

Request for Proposal: Mentorship and Innovation Partner to enhance Digital Prototype into Solution

1. Background

National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA) and the University of South Africa (UNISA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the period of 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022 for the NEMISA Strategic Goal: ‘Programme 4: Knowledge for Innovation’ (K4I). K4I is an ongoing evidence-based research and innovation programme which operates in a cross-disciplinary manner to concentrate on new ways to embed digital technology into people's lives. This is to improve opportunities, access to government services, and to move towards social cohesion. These tasks are not distinct activities as they are part of the larger NEMISA and Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) agenda towards preparing South Africa for the 4IR and towards “building a capable 4IR army”. K4I is a collaboration between multiple stakeholders, including South African universities, Industry, Innovation partners and many others.

2. The hackathon and the winning solution

Between 26-28 February 2021, NEMISA and K4I hosted the national data science hackathon 2021 in all the nine provinces of South Africa - <https://4irdigitalskills.co.za>. Each province had a provincial winner that competed at a national level where the Ultimate Winner was selected. The Ultimate Winner won R100,000.00 worth of support to develop the winning solution.

The winning solution needs to be improved such that an individual can enter his / her information, and the solution advise the candidate of their likelihood of being employed, after which it would recommend available digital skills that can be done at NEMISA and / or its partners. The solution should also show the improved employment on entrepreneurial prospects on completion of the digital skills. Where possible, organisations which have open opportunities for candidates with the digital skills should be part of the system.

The above likelihoods and recommendations must be based on data from South Africa from as many sources as may be required.

3. Request for proposals

This request for proposal therefore seeks for an innovation partner who will support the further development of the solution as described above working closely with the winner. The innovation partner needs to have capabilities in the following areas:

Youth emancipation.

1. Overcoming bottlenecks that impede youth employment.
2. Skills development with the youth.
3. Provide the winner with a stipend for 6 months

Understand government.

1. Maximising limited government resources.
2. Multi-stakeholder partnerships to access more data as may be required.

4IR competences

1. Artificial intelligence, data science or machine learning

Intellectual property and information privacy

1. Develop a non-disclosure agreement as appropriate.
2. Structure an intellectual property regime between NEMISA, UNISA, the winner, the innovation partner and / or any other required partner.

4. Selection process

The selection process will very likely involve an interview process.

5. For more information contact

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6. Closing Date

25 March 2021 (Thursday, 12h00 pm)