

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Panel of Experts to Support for Water and Sanitation Projects

The Water Research Commission (WRC) is a national entity established in terms of the Water Research Act (Act No 34 of 1971), to coordinate and fund water research in South Africa. The WRC, through its Key Strategic Focus areas and accelerator programmes like SASTEP and WADER, provide technical and commercialization support to transitioning water and sanitation innovations to the market. The programmes provide funding to innovators and technology partners to conduct the demonstration and field-testing of their innovations/technologies as well as facilitating access to appropriate testbed sites in municipalities, water boards and other relevant site. The purpose of the field-testing and demonstration is to evaluate and validate the functionality, performance, and user acceptance of the innovation. To ensure the accuracy and veracity of the outcomes, independent technology evaluators are required to assess these criteria during the field-testing and demonstration period.

The WRC, through these programmes and various key strategic focus areas, also deal with barriers that may hinder uptake post successful demonstration by providing support which includes initiating research studies to identify and address policy, regulatory, economic, governance, capacity, financial, institutional, social and political barriers that may undermine or prejudice the adoption of successfully demonstrated innovations in the water and sanitation sector. Other support includes assisting innovators with developing and refining bankable business plans, creating business and revenue models and other commercialization and industrialization support as well as social development studies (user surveys, etc..). These activities often require reliable and relevant data, which are not freely available or open source, hence there is a need to establish a panel of experts who can be agile in conducting research, data analysis and offer necessary support and advisory to enable successfully demonstrated innovations to be taken up by the sector. We are seeking water and sanitation experts and RDI experts to provide advisory and support on strategic and emergency matters.

To facilitate water and sanitation innovation demonstration evaluations as well as support post successful demonstration, the WRC is inviting applications from suitable candidates to be included in a panel of experts for a 3-year period to conduct technical and regulatory/policy evaluations, market and economic research/studies, business support, social development studies, water governance and water economics. The panel of experts may consist of the following but not limited to:

- Engineers
- Environmental Scientists
- Economists
- Social Scientists
- Public Health Specialists
- Water Quality Specialists
- Ecotoxicologists
- Political scientist/analyst
- Water and Environmental Law

The panel of experts will support water and sanitation projects in the following areas:

- Sanitation
- Membrane technologies

- Water conservation and demand management
- Water and wastewater management (including sludge management, mining-influenced & industrial water management)
- Water and sewerage reticulation
- Water resources management
- Wetlands
- Agricultural water management
- Integrated resource management (water-energy-food (WEF) nexus)
- Ecological and built infrastructure
- Water ICT Applications
- Social innovations
- Ground water systems
- Water Services Innovations
- Water remediation
- Greywater and Rainwater technologies
- Storm water technologies

A minimum of three (3) experts will be included in the pool for each technology area listed above and applicants are welcome to indicate multiple areas of expertise. Applicants should also indicate which services they are providing for each expertise (Technical evaluations or/and regulatory/policy evaluations and/or market/economic research and/or business support and/or, social development studies, and/or water governance and/or water economics studies). Universities with postdoctoral students are encouraged to apply but please note that these projects have a short turnaround time of 6 to 12 months generally. There will be a budget cap of R500 000 for projects/studies with duration of 0-6months and the budget cap can be up to 1million for projects/studies with duration of 6-12 months.

Submission:

All applicants are requested to provide the following for consideration:

1. Complete attached form
2. Submit the following:
 - a. Technical submission
 - i. A list of the technology areas they would like to be considered as well as services they intent to offer (Technical evaluations or/and regulatory/policy evaluations and/or market/economic research and/or business support and/or, social development studies, and/or water governance and/or water economics studies)
 - ii. A detailed methodology for each service offering
 - iii. A table of content for a sample report showing areas that will be considered and reported for each of the services to be considered for
 - iv. List of previous experience in the services you intend to be considered for
 - v. List and detailed CV of key personnel - Proof of qualifications will be requested from shortlisted applicants and is not required at the application stage.

vi. A schedule of cost – this should include manhour rates for all categories of personnel and other cost considered in proposed methodology.

b. Other submission: i. B-BBEE status level verification certificate

ii. Tax Clearance Certificate

iii. Company Registration Certificate

Selection Criteria:

Submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Assessment of technical ability based on submitted methodology and report template (30%)
- Previous water and sanitation RDI experience in services to be offered (25%)
- Experience and qualification of key personnel (25%) (at least a master's degree in engineering or Science or relevant qualification)
- Manhour rates and other costs (10%)
- B-BBEE status (10%)
- Experience in R&D methodology would be advantageous

All applications must be submitted electronically before COB October 31, 2023 to Mr Alpheus Sebolaaneng, alpheuss@wrc.org.za

Any technical queries should be directed to SASTEP Commercialisation Manager, Mr. Phillip Majeke on phillipm@wrc.org.za