

Entries the 2023 Gauteng Accelerator Programme Innovation Competition now!

Are you working on ground-breaking technologies to improve government, private and the quality of life of South African citizens? The Gauteng Accelerator Programme (GAP) Innovation Competition is back for the 13th year running and entries are now open.



Dr Mthokosizi was the 2016 winner of Biosciences Award. Source: x.com

The GAP Innovation Competition, run by The Innovation Hub (TIH), has assisted numerous entrepreneurs in launching their businesses with seeded funding over the years, enhancing sectorial competitiveness and contributing towards an improved local economy.

"Our theme for this year's iteration of the GAP Innovation Competition is 'Ignite Your Innovation'. It's a theme we crafted with the understanding that the country is filled with many creative and innovative entrepreneurs across our country. We call on these talented, creative and innovative entrepreneurs and researchers to enter the competition," said Thibi Matshela, TIH acting CEO, in the announcement statement.



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The youth, females, people living with disabilities, and previously disadvantaged individuals eligible to enter the competition are encouraged to apply. Matshela said that based on the kind of criterion of young people they expect to apply, he is confident there will be a good uptake for the competition.

"We are a country that is regarded as one of the strongest economies not only in our continent but beyond, based on that reason, our economy needs the kind of sectorial competitiveness that will not only respond to problems but come up with innovative solutions. Our researchers and innovative entrepreneurs have continuously proved to be leading lights for innovation."

The GAP Innovation Competition is being run with partners such as the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), Emory University Business School, and Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone (TASEZ).

The partners believe there is a considerable contribution that young innovators can bring across industries such as biosciences, the green economy, ICT, and medical.

The other focus area, identified as one of the strongest pillars of the Gauteng government, is the township economy, where TIH is equally invested in identifying and assisting aspiring entrepreneurs through the eKasiLabs, spread across the province's five economic corridors.

"The winners will share in seed funding and cash prizes. Further, we will ensure the winners can access incubation services with technical and business mentors and intellectual property specialists," Matshele continued. "They will also benefit from access to our wide network of industry and government partners in the Science and Technology Park."

Since inception in 2011, the GAP Innovation programme has attracted more than 1,600 entries across five different categories and invested over R22m in seed funding and provided incubation support to over 135 start-ups through this programme.

The GAP Innovation Competition is open for entries until 21 August 2023. For more information, please visit [TIH website](#).

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>