

Open Call for Nano-enabled Product and Process Development in Health, Agriculture and Industrial Applications

Closing date: 31 August 2026

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), through its DSTI-CSIR Nanotechnology Innovation Centre (NIC) and Nanomaterials Industrial Development Facility (NIDF), invites Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the development, localisation and commercialisation of translatable nanotechnologies and microscale innovations. The initiative seeks to accelerate sustainable, locally relevant technologies in health and agriculture.

Focus area

- Solutions demonstrating a clear nanotechnology component through advanced formulations, delivery systems, materials engineering, nanomaterials, or microfabrication, with a credible pathway to commercial application and industrial impact.

Objectives

- Support the development, validation and localisation of nano-enabled technologies and products with demonstrated commercial potential.
- Accelerate industrialisation, import replacement, and value addition through advanced formulations, materials engineering, microfabrication and sensor technologies.
- Enable sustainable socioeconomic impact through the adoption of scalable technologies that strengthen local value chains, competitiveness and job creation.

Solutions unlikely to be supported include:

- Conventional cosmetic formulations;
- General agroprocessing activities without value addition through nanotechnology;
- Business expansion or operational funding requests;
- Generic manufacturing projects without a novel material, formulation, encapsulation, sensors or localisation component; and
- Discovery-stage drug development and new medicines.

Preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate:

- Customer validation and identified market opportunities;
- Access to feedstock/raw materials; and
- Co-funding or co-investment (where applicable).

Support provided

Support is provided primarily through access to CSIR expertise, facilities, equipment and technical development capability.

The programme does not provide direct grant funding for:

- Business start-up costs;
- Operational expenses;
- Commercialisation activities; and
- Equipment purchases that are not directly linked to an approved CSIR-led product or process development intervention.

Support will be assessed on a project-by-project basis and may include technology development, optimisation, validation, testing, localisation and scale-up activities undertaken through the NIC and NIDF facilities.

Submission requirements

To apply for support through the Eol process, please complete the attached application form and submit the completed documents and supporting information in PDF format to ATyakume@csir.co.za.

Applicants must also submit:

1. B-BBEE certificate/affidavit;
2. CIPC registration documents;
3. Tax Clearance Certificate (where applicable);
4. CVs of key personnel; and
5. Any supporting documents listed in the application form checklist.

Please use the following naming convention

Application:	CVs, Certificates etc:
Name of Enterprise_Eol- July 2026	Name of Enterprise_CV Jane Smith_July_2026, Name of Enterprise_CIPC proof of registration_July_2026

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

For any questions, please contact: Dr Saku at dsaku@csir.co.za

Eligibility and exclusions

Applications will not be considered where:

- The proposed innovation relates to the development of new medicines, treatments or cures for diseases.
- The proposed solution does not demonstrate a clear nanotechnology, advanced formulation, materials engineering, microfabrication or related innovation component.

- The primary focus is conventional agroprocessing or agricultural feedstocks without value addition through nanotechnology.
- The technology is not at prototype stage or equivalent level of development.