



Technology Innovation Agency

University of the Free State

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TIA Mandate

- ✓ The **Technology Innovation Agency** (TIA) is an initiative of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) established in terms of the Technology Innovation Agency Act, 2008 (Act No 26 of 2008).
- ✓ TIA aims to de-risk technology development and **facilitate the adoption and commercialisation of technological innovations into the market** in collaboration with a network of partners.
- ✓ The Agency serves to bridge the “**innovation chasm**” that exists between scientific research
- ✓ TIA achieves this by offering financial and non-financial assistance to innovators in south Africa which includes(HEIs, SCs, SMMEs and also private companies)

Roles of TIA

A connector

- Catalyse partnerships between SMMEs, industries, universities and science councils to **develop an enabled environment** supporting sector-specific innovations for global competitiveness

An active funder

- Providing **risk funding** and support for innovators to progress ideas towards market entry and commercialisation

•A facilitator

- **Attract and facilitate late-stage funding** for the commercialisation of market ready technologies

A service provider

- To reduce barriers of access to expensive high-end skills and equipment for innovators by repositioning **Technology Stations and Platforms.**

•Technological innovation thought leader

- TIA is continually gathering valuable intellectual capital on best practice in technology innovation. This has strengthened the capability of the Agency to inform and provide **advice on policy issues, frameworks.**

Technology Innovation Cluster Programme

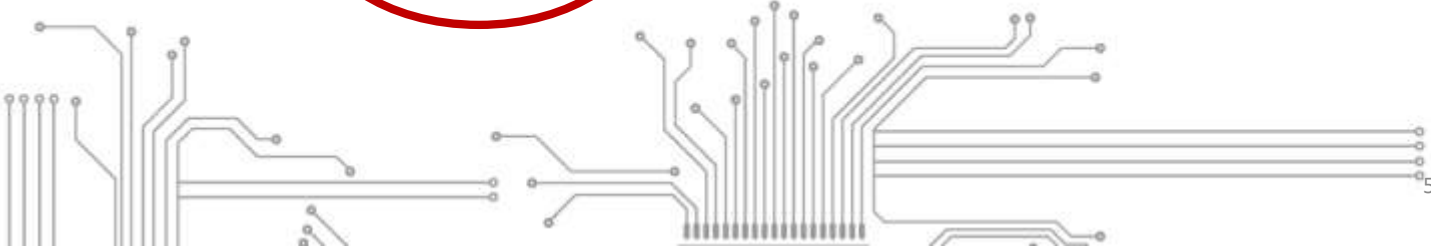
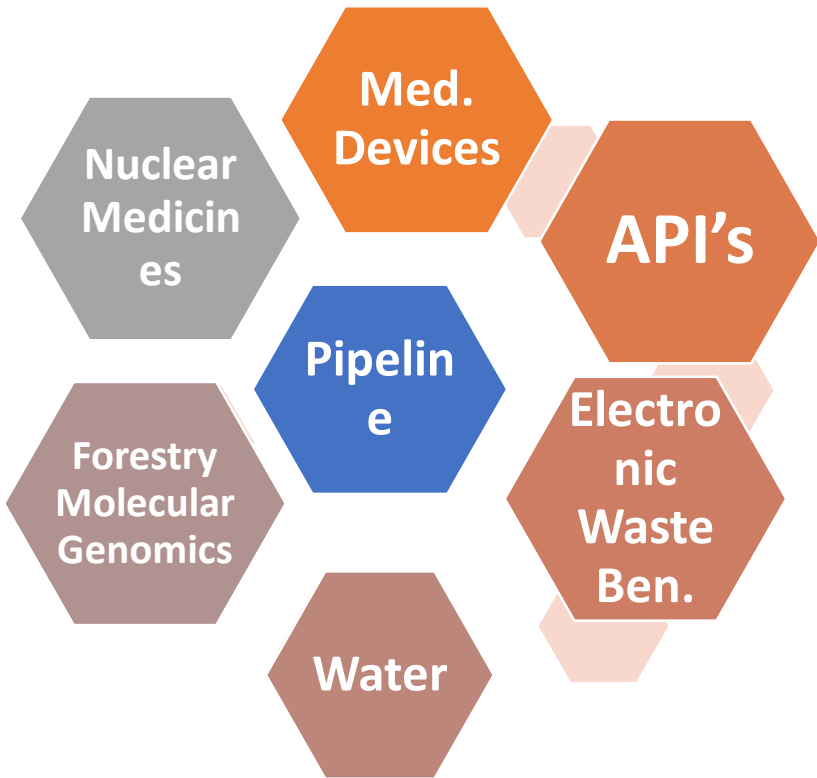
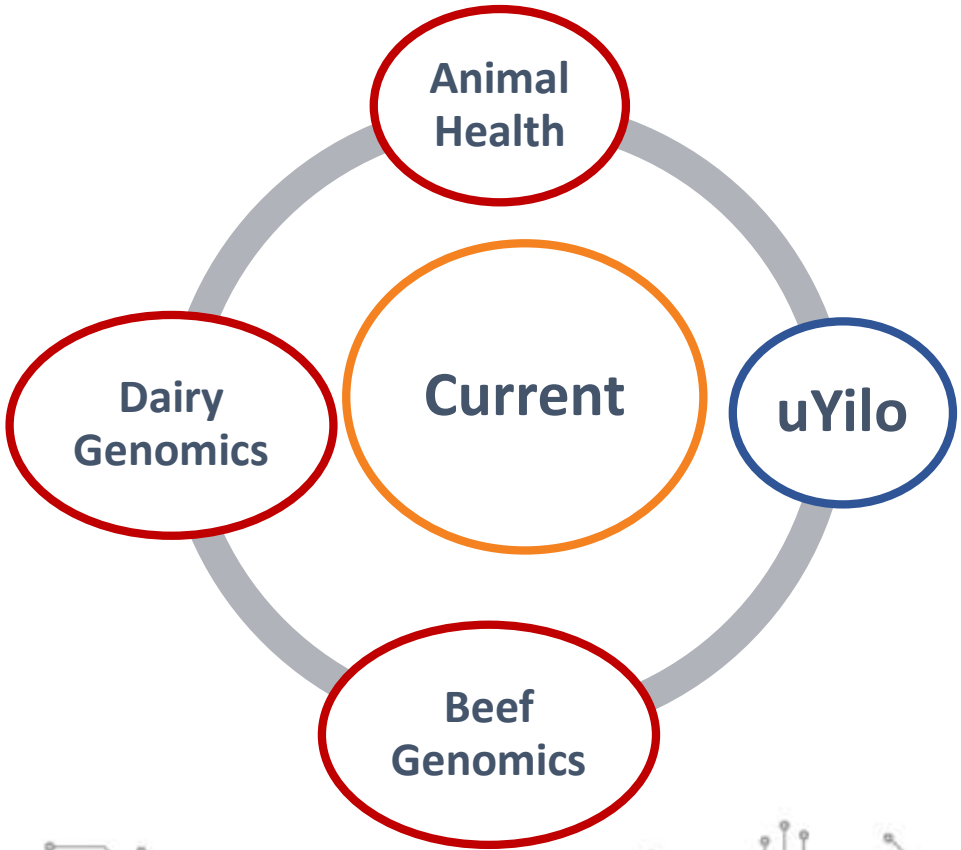
Definition:

- Is a **collaboration** of multiple stakeholders that have
- Identified a **common goal** with the
- Aim of **achieving it together**
- In a manner that will create **new knowledge (intellectual property)**
- Stimulated by development of **innovative technologies**
- In areas or sectors of **national priority** (as determined by government)
- On **all levels** of the economy (**national to provincial**)

Technology Innovation Cluster Programme

CURRENT PORTFOLIO

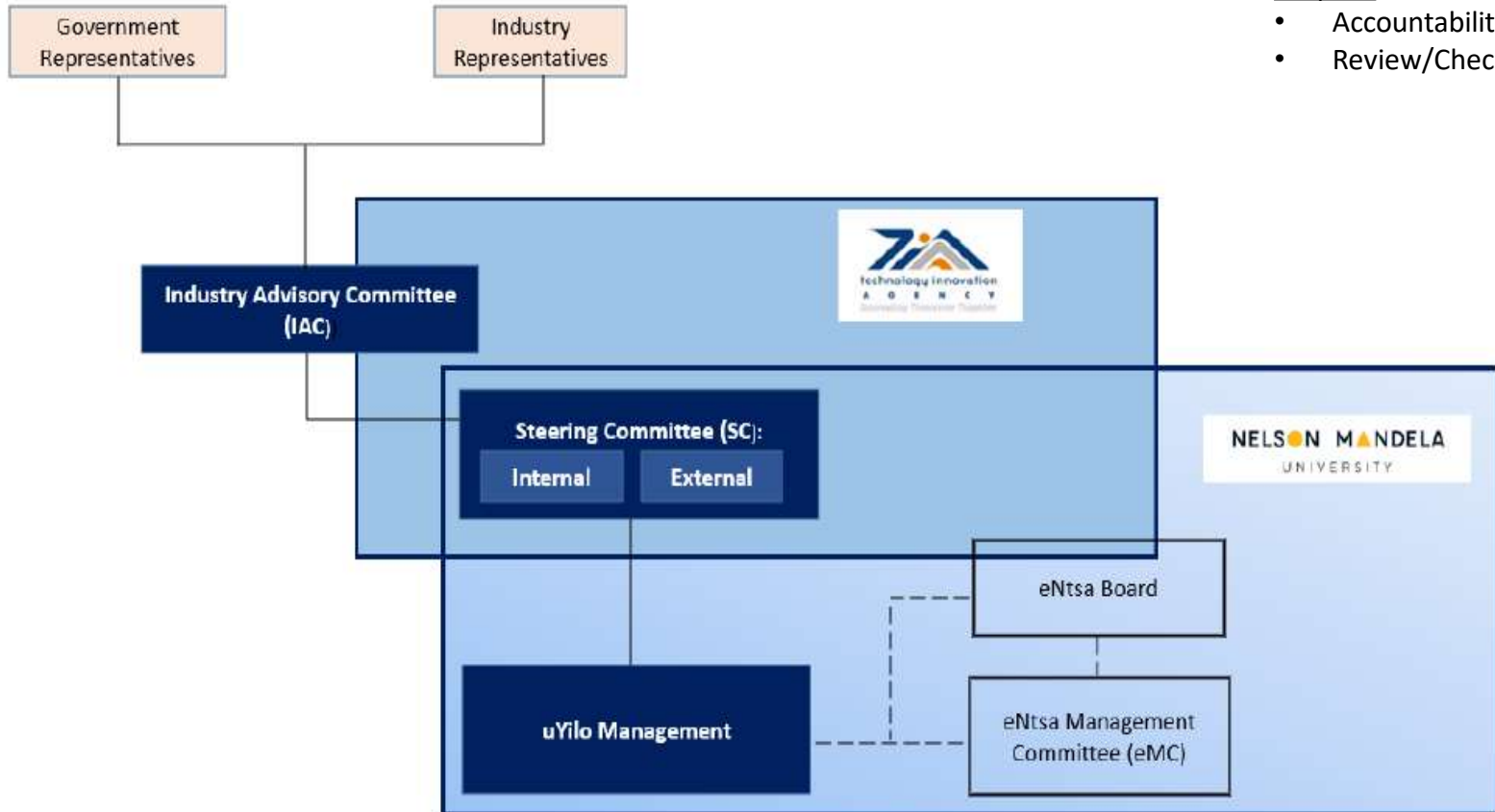
PIPELINE PORTFOLIO



Best Practices /Governance

Purpose:

- Accountability
- Review/Check-point



Funding opportunities for clusters

Two possibilities:

1. Government budget allocation (Department of Trade Industry and Competition):

- Incentives e.g Automotive Investment Scheme, Enterprise Development Programme, Manufacturing Competitiveness Enhancement Programme, Tax Allowance Incentive Scheme, etc
- Grants e.g TIA

2. Individual stakeholders allocate budget in the sector/industry the cluster is in e.g. Forest Bio-economy Innovation Cluster (FBIC) is receiving co-funding from DSI, Mondi, Sappi, York Yimbers, UP, CSIR, etc

Existing policies/regulations for clusters

Three alternatives:

1. The Industrial Policy Action Plan (dtic):

- Public Procurement (Central Supply Database of the National Treasury)
- 75% procurement localization target for government entities/institutions

2. Sector/Industry specific policies/regulations (addressing national priorities) e.g Forest Bio-economy Innovation Cluster is supported by the Forestry Master Plan.

3. Create relevant policies and regulations for that specific industry to enable establishment of that industry/sector e.g Electric Vehicle Regulations Framework (if policy does not exist)

Successfully operated clusters

- **Global Health Innovation Accelerator** - a partnership by SAMRC (SA Medical Research Council) and PATH (an international non-profit organisation) aimed at addressing gaps and barriers in the health innovation ecosystem in South Africa (<https://www.samrc.ac.za/innovation/global-health-innovation-accelerator>)
- **Innovation Hub** – a Business Incubator funded by the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (<https://www.theinnovationhub.com>)
- **Department of Trade Industry and Competition's incubators:**
 - **Small Enterprise Development Agency** – an agency of the Department of Trade Industry and Competition tasked with promoting entrepreneurship and providing business support to SMMEs (physical and infrastructure hubs)
 - **Digital Hubs** – Information Communications and Technology virtual hubs aligned with the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Challenges

- Insufficient /decreasing private and public funding
- Stakeholder conflict – benefits, roles and responsibilities (MoA or MoU)
- Lack of buy-in – problem being addressed not understood and industry need not identified (limited participation, resources and support leads to failure of cluster)
- Choice of Host Organisation

Lessons learnt

- Theme/Focus area
- Mandate/Vision/Mission
- Deliverables and timelines/deadlines
- Alignment with government priorities (national/provincial)
- Buy-in from stakeholders (industry leaders, government representatives, investors, academia, local and international partners, etc)
- Funding availability
- Long-term strategy



THANK YOU
