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## **CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF INNOVATIVE BUSINESS CONCEPT**

### **A) Background**

The University of Rwanda (UR) aspires to be an internationally recognized university that excels in research and innovation, teaching and learning, and community engagement. In collaboration with the Research and Innovation System in Africa (RISA), UR-CST through the African Center of Excellence in the Internet of Things (ACEIoT) has established an IoT and AI applied research results in commercialization through an incubation hub. This incubation hub is hosted at the African Centre of Excellence in the Internet of Things (ACEIoT) and has the following overall objectives:

- Facilitate the Technology/Knowledge Transfer from university to industries
- Provision of required resources, infrastructure and knowledge through professional training to incubates.
- Support in developing new solutions that address societal challenges and reduce poverty.
- Linking incubates with the industry for job opportunities and creating start-ups.
- Strengthening Academia-Industry collaboration

This call for innovative business concepts invites interested UR students, UR alumni, with innovative projects and business ideas to submit their business concepts for a collaborative effort to develop a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) that might fit the market needs and solve society's challenges.

### **B) Criteria for selection**

The innovative business concept must meet the following criteria:

1. The business concept should be jointly developed by a team and implemented through the practice venture process, or individuals sharing their dreams and passion.
2. The business concept should demonstrate team composition which takes considerable factor GESI, such as females, youth, and people with disability where necessary
3. The business concept should contribute to country priorities as elaborated in the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
4. The business concept should demonstrate a high probability of profitability and financial viability concept



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5. The business concept should demonstrate a high degree of local appropriateness and a degree of responsiveness to local community problems.
6. The business concept should demonstrate sustainability in terms of its proposed business models for business implementation
7. The business concept should also clearly indicate why there's a need for funding
8. The business concept should also clearly demonstrate a unique value proposition and alternative solution.
9. The business idea should indicate its specific industry sector and adjacent sector.

### C) Submission

The proposed business concept should be based on IoT and AI as core technologies and meet the aforementioned criteria for innovative businesses.

The submitted business concept note should therefore include a brief description of the following:

- a. Title of the business concept
- b. Industry or sector: for example, the agriculture industry.
- c. Brief description of a business concept (500 words)
- d. Brief description of team members and their specific roles
- e. Summary of the problem statement and proposed alternative solutions fit (maximum 250 words)
- f. Market segment or niche
- g. Background of the founder and the promoter/ or co-founder (max 300 words)
- h. A brief explanation of why the concept is doable (max 200 words)
- i. Brief description of how gender dimension, and inclusion of people with disabilities can contribute in the implementation of your business idea (300 max words)

**Supporting documents: Complete concept note or project proposal in PDF together with, ID, CV, student card or proof that you were a student at the University of Rwanda, recommendation letter from the HoD in case the project has been recommended by the department or School**

### D) Pre-selection process

A pre-selection process based on formal requirements and adherence to the requirements will be conducted at the ACEIoT – Nyarugenge Campus and the selected team will undertake interview for further consideration

**What to expect:** We would provide feedback to applicants on strong areas of their application and areas where there is a need for improvement



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### **E) Startup boot camp training at the IoT and AI -Incubation hub**

There will be free three training sessions opportunities with refreshment which will equip the selected candidates with the knowledge and skills in IoT prototyping, entrepreneurship and commercialization.

At the end of all training sessions, a competition will be organized to select 6 best projects to be funded. The incubatees will be hosted at the IoT and AI Incubation Hub for a period of 6 months before the graduation of ventures to our acceleration platform.

Selected best business concepts, will be allowed to attend several trainings organized by the incubation hub.

**What to expect:** The training aims to provide a business coach, mentorship, and guidance. Incubates will get free access to expertise in their field and industry practitioners will be available to share their success stories and business journey.

### **F) Seed funding**

The selected best projects will be given market validation seed funding and business coaching as incubates at the hub. There will be industry linkages with the project teams in further projects development toward commercialization of the final product.

### **G) The deadline for submission**

The deadline for submission is set for **14<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 11:59PM**

### **H) Application process**

All the concepts note and other supporting documents will be submitted through this [link](#)

**For any additional information, clarifications, or inquiry, you can contact the management of the IoT and AI incubation Hub through these emails**

1. Damien Hanyurwimfura, [hadamfr@gmail.com](mailto:hadamfr@gmail.com).
2. Desire Ngabo, [dngabo@gmail.com](mailto:dngabo@gmail.com)
3. Evariste Twahirwa, [evatwah@gmail.com](mailto:evatwah@gmail.com)

For more information, please visit the website: <https://aceiot.ur.ac.rw/incubation/>

NB: Only preselected innovative concept owners will be notified for further processes.