



CSIR/DSTI Industrial Biocatalysis Hub

Call for Expressions of Interest

Product and process development support to enterprises

Invitation

The Industrial Biocatalysis Hub (IBH) is a Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) initiative supported through the Strategic Industrial Bioinnovation Partnership Programme. Biocatalysis entails the use of enzymes and microorganisms to develop processes and produce products such as industrial biologics, biopharmaceuticals, bio-veterinary compounds, flavours and fragrances, food additives and natural plant-derived compounds for use in dietary supplements, nutraceuticals, food and feed products and cosmetics. This initiative aligns with the DSTI's National Bio-economy Strategy, which aims to drive economic growth and socioeconomic development in South Africa.

Note: This call does not provide for the purchase of equipment for enterprises or direct monetary support.

1. The CSIR/DSTI IBH

The DSTI has identified biocatalysis as a key enabling technology for the development of a sustainable industrial bio-economy sector in South Africa. The CSIR's strategy, which places strong emphasis on the industrialisation of technology, aligns strategically with the objectives of the IBH. Biocatalysis research, development and commercialisation are priority focus areas within the CSIR Future Production: Chemicals cluster.

The Biocatalysis Research Group in the CSIR Future Production: Chemicals cluster has extensive research and development experience, which resulted in complete technology demonstrators and technology packages ready for industry implementation. In addition to this, the CSIR Biomanufacturing Industry Development Centre provides bioprocess development infrastructure on campus, ranging from laboratory to pilot scale. This includes upstream reactors from 1 L to 1 000 L, as well as downstream processing, formulation and analytical capabilities required for process development.

The key objectives of the IBH are:

- Coordinate and support South Africa's biocatalysis industrialisation activities;
- Select and support Nodes that facilitate biocatalysis activities and capacity building; and
- Undertake collaborative projects with enterprises to localise and develop biocatalysis technologies for commercial-scale implementation.

The IBH has been capacitated with funding to offer the following support:

- Access to CSIR infrastructure and skilled human resources (scientists, technologists and process engineers) in biocatalysis and biomanufacturing;
- Technology development, technology validation, scale-up support and techno-economic analysis;
- Bio-based product development, formulation and labelling/packaging support;
- Mentoring and training in manufacturing skills; and
- Expert analytical support and method development (e.g. Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography with Mass Spectrometry, Gas chromatography and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance).

2. Submission requirements

To apply, please complete the EoI form at [CSIR/DSTI Industrial Biocatalysis Hub](#) and email the PDF versions of curriculum vitae (CV's), Broad-Based Black Economic Empowered (B-BEEE) certificate/affidavit and proof of Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) registration to ibh@csir.co.za.

Please use the following naming convention for attached documents:

CV's, certificates and so forth:
Name of Enterprise_CV Jane Smith_2025
Name of Enterprise_CIPC proof of registration_ 2025
Name of Enterprise_BBBEE verification o3 affidavit_ _2025

The ability to co-fund this application and a demonstrated commitment to transformation will be considered an advantage.



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Exclusionary criteria:

Applications will not be considered if:

- The EoI does not involve biocatalysis or is not intended for commercial implementation;
- The enterprise is not registered with the CIPC (proof of CIPC registration must be submitted with the application);
- The application is not accompanied by a valid B-BBEE certificate or affidavit;
- The application is not accompanied by CV's; and
- The applications is sent to any email address other than ibh@csir.co.za.

Closing date for applications : 5 December 2025