

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

Industry Participation in the Development and Qualification of Hot Isostatic Pressing Applications

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
ACT	Advanced Casting Technologies
AM	Additive Manufacturing
AMM	Advanced Materials and Manufacturing
B-BBEE	Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment
CAD	Computer-Aided Design
CIPC	Companies and Intellectual Property Commission
CSD	Central Supplier Database
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DSTI	Department of Science, Technology and Innovation
EoI	Expression of Interest
HIP	Hot Isostatic Pressing
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
IP	Intellectual Property
MIM	Metal Injection Moulding
NDA	Non-Disclosure Agreement
NDT	Non-Destructive Testing
OEM	Original equipment manufacturer
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PM	Powder Metallurgy
PM-HIP	Powder Metallurgy–Hot Isostatic Pressing
QA	Quality Assurance
R&D	Research and Development
SMME	Small, medium and micro enterprise
TEA	Techno-economic assessment
TRL	Technology Readiness Level

1 Invitation

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research invites South African original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), asset owners, foundries, additive-manufacturing companies, powder-metallurgy companies, engineering firms, component manufacturers and other industrial organisations to express interest in participating in a national Hot Isostatic Pressing (HIP) industrial-development programme.

The programme will undertake a structured market study and gather market intelligence on current and potential demand for HIP in South Africa. It will identify credible lead users, priority component families and industrial products that can be processed, developed, improved or qualified at the CSIR HIP facility.

Up to five industrial projects may be selected in each programme year. The intention is to demonstrate technical and commercial value, reduce adoption and qualification risks, and build a sustainable pipeline of locally relevant HIP applications.

2 Background and rationale

Hot Isostatic Pressing is an advanced manufacturing process in which a component is subjected simultaneously to elevated temperature and high isostatic gas pressure. Depending on the material and application, HIP can eliminate internal porosity, close suitable internal defects, improve density and microstructural uniformity, enhance mechanical and fatigue performance, and enable powder-based near-net-shape manufacture.

The CSIR commissioned a national HIP capability during 2025 to support the development, optimisation and qualification of high-integrity metallic components. The facility is positioned as a pre-competitive industrial-development and risk-reduction platform. The CSIR will support process development, demonstration, validation and qualification; participating manufacturers and industry partners will remain responsible for commercial production and market adoption.

Although South Africa has prospective applications across several sectors, demand is not yet sufficiently quantified, organised or supported by local demonstration cases. The programme will therefore combine market intelligence, techno-economic assessment (TEA) and carefully selected lead-user projects rather than conducting isolated experimental trials.

3 Purpose and objectives

The purpose of this Expression of Interest (EoI) is to identify industrial participants and product opportunities that could benefit from HIP and to generate evidence that guides sustainable use of the CSIR capability.

- Identify lead users, OEMs, manufacturers and asset owners with credible HIP requirements.
- Quantify current and potential demand for local HIP services.
- Identify component families technically suitable for processing at the CSIR facility.
- Understand technical, commercial, supply-chain and qualification barriers to adoption.
- Identify components currently sent outside South Africa for HIP processing.
- Identify opportunities for import substitution, localisation, export development and supply-risk reduction.
- Select and implement up to five industrial demonstration projects per year.
- Develop non-confidential industrial case studies and a prioritised future project pipeline.

4 Scope and priority applications

Applications may involve additive manufacturing, powder metallurgy and Powder Metallurgy–Hot Isostatic Pressing (PM-HIP), metal injection moulding, conventional or investment casting, cladding, joining, diffusion bonding, dissimilar-metal products and other specialised manufacturing routes requiring densification or defect closure.

Application area	Indicative opportunity
Additive manufacturing	Densification, internal-porosity reduction, fatigue improvement and qualification of high-integrity parts.
Powder metallurgy and PM-HIP	Near-net-shape products made from encapsulated powders, including complex or difficult-to-machine alloys.
Cast components	Assessment and closure of suitable internal porosity or shrinkage-related defects and improvement of consistency.
Metal injection moulding	Improved density, mechanical performance and reliability.
Dissimilar metals and bimetals	Metallurgical bonding, cladding, diffusion bonding and integrity of material interfaces.
High-integrity components	Applications in which internal integrity, fatigue resistance, reliability and qualification are critical.

Priority sectors may include mining, mineral processing and smelting, rail, energy, petrochemical, oil and gas, aerospace, defence, automotive, medical devices, tooling, steel, foundries and other high-value manufacturing sectors.

5 Programme approach

The programme will be implemented through a stage-gated process linking market need to technical feasibility, TEA, demonstration, qualification and industrial adoption.

Stage	Purpose	Decision/output
1. EoI and market intelligence	Identify participants, component families, demand and barriers.	Eligible opportunity pipeline.
2. Technical and commercial screening	Evaluate HIP suitability, market value, commitment and readiness.	Ranked shortlist.
3. Due diligence	Verify technical information, lead-user support, samples, standards and facility compatibility.	Confirmed project concept.
4. Project definition and TEA	Agree scope, contributions, cost, stage gates and qualification route.	Approved work plan and agreement.
5. Demonstration and validation	Process samples and compare baseline and post-HIP performance.	Technical evidence package.
6. Adoption planning	Assess qualification, scale-up and commercial use.	Adoption decision and next-step plan.

6 Support available

The nature and extent of support will be determined after assessment and contracting. Subject to the approved scope, support may include:

- Preliminary component and manufacturing-route assessment;
- HIP facility compatibility and process-risk assessment;
- Development or optimisation of an appropriate HIP cycle;
- Processing of agreed development samples or prototypes;
- Pre- and post-HIP non-destructive testing, metallurgical and mechanical evaluation;

- Comparison of baseline and post-HIP performance;
- TEA and market validation;
- Development of a qualification pathway; and
- Recommendations for scale-up and industrial adoption.

Selection does not create an entitlement to unrestricted subsidised processing or routine production services. The approved CSIR and participant contributions will be recorded in the project agreement.

7 Participant responsibilities

Selected organisations will be expected to:

- Nominate authorised technical and commercial representatives.
- Provide accurate product, material, process, volume and market information.
- Supply drawings, specifications, material certificates, standards and representative samples.
- Contribute relevant engineering, manufacturing and application expertise.
- Participate in technical reviews and stage-gate decisions.
- Support testing, validation, qualification and TEA.
- Provide agreed cash or in-kind contributions, including materials, machining, testing, engineering time or operating data.
- Demonstrate a credible intention to adopt or procure HIP services if agreed requirements are met.
- Support preparation of a non-confidential case study, subject to prior approval.

8 Eligibility requirements

Eligibility will be assessed on a pass/fail basis before scoring. The applicant must:

- Be a legally registered South African organisation or participate through a South African industrial partner.
- Be an OEM, asset owner, manufacturer, technology developer, foundry, engineering company, research organisation or relevant industry body.
- Propose an identifiable component, material, product or component family.
- Demonstrate a credible technical or commercial requirement for HIP.
- Provide enough information for preliminary technical assessment.
- Nominate a technical representative and an authorised commercial representative.
- Confirm willingness to provide samples and participate in development and qualification.
- Accept the programme's confidentiality, intellectual-property and reporting principles.
- Submit a complete application before the closing date.

Collaborative applications involving an OEM or lead user together with a manufacturer, foundry, additive-manufacturing company, material supplier or research partner are encouraged.

9 Information required from applicants

Applicants must complete Appendix A and provide supporting evidence. The submission must describe the organisation, proposed component or component family, material, manufacturing route, dimensions, annual volumes, current source of supply, current use of overseas HIP services where applicable, technical problem, expected benefit, standards, qualification requirements, market opportunity, localisation potential and proposed contribution.

Applicants must identify any export-control, safety, security, intellectual-property or confidentiality restrictions. A lead-user commitment letter in the form of Appendix B is strongly preferred and is essential for obtaining the full lead-user assessment score.

9.1 Submission guidelines

Only electronic submissions will be accepted for this EoI. Applicants are required to submit all completed application documents and supporting information electronically to vmatjeke@csir.co.za no later than the stipulated closing date and time. Applications received after the closing date and time may not be considered for evaluation.

All technical enquiries and requests for clarification relating to this EoI must be directed to Velaphi Matjeke at vmatjeke@csir.co.za from CSIR Future Production: Manufacturing cluster, under the Advanced Casting Technologies research group. Applicants must ensure that all correspondence and submissions clearly indicate the following subject line: "EoI: Product Design and Development of Castings".

9.2 Elimination criteria

Applications may be disqualified under the following conditions:

- Incomplete submissions;
- Unsigned application documents;
- Failure to submit required supporting documentation;
- Failure to meet minimum qualification requirements;
- Submission after the closing date and time;
- False or misleading information provided in the application; and
- Failure to comply with submission requirements.

9.3 General terms

- Only electronic submissions will be accepted.
- Incomplete applications may not be considered.
- The CSIR reserves the right to amend, suspend, or withdraw this EoI at any stage.
- Submission of an application does not guarantee participation or project support.
- All information submitted will be treated confidentially, subject to applicable laws and CSIR policies.
- Applicants will be responsible for all costs incurred in preparing and submitting their applications.

10 Assessment and selection methodology

10.1 Governance and panel composition

Compliant submissions will be evaluated by a multidisciplinary panel comprising, as appropriate, HIP and materials specialists, manufacturing engineers, testing or qualification specialists, business-development or market specialists, programme management and an independent reviewer. Panel members must declare conflicts of interest and preserve applicant confidentiality.

10.2 Stage 1: Mandatory compliance screening

The technical lead will record each mandatory requirement as Pass, Fail or Clarification Required. A material eligibility failure will result in exclusion. A non-substantive administrative omission may be clarified once within a specified period, provided this does not permit the applicant to materially redesign the proposal after closing.

10.3 Stage 2: Scored assessment

Assessment criterion	Weight	What will be assessed
Participant capability and commitment	10	Technical capacity, management support, project team and ability to complete the work.
Lead-user or OEM commitment	15	Evidence that an OEM, customer or asset owner requires the product and will support validation and adoption.

Industrial problem and need	10	Significance of failure, scrap, cost, downtime, performance or supply-chain problem.
Technical suitability for HIP	20	Material, size, defect mechanism, manufacturing route, process feasibility and likely measurable benefit.
Market opportunity	10	Demand, volumes, number of users and relevance to a component family.
Localisation and economic impact	10	Import replacement, local value addition, exports, jobs, SMME participation and supply-risk reduction.
Qualification and adoption pathway	10	Standards, testing, approval route and credible commercial adoption plan.
Project readiness	10	Availability of drawings, samples, baseline evidence, partners and decision-makers.
Participant contribution	5	Cash and in-kind inputs, materials, machining, testing, time and data.
TOTAL	100	

10.4 Scoring scale (Raw score applicable to stage 2)

Score	Interpretation
0	No information or evidence.
1	Very weak; substantial deficiencies.
2	Partially meets the requirement; significant risks remain.
3	Adequately meets the requirement.
4	Strong evidence and a credible implementation case.
5	Excellent evidence, high readiness and strong industrial impact.

For each criterion, the weighted score will be calculated as: (panel score ÷ 5) × criterion weight.

10.5 Minimum thresholds

To remain eligible for selection, an application should achieve an overall weighted score of at least 65 out of 100 and meet all three critical thresholds:

- Technical suitability for HIP: at least 12 out of 20;
- Lead-user or OEM commitment: at least 9 out of 15; and
- Qualification and adoption pathway: at least 6 out of 10.

The panel may recommend conditional shortlisting where lead-user confirmation is the only outstanding matter, but the confirmation must be received before final selection.

10.6 Stage 3: Due diligence and project confirmation

Shortlisted applicants may be required to present the project and provide drawings, specifications, material information, samples, volume evidence and confirmation of commercial demand. The CSIR will confirm facility compatibility, safety requirements, technical feasibility, expected costs, participant contributions, intellectual-property arrangements and the proposed qualification route.

10.7 Portfolio selection

The final annual portfolio will be selected from projects that meet the minimum thresholds and pass due diligence. The five selected projects will not necessarily be the five highest numerical scores. The selection committee may balance manufacturing routes, materials, sectors, strategic relevance, available facility capacity, programme budget and the transferability of results to additional South African applications. Any departure from the numerical ranking must be documented and approved. Projects that meet the Stage 2 minimum thresholds and pass Stage 3 due

diligence will be considered for inclusion in the final annual portfolio. Stage 4 assesses how each qualifying project contributes to a balanced, affordable and strategically relevant portfolio. It does not reassess basic eligibility or remedy a failure against a mandatory technical, lead-user or qualification requirement.

10.7.1 Portfolio criteria and weights

No.	Portfolio criterion	Weight	Assessment focus
1	Strategic alignment	20	Alignment with the HIP programme objectives, priority sectors and relevant national or CSIR industrial-development priorities.
2	Portfolio balance	15	Contribution to a useful spread of manufacturing routes, materials, component families and sectors, while avoiding unnecessary duplication.
3	Fit with HIP capacity, resources and timing	15	Compatibility with vessel envelope, operating cycles, staff, testing resources, safety requirements and the annual delivery schedule.
4	Affordability and value for money	15	Expected technical and industrial benefit relative to programme cost, applicant contribution and resource demand.
5	Transferability and wider application	15	Potential for the methods, process parameters and learning to benefit other South African components, companies or sectors.
6	Probability of qualification and adoption	10	Credibility of the lead user, standards and testing route, decision-makers and pathway to industrial adoption.
7	Localisation and economic contribution	10	Potential to reduce imports, increase local value addition, enable exports, support jobs or SMMEs, and improve supply resilience.
	TOTAL	100	

10.7.2 Rating scale

For each criterion, the evaluation panel assigns one raw score from 0 to 5. The raw score is the panel's unweighted judgement before the criterion weight is applied.

Raw score	Meaning
0	No evidence/does not address the criterion
1	Very weak evidence; major gaps or concerns
2	Limited evidence; partly addresses the criterion
3	Adequate evidence; meets the criterion at an acceptable level
4	Strong evidence; clearly exceeds the acceptable level
5	Excellent evidence; compelling and fully substantiated

10.7.3 Calculation

Weighted score = (raw score ÷ 5) × criterion weight

Example: If Strategic alignment has a weight of 20 and the panel assigns a raw score of 4, the weighted score is $(4 \div 5) \times 20 = 16$ out of 20.

10.7.4 Overall score interpretation

Total score	Classification	Interpretation
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80–100	Priority candidate	Excellent portfolio fit; normally prioritised, subject to capacity and portfolio balance.
70–79	Strong candidate	Strong fit; suitable for selection where resources permit.
60–69	Suitable/reserve	Acceptable fit; may be selected to address portfolio needs or placed on reserve.
50–59	Further development	Material weaknesses; normally returned for refinement rather than selected.
Below 50	Weak portfolio fit	Not normally selected for the annual portfolio.

10.8 Selection and governance rule

The Stage 4 score supports consistent comparison but does not create an automatic entitlement to selection.

The final portfolio will take account of the programme limit of up to five projects per year, available budget and HIP capacity, timing, risk and the need for an appropriate spread of sectors, materials and manufacturing routes. Only projects that have passed the preceding stages may be considered. Any departure from the ranked order must be documented, justified against the portfolio criteria and approved by the authorised decision-making body.

10.9 Decision categories

Decision	Meaning
Selected	Approved for detailed project definition and contracting.
Reserve list	Suitable but dependent on capacity, budget or withdrawal of another project.
Further development required	Promising but requires additional information, samples, readiness or lead-user commitment.
Not selected	Does not meet technical, commercial or programme requirements.

11 Project implementation and outputs

A selected project will proceed only after the parties agree on scope, responsibilities, schedule, costs, contributions, stage gates, confidentiality and intellectual property. Expected outputs may include:

- A documented industrial need and market opportunity;
- A baseline assessment of the component or material;
- A developed or optimised HIP process route;
- Processed development samples or prototype components;
- Comparative testing and characterisation results;
- A technical assessment of benefits, limitations and residual risks;
- A TEA;
- A preliminary qualification and industrialisation pathway;
- A recorded adoption or further-development decision; and
- A non-confidential case study where agreed.

At programme level, outputs will include a national HIP market assessment, a database of prospective users and component opportunities, and a prioritised pipeline for future utilisation of the CSIR facility.

12 Intellectual property, confidentiality and publication

Each party will retain ownership of its background intellectual property. Ownership and permitted use of intellectual property generated during a selected project will be addressed in the applicable project agreement. Submission of an EoI does not transfer ownership of the applicant's product design, tooling, process or proprietary information to the CSIR.

Applicants must identify confidential information. Where necessary, detailed proprietary information may be exchanged after conclusion of a suitable non-disclosure agreement. No applicant-identifying case study will be published without the agreed review and approval process.

13 Costs and funding

There is no fee for submitting an EOI. CSIR support, co-investment requirements, participant contributions and costs outside the approved scope will be defined during project development and recorded contractually. Applicants remain responsible for costs incurred in preparing submissions and participating in preliminary engagements.

14 Submission instructions

Closing date and time	04 September 2026: 16:00
Submission email	Vmatjeke@csir.co.za
Contact person	Velaphi Matjeke
Email subject	Eol: HIP Industrial Applications – [Applicant Name]

Applications must be submitted electronically in PDF format and must include the completed application form, supporting documents and lead-user commitment letter where applicable. Late or incomplete submissions may be excluded.

15 General conditions

The CSIR reserves the right to request clarification or additional information; invite shortlisted applicants to presentations; conduct technical and commercial due diligence; select fewer than five projects in a programme year; place suitable projects on a reserve list or defer them; amend, suspend or cancel the Eol; and reject any submission without creating an obligation to contract.

Submission does not create a contractual relationship, guarantee selection, guarantee funding or confer a right of access to the HIP facility. False or materially misleading information may result in disqualification or termination of participation.

16 Appendix A: Application form

Applicants should answer every question. Where a field is not applicable, state 'Not applicable' and provide a brief reason.

16.1 A1. Applicant information

Registered organisation name	
Registration number	
Physical address	
Website	
Nature of business	
Ownership/SMME classification	
Technical representative and contact details	
Commercial representative and contact details	

16.2 A2. Proposed application

Project title	
Component or component family	
Industrial sector and end use	
OEM, asset owner or lead user	
Material/alloy and condition	
Current manufacturing route	
Component dimensions and mass	
Current and forecast annual volumes	

Current source of supply	
Current local or international HIP use	
Technical problem or opportunity	
Known defects or performance limitations	
Expected benefit from HIP	
Applicable standards/specifications	
Required testing and qualification	
Market size or business opportunity	
Localisation/import-replacement potential	
Export or wider sector potential	
Commercial demand after successful development	
Proposed participant cash/in-kind contribution	

16.3 A3. Project readiness

Drawings/specifications available?	Yes / No – explain
Representative samples available?	Yes / No – quantity and timing
Baseline test or failure data available?	Yes / No – describe
Manufacturing partners confirmed?	Yes / No – identify
Lead-user commitment attached?	Yes / No
Preferred project timing	

Key technical, commercial or regulatory risks	
Confidentiality/export-control/security restrictions	

16.4 A4. Declaration

I certify that the information supplied is accurate and that I am authorised to submit this EOI on behalf of the applicant.
I understand that submission does not guarantee selection, funding or access to the CSIR HIP facility.

Authorised representative	Signature	Date

16.5 Appendix B: Lead-user commitment letter

The following template should be completed on the lead user's official letterhead.

To: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

Subject: Commitment in support of [PROJECT/COMPONENT NAME] under the CSIR HIP Industrial Development Programme

We, [LEAD-USER/OEM/ASSET-OWNER NAME], confirm that we have reviewed the proposed application submitted by [APPLICANT NAME]. We recognise the industrial need associated with [COMPONENT OR PRODUCT FAMILY] and support investigation of Hot Isostatic Pressing as a potential route to address the identified technical, performance, qualification or supply-chain requirement.

Subject to appropriate confidentiality and contractual arrangements, we confirm our willingness to:

- Provide relevant application requirements, operating information and acceptance criteria;
- Participate in technical reviews and evaluation of results;
- Support validation or qualification activities within our reasonable control;
- Consider industrial adoption or procurement if the agreed technical, quality and commercial requirements are achieved; and
- Nominate an authorised technical representative for the project.

This letter records our interest and intended participation. It does not constitute an unconditional purchase commitment unless expressly stated in a separate binding agreement.

Name	Position	Organisation	Signature and date

17 Appendix C: Evaluation scorecard

17.1 C1. Mandatory eligibility

Requirement	Pass	Fail	Clarification/comments
Eligible South African organisation/partner	☐	☐	
Relevant industrial role	☐	☐	
Identifiable component or component family	☐	☐	
Credible HIP-related need	☐	☐	
Sufficient technical information	☐	☐	
Technical and commercial representatives nominated	☐	☐	
Willingness to provide samples and participate	☐	☐	
Acceptance of programme principles	☐	☐	
Complete and timely submission	☐	☐	

17.2 C2. Weighted assessment

Criterion	Weight	Raw score 0–5	Weighted score	Panel comments
Participant capability and commitment	10			
Lead-user or OEM commitment	15			
Industrial problem and need	10			
Technical suitability for HIP	20			
Market opportunity	10			
Localisation and economic impact	10			
Qualification and adoption pathway	10			
Project readiness	10			
Participant contribution	5			
TOTAL	100			

17.4 Appendix D: Submission checklist

Before submitting, confirm that the application contains:

- ☐ Completed and signed application form;
- ☐ Company registration and organisational profile;
- ☐ Component description, drawings and material specification where available;
- ☐ Manufacturing-route and baseline performance information;
- ☐ Production volumes and market-demand evidence;
- ☐ Relevant standards and qualification requirements;
- ☐ Lead-user/OEM commitment letter;
- ☐ Description of samples and materials available;
- ☐ Proposed cash and in-kind contributions;
- ☐ Commercialisation or industrial-adoption plan; and
- ☐ Identification of confidential, export-controlled or security-sensitive information.

17.5 Guidelines and Key Points

All South African organisations operating within the advanced manufacturing, foundry, casting, engineering, product development, and related industrial sectors are invited to submit Eol applications in support of this call. This includes both SMMEs and non-SMMEs involved in product design, casting development, manufacturing engineering, industrialisation, tooling, machining, materials engineering, and supply chain integration activities.

Applicants are requested to note the following:

- Applicants must complete the applicable Eol Application Template and submit all required supporting documentation. This will depend on whether the applying organisation qualifies as an SMME or non-SMME in accordance with the definition provided in Section 4.1.1.
- All submitted documentation, technical data, project information, and supporting material will be treated as confidential and handled in accordance with applicable CSIR policies and procedures.
- The evaluation process will be conducted in a fair, transparent, and confidential manner by the CSIR Advanced Casting Technologies Research Group evaluation committee.
- All technical experts, evaluators and reviewers participating in the assessment process will be bound by confidentiality obligations.
- Subject to the nature, complexity, and scope of the proposed activities, a project manager, technical lead, or designated representative from the CSIR Advanced Casting Technologies research group may be appointed as the primary technical contact between the CSIR and the successful participant.
- Applicants may be requested to provide additional information, technical presentations, demonstrations, or facility access during the evaluation process.
- Participation in this Eol does not guarantee project approval, funding allocation, commercial work or long-term collaboration agreements.
- Preference may be given to organisations demonstrating strong technical capability, innovation potential, localisation contribution, supplier development impact and alignment with South Africa's industrial development objectives.
- Collaborative participation between foundries, OEMs, engineering companies, SMMEs, universities and research institutions is encouraged where such collaboration strengthens product development and industrialisation outcomes.
- The CSIR reserves the right to prioritise projects and participants that align with strategic manufacturing sectors, localisation objectives, and advanced manufacturing technology development
- The CSIR reserves the right not to engage further with any applicant should the submission not meet programme objectives or technical requirements.
- Failure to comply with Eol requirements may result in disqualification.

- Any attempt to influence the evaluation process improperly may result in immediate disqualification.
- Applicants shall not offer any inducement, reward, or consideration to any CSIR employee, representative, or evaluation committee member.
- The CSIR reserves the right to shortlist applicants based on strategic, technical, and operational considerations.
- The CSIR reserves the right to cancel or amend this EoI at any stage.
- The terms participant, applicant, organisation, beneficiary and company may be used interchangeably within this document.

17.6 General Terms

- The CSIR Advanced Casting Technologies research group reserves the right not to engage further with any applicant should the submitted EoI not meet the objectives, technical requirements, or strategic priorities of the programme.
- All technical enquiries relating to this EoI must be submitted electronically to the designated CSIR contact person indicated in this document.
- Failure to comply with the submission requirements, documentation requirements, timelines, or evaluation criteria may render the application non-responsive and subject to disqualification.
- Any form of canvassing, lobbying or attempt by an applicant to improperly influence any CSIR employee, representative, technical reviewer, evaluation committee member, or associated service provider involved in the EoI process will result in immediate disqualification from the evaluation process.
- Applicants shall not offer, provide or promise any inducement, reward, compensation or consideration of any kind to any employee, representative, or agent of the CSIR in connection with this EoI or any related process.
- The CSIR reserves the right to shortlist, prioritise or nominate applicants whose submissions are considered to provide the greatest technical, industrial, strategic or developmental value to the objectives of the programme.
- The CSIR reserves the right to cancel, amend, suspend or withdraw this EoI, in whole or in part, or to decline the appointment or participation of any applicant should operational, technical, strategic or business considerations warrant such action.
- Participation in this EoI process does not constitute a guarantee of project support, funding, collaboration agreements, procurement opportunities or commercial work.
- The CSIR may request additional information, clarification, technical presentations, demonstrations, interviews, or site visits as part of the evaluation process.
- All submitted information may be verified by the CSIR, and applicants may be required to provide supporting evidence for claims made within their submissions.
- The terms participant, applicant, organisation, beneficiary, company, foundry and SMME may be used interchangeably within this document and must be interpreted within the context in which they are used.

17.7 Medium of communication

All documentation, supporting information, correspondence and submissions relating to this EoI must be prepared and submitted in English. The CSIR reserves the right not to consider documentation submitted in any other language unless accompanied by a certified English translation.

17.8 Costs associated with an EoI application

Applicants are expected to fully acquaint themselves with the conditions, requirements, specifications, and obligations associated with this EoI before submitting their applications. Each applicant shall assume full responsibility for all costs, expenses and resource commitments incurred in the preparation and submission of the EoI, including any costs associated with presentations, demonstrations, meetings, travel or technical engagements arising during the evaluation process.

The CSIR shall not be liable, directly or indirectly, for any costs incurred by applicants during participation in the EoI process, irrespective of the outcome of the application.

17.9 Validity and correctness of responses

Applicants confirm that all information, documentation, declarations, and representations submitted as part of the EoI are accurate, complete, valid and truthful to the best of their knowledge.

The applicant further acknowledges that any inaccurate, misleading, incomplete, or false information may result in disqualification from the evaluation process or withdrawal from the programme should such information be discovered after appointment or participation.

17.10 Responsibility to execute and failure to comply

Successful applicants shall accept full responsibility for the execution and fulfilment of all obligations, commitments, deliverables and conditions associated with participation in this programme.

The applicant further undertakes to provide the services, technical support, collaboration, manufacturing capability, engineering expertise, or project deliverables described in the submitted application in accordance with the terms, conditions, and technical requirements stipulated within this EoI and any subsequent agreements entered into with the CSIR.

Failure to comply with agreed obligations, project requirements, reporting requirements, timelines or technical commitments may result in suspension, termination or removal from the programme.

17.11 Verification of documents

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all submitted documentation is complete, accurate, properly signed where applicable, and free from omissions or duplication.

The CSIR reserves the right to verify any information, claims, certifications, declarations, qualifications, facilities, technical capabilities, or supporting documentation submitted as part of the application process.

No liability shall be accepted by the CSIR for any consequences arising from incomplete, inaccurate, duplicated, or omitted documentation submitted by the applicant.

17.12 The CSIR reserves the right to:

- Amend any EoI conditions, specifications, submission requirements, timelines, validity periods, or evaluation criteria prior to finalisation of the process;
- Extend the closing date and/or submission deadlines where necessary;
- Verify any information contained within an EoI submission;
- Request additional supporting documentation, clarification, or evidence relating to any aspect of an application;
- Conduct interviews, technical reviews, presentations, demonstrations, audits, or site visits as part of the evaluation process;
- Reject any application that does not meet the requirements or objectives of the programme;
- Not appoint or select any applicant;
- Appoint applicants partially, conditionally or in phases depending on programme requirements and available resources;
- Prioritise applicants and projects that align with strategic industrial development objectives, localisation priorities, and advanced manufacturing initiatives;
- Vary, alter, amend, suspend, withdraw or terminate this EoI process, in whole or in part, at any time prior to finalisation without incurring any liability;
- Cancel or withdraw this EoI without providing reasons and without attracting any liability; and
- Request applicants to present their proposals or technical capabilities to the CSIR technical review committee.

18 Disclaimers

The CSIR has prepared this EoI in good faith for the purpose of inviting Expressions of Interest from organisations participating in product design, casting development, advanced manufacturing, and related industrial activities. However, the CSIR, its employees, agents, representatives and associated parties make no representation or warranty, whether express or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness, reliability or suitability of the information contained in this EoI document.

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, the CSIR shall not be liable for any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses or liabilities arising directly or indirectly from reliance on information contained in this Eol, including but not limited to, claims arising from errors, omissions, inaccuracies, ambiguities or misinterpretations of the information provided.

This Eol constitutes a request for Expressions of Interest only and does not constitute an offer, commitment, approval, funding agreement, procurement process or contractual obligation by the CSIR.

Submission of an Eol by an applicant shall not be construed as creating any contractual, partnership, agency, joint venture, employment or other legal relationship between the applicant and the CSIR.

Participation in this Eol process does not guarantee appointment, selection, project allocation, funding support, collaboration agreements, procurement opportunities or future commercial engagements.

The CSIR reserves the right to amend, suspend, withdraw, terminate, or cancel this Eol process, in whole or in part, at any time and without prior notice or liability.

The CSIR makes no representation, assurance, guarantee, endorsement or warranty regarding the likelihood of project participation, funding availability, commercial viability, or future opportunities arising from this Eol process.

The CSIR shall not be responsible for any costs, expenses or resource commitments incurred by applicants in preparing, submitting, or supporting their Eol applications, including participation in presentations, meetings, demonstrations, technical discussions or evaluation activities.

All information submitted by applicants may be subject to verification, validation and technical assessment by the CSIR.

Applicants acknowledge and accept that the CSIR may prioritise, shortlist, or select applicants based on strategic, technical, operational, industrialisation, localisation or programme-specific considerations.

The CSIR shall have no liability towards any applicant or third party in connection with this Eol process or any decision arising from it.

END OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST