

**National Science Technology and Innovation Council (NSTIC)**

**Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE)**

**New England**

**Freetown. Sierra Leone**

Date: 16th June 2024

The Country Director*,*

*Easy Solar.*

**INVITATION TO A MULTISTAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP PROMOTING PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

I bring you warm greetings from the NSTIC.

The Sierra Leone **National Science, Technology, and Innovation Council (NSTIC)** was established in February 2023, by the National Science Technology Innovation Policy, approved by the Government of Sierra Leone **Ref No. CP (2023)65.** It is a statutory body attached to the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education through which the Government of Sierra Leone promote, regulate and coordinate research and innovation, and mobilize resources for the same

The NSTIC is currently providing oversight over five projects bring funded by the AAU/ACTS partnership which emerged as winning proposals after a Call for proposal was made nationwide and reviews carried out by national and international reviewers. A call statistics showed that projects submitted had little or no partnership/collaborative work. This brings to the fore the existing barriers and lacuna between researchers and the private sector and industries. As one of the main objectives of NSTIC is to translate research findings into economic and social use through the commercialization of research output products and transfer of technology that can best be implemented through Public private partnerships, NSTIC is therefore seeking to bridge the gap through Multi-stakeholder engagement between researchers and public private enterprises and Industries.

The proposed multi-stakeholder engagement event between researchers and public-private industry entrepreneurs in Sierra Leone will help build a sustained partnership that can offer several benefits including but not limited to the following:

1. ***Technology Transfer:*** Researchers can transfer technologies and expertise to entrepreneurs, fostering the adoption of advanced methods and improving productivity in industries crucial to Sierra Leone's economy.
2. ***Economic Development:*** Collaboration can spur entrepreneurial activity, attract investment, and create job opportunities, contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction.
3. ***Knowledge Exchange:*** Researchers can share insights, data, and scientific findings with entrepreneurs, aiding in informed decision-making and innovative product development.
4. ***Policy Influence:*** Joint efforts can inform policy decisions, ensuring they are evidence-based and conducive to both research advancement and private sector development.
5. **Social Impact:** Solutions developed through collaboration can have positive social impacts, such as improving productivity, healthcare, education, and environmental sustainability in Sierra Leone.

Overall, multistakeholder engagement between researchers and public-private industry entrepreneurs can catalyze innovation, economic growth, and societal progress in Sierra Leone.

1. **General and Specific Objectives of Event**

**General Objectives:**

The general aim of the proposed Public private partnership multi-stakeholder engagement is to build sustainable partnerships between researchers and entrepreneurs leading to improvement and development of new products, services and solutions and to attract public private investment into research ventures.

**Specific Objectives:**

1. **Commercialization of Research:** Support the commercialization of research outputs by providing funding, infrastructure, and expertise to transform innovative ideas and prototypes into successful products and services.
2. **Technology Transfer:** Facilitate the transfer of technology and research findings from research and academic institutions to entrepreneurial ventures for practical application in industries.
3. **Market-driven Research:** Conduct research aligned with the needs and demands of the private sector, ensuring that research outcomes are commercially viable and have market potential.
4. **Knowledge and Equipment Sharing:** Facilitate equipment sharing and the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices between researchers and entrepreneurs through collaborative projects, conferences, and networking.

**In light of the above you are respectfully invited to the Workshop and to actively participate in the discussions and group sessions. The workshop programme is as attached.**

Please note that travel allowance will be provided.

# PARTICIPANTS

50 participants are expected to take part in the Stakeholders engagement workshop. This will consist of research experts, private sector enterprises and personnel from relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies from the Agriculture, Health and Energy sectors in Sierra Leone.

# WORKSHOP STRUCTURE, DATE AND VENUE

The One-day workshop is scheduled to take on Monday 24th June 2024 at the New Brookfields Hotel in Freetown. The workshop will incorporate plenary and interactive sessions, presentations, and collaborative group discussions.

# **OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP**

* Identification of barriers that militate against partnerships between researchers and Public private sector.
* Creation of Networking Platforms between researchers and Public private entrepreneurs.
* Strengthened R&D ecosystem characterized by closer collaboration between researchers, academia, industry, and government, fostering the signing of MOUs.
* To promote development and commercialization of indigenous technology and adaptation of imported technology for wider domestic application.
* Influence on policy formulation and implementation to create an enabling environment for research-commercialization ecosystems, including supportive regulatory frameworks, funding mechanisms, and incentives for innovation and entrepreneurship.
* Promotion of international collaboration and partnerships between Sierra Leonean researchers, entrepreneurs, and their counterparts in other countries, leveraging global expertise, resources, and markets to enhance innovation and competitiveness.

While we look forward to your positive response, please accept our best wishes.

Kindest regards



Ing Prof Jonas A S Redwood-Sawyerr

*Chairman, NSTIC*

*Cc Mrs Fatmata Kaiwa, Coordinator, NSTIC, MTHE*

*Dr Samba Sesay, PPP Project Lead, NSTIC*