



## **Africa Innovation Summit II**

**6 – 8 June 2018**

**Kigali, Rwanda**

[www.africainnovationsummit.com](http://www.africainnovationsummit.com)

[www.africainnovationsummit.com/innovation-track](http://www.africainnovationsummit.com/innovation-track)

### **Innovation Showcase Opportunity**

- Do you have an idea or solution that can drive positive change in Africa?
- Is your idea or solution at a critical stage and ready to scale?
- Do you want to meet influential people, policy makers, investors who are ready to discuss Africa's development challenges and ways to solve them?
- Do you want to meet like-minded African innovators and change agents who are driving a new era of change in Africa?

The Africa Innovation Summit (AIS) will take place in Kigali, Rwanda from 6 to 8 June 2018. This second AIS is in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda under the esteemed patronage of His Excellences President Paul Kagame and Pedro Pires (former President of Cabo Verde; 2011 Mo Ibrahim Prize Laureate). This next AIS 2018 follows the first successful Africa Innovation Summit that took place in Praia, Cabo Verde in 2014. AIS serves as a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform, and a catalyst for coalition and action towards building robust innovation ecosystems in Africa. AIS is bringing together around 750 to 1000 stakeholders from various countries and sectors to support and drive innovative and disruptive solutions to Africa's challenges.

### **AIS 2018 Innovation Track & Exhibition**

AIS 2018 also will focus on profiling and supporting solutions that are already examples of how Africa is addressing her challenges with new and fresh thinking. As such, AIS 2018 Innovation Track and Exhibition will also form part of the event to provide a stage to showcase home-grown innovations and innovators on the continent.

### **Why should I apply AIS 2018 Innovation Track & Exhibition?**

AIS 2018 is an already established African platform to drive, support and better understand innovation and all the issues that hold innovation back on the African continent. Country leaders, policy makers and other stakeholders who will be present at this rich gathering of minds can only do so much to understand and support innovation; it is critical that we include the voices and lessons from those that are working on the ground to solve Africa's challenges. The selected innovations will receive:

- ✓ opportunity to be profiled alongside the AIS brand and marketing
- ✓ access to leading thought leaders, policy makers, investors and academics relevant to their solution
- ✓ opportunity to have their voices represented in the main event plenary sessions to address key areas of influence to drive innovation

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- ✓ ongoing access to the AIS high level community of leaders that are driving a practical and real innovation agenda for Africa.

**Link to the application form:** <http://www.africainnovationsummit.com/innovation-track>

**Applications close:** Midnight, Sunday 15 April 2018 (CAT)

**Tips for completing the Application Form**

- Read the application carefully and refer to the FAQ section below to address any questions you may have.
- Submit your application timeously and do not leave your submission until the last minute.
- Write your answers offline in a separate document and then you can easily copy and paste your final submission into the online form when you are ready to submit. You may refer to and print out the application templates to assist you.
- Prepare your supplementary information well in advance.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

This opportunity is open to solutions that comply with the following criteria listed below - solutions that are:

- African-based and operating from one or more African countries
- Founded and managed by African nationals
- Either for profit, non-profit or hybrid entities (i.e. social enterprises)
- Solving one or more challenges that directly affect Africa in the following sectors (and/or any related value chains):
  - Food security and agriculture (SDG 2)
  - Energy (SDG 7)
  - Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)
  - Healthcare (SDG 3) and
  - Governance
- Scalable: A solution that has the capability and potential to be enlarged and replicated to extend the reach of its mandate.
- Innovative: A solution that addresses a challenge in a new and different way often through a simpler and more effective means.

**Note that selection preference will be given to:**

- Existing solutions that are ready to scale for greater impact and reach
- Existing solutions that are registered in country i.e. business registration number or NGO certification
- Established solutions or ideas that can already prove a minimal viable product (MVP)
- Established solutions or ideas that can demonstrate evidence of tracked impact

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- Established solutions that can demonstrate innovation – either in terms of actual product or service or delivery model (i.e. broad-base market reach)

#### **Additional information:**

- Selection is at the discretion of the AIS Advisory Council and appointed judging panels.
- Selection is based on an assessment of the merit of the idea or established solution according to the objectives and mandate of AIS 2018.
- No incomplete applications will be considered.
- The applicant must play a leading role in the idea or established solution.
- The applicant must be available for and have all necessary travel documentation for possible travel between the dates from Tuesday 5 June – Saturday 9 June 2018.
- Onus for ensuring a valid passport and legal entry into Rwanda for the dates of the Summit rests solely upon the applicant.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

##### **1. How do I apply for AIS 2018 Innovation Track & Exhibition?**

The application process for the Innovation Track & Exhibition is a competitive selection process and all applications are submitted online. The application form will guide you to explain your entrepreneurial journey, your solution and the reasons why you wish to apply and be involved in AIS 2018 as an innovator for Africa. The application form and process has been designed to help us get the best understanding of each submitted solution. **Applications close:** Midnight, Friday 30 March 2018 (CAT)

##### **2. What documents do I need to submit with my application, and why?**

The selection process for AIS 2018 Innovation Track & Exhibition needs to be as fair and thorough as possible. For this reason we request the following supplementary documentation (listed below) to assist us to better understand you and your solution, as well as to have proof of the validity and viability of your solution.

#### **You will need to submit the following documents:**

- A. A 1-page reference letter (including the contact details of the person) as an endorsement of your solution i.e. a letter from either a client/customer/investor/mentor or service provider
- B. A short (absolute maximum 1-minute) video that covers the following points: Your name; your country of origin; the challenge you are addressing and how your solution is addressing this challenge in an innovative way.
- C. A short (maximum 1-page) bio of the applicant.
- D. A high resolution (at least 1MB) head and shoulders picture of the applicant.
- E. A copy of the front page of the passport of the applicant.
- F. A copy of the formal registration documents for the solution (if available)



**3. What is AIS looking for?**

AIS is looking to showcase and support Innovative home-grown ideas/solutions that are solving Africa's key challenges, and that are either ready to be commercialised or ready to scale for greater impact.

**4. Why does AIS 2018 distinguish between solutions that are still ideas and solutions that are formally established?**

The challenges in Africa are dynamic and solutions are constantly evolving to address these. AIS was established to provide a practical platform to showcase, learn, promote and develop innovations for change. We recognize that solutions at different stages require different interventions to get them to the next level, while at the same time providing AIS stakeholders with critical insights and lessons enact real systemic change.

An important aspect of the selection process would be to assess and interrogate the readiness of the solution either to go from prototype to commercialization or from a tried and tested solution with demonstrated impact that is able to scale. It is important that these solutions, as far as possible, already be tested for insights, learnings and practical experience that can be shared at the summit. The Innovation Track will consider concepts that are only at idea stage but to be selected these ideas must have been tested in some way in terms of minimal viable product or feasibility.

**5. What is AIS 2018 definition of a scalable solution?**

A scalable solution is one that has the capability and potential to be enlarged and replicated to extend the reach of its social mandate.

**6. What is AIS 2018 definition of an innovative solution?**

An innovative solution is one that addresses a challenge in a new and different way often through a simpler and more effective means.

**7. What is a social enterprise?**

A social enterprise is an organisation (business, not for profit or a combination of both i.e. hybrid entity) whose primary objective is social impact.

**8. Why does the applicant have to be an African national?**

AIS is focused on sourcing the best African solutions, by Africans to solve Africa's greatest challenges.

**9. When can I expect to hear back about my application?**

We expect a large volume of applications and therefore we will endeavor to be in contact with all applicants throughout the review process.

**10. If my application is not selected how can I still get involved in AIS 2018?**

Please get involved! Feel free to share information and to register and attend the AIS 2018 through the website [www.africainnovationsummit.com](http://www.africainnovationsummit.com)

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