



IRISH TECH CHALLENGE SOUTH AFRICA 2023



The Embassy of Ireland in South Africa, in partnership with Wits University's **Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct**, the **Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)** and **Dogpatch Labs Ireland** have established the **Irish Tech Challenge South Africa** to forge mutually beneficial partnerships between South African entrepreneurs and Irish technology expertise, harnessing Ireland's position as a global high-tech hub.

The Irish Tech Challenge 2023 seeks to find the most compelling South African-owned, growth-stage tech startups whose work aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). South Africa has a growing startup and technology development market and seeks to place innovation and technology at the centre of its development agenda. The fund seeks to provide a platform for tech entrepreneurs from both countries to thrive through collaboration, networking, and mentorship.

High-growth tech entrepreneurs are recognised to have the potential to be a major driver for innovation, economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation. However, tech entrepreneurs in South Africa whose products/services are ready to scale globally, often face barriers due to limited resources, access to appropriate global networks and infrastructure, and high technology costs.

The Irish Tech Challenge leverages many benefits from partnering with relevant Irish ecosystem players, given Ireland's growing role as a global technological hub, offering access to European and international markets. Ireland is the second largest exporter of computer and IT services in the world and is home to nine of the top 10 US tech companies, and the top five global software companies.

Now in its second successful year, applications for the Irish Tech Challenge South Africa 2023 are now open. An information session will take place on 13 September prior to the submission deadline on 29 September 2023.

The Irish Tech Challenge will award five entrepreneurs:

- Up to €10,000 each in funding for the 5 entrepreneurs who stay committed to the programme for its duration.
- A funded trip to Ireland where they will be part of a curated business networking programme with access to the country's top business leaders.
- Access to the Irish tech ecosystem with potential opportunities for further funding.
- Acceleration support to position their global scaling strategy in collaboration with Dogpatch Labs in Ireland.

Join the Irish Tech Challenge South Africa 2023 and seize the opportunity to change the tech landscape while making a global impact.