocated
i. Originality and innovativeness of the project idea	30
ii. Scientific and technical quality of the proposal	30
iii. Potential for commercialization/market application and sustainability	20
iv. Budget, financial structure	10
v. Capacity of the project team, team composition	10
Total	**100**

9. Ethical Issues

In the process of preparing the grant application, the applicant is obliged to observe ethical principles and rules and describe how ethical issues in the application will be addressed. The applicant should indicate plans to obtain ethical approval from relevant bodies if the proposed project involves human or animal subjects.

10. Risk Management Plan

The applicant should provide a risk analysis and contingency plan, including specific risks related to COVID-19 measures. This should include the potential physical, environmental, political, economic, and social risks expected from the conduct of the research and mitigation strategies. The proposal should be submitted along with the completed environmental and social screening template that is provided.

11. Application templates

i. Complete the online application and submit together with the required supporting documents *via* the online system at this link.

ii. The online system will accept the following file types of doc, docx, pdf, rtf, zip, rar, jpg, jpeg, png, bmp, tif. The maximum file size accepted for any single file is 5 MB.

iii. Refer to the Proposal Outline document for guidance in completing your application. Should there be any challenges navigating the application system, please contact rsifgrants@icipe.org

iv. Refer to the list of selected RSIF African Host Universities and the respective approved thematic areas to establish partnerships.

v. The proposal must be written in English or Portuguese.

vi. Applications for the Call should be submitted no later than **18th November 2021, 23:59hrs CAT**

vii. The table below provides a checklist of the documents required for completion of the application:

Table 2. List of documents required to complete the application

Documents required for RSIF -Cooperability Grants Program application	
1.	Project proposal
2.	Project budget using the budget template
3.	Workplan and Result Matrix using template provided
4.	Curriculum vitae of key research team members
5.	A letter of support signed by the Dean or Principal of College or School of a higher education institution or head of a private enterprise.
Documents to be submitted by a private company (including partners) include:	
1.	A photocopy of a Certificate from the Central Register of Business Entities
2.	A support letter indicating their commitment and support for the project

12. Additional Information

a. Successful applications are expected to be announced no later than four months from the closing date of this call.

b. Letters rejecting or accepting proposals, with statements of opinion, will be sent to all applicants within three months after the application deadline.

c. The summaries of successful proposals will be published through Mozambique's Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, International Bureau of Education and on the RSIF websites.

d. Please, note that the submission of project proposal does not establish any form of legal claim or responsibility of RSIF Fund nor icipe as the RCU. All decisions of the Approval Committees are final and are not subject to further claims or revisions, with exception of administrative mistakes.

e. All selected applicants will be required to sign a Project Grant Agreement with *icip*e. The Agreement provides general and specific terms and condition for the efficient and effective management of the grant.

f. All applicants are encouraged to review the Project Grant Agreement and the RSIF Research and Innovation Grants Manual which can be found here.

13. Contact Information and Support

A webinar session to provide clarifications on the call has been prepared. Register in advance here. Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For more information visit https://www.rsif-paset.org/.

Further enquiries can be sent to rsifgrants@icipe.org
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