

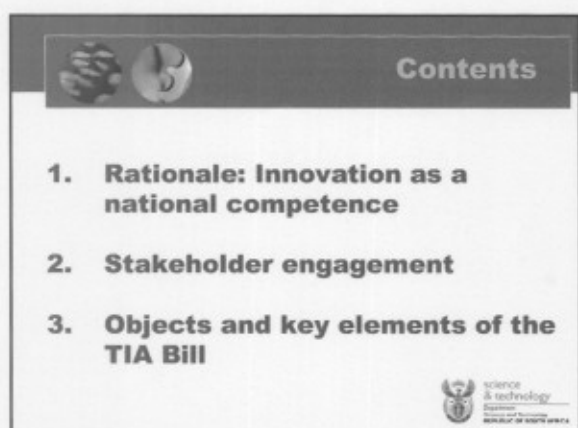


The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)

Briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Science & Technology on the occasion of the Public Hearings on the TIA Bill:

15 – 18 January 2008

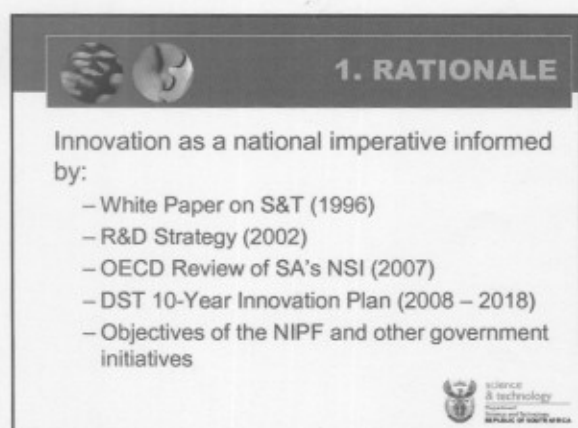
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Republic of South Africa



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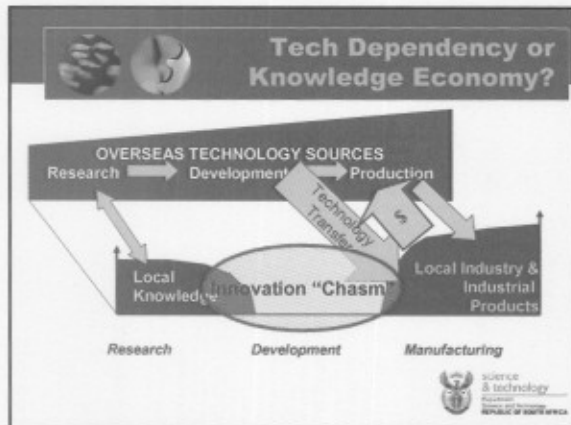


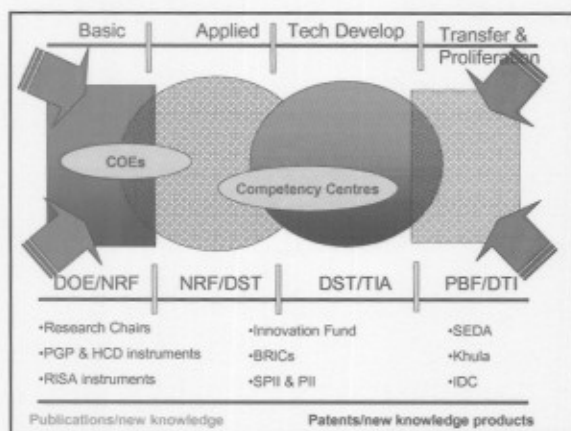
1. RATIONALE

Innovation as a national imperative informed by:

- White Paper on S&T (1996)
- R&D Strategy (2002)
- OECD Review of SA's NSI (2007)
- DST 10-Year Innovation Plan (2008 – 2018)
- Objectives of the NIPF and other government initiatives

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Lost Opportunities

- DST study of technology commercialisation opportunities lost to the SA economy as a result of the country's *innovation chasm*
- The challenges this presents for local innovation activities include: lack of access to venture capital for high financial risk; poor management of intellectual property rights; loss of IP as result of the migration of people; and poor business development skills especially from technology invention to marketing
- Video Clip: Michael Thackeray – Lithium Battery Project



International Perspectives

- International scan of 11 countries
- Established TIA-like institutional mechanisms to support and develop national innovative capacities and to ensure that these are taken to the market
- Typically established as statutory bodies
- Mandates and activities range from financing the commercialisation of innovations through:
 - facilitating venture capital, seed and private sector funding





International cont.

- conducting and regionalising research and innovation
- providing innovation knowledge management services
- facilitating national and international R&D collaboration
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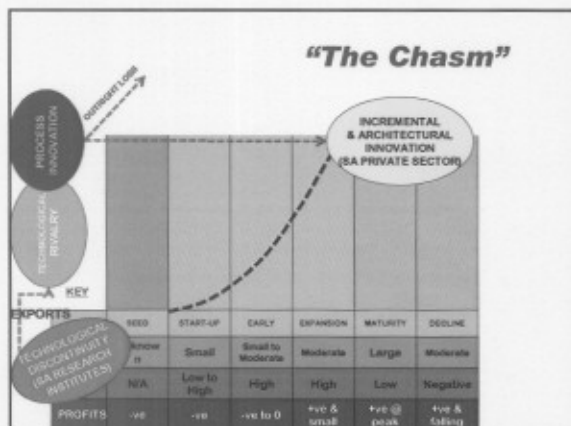


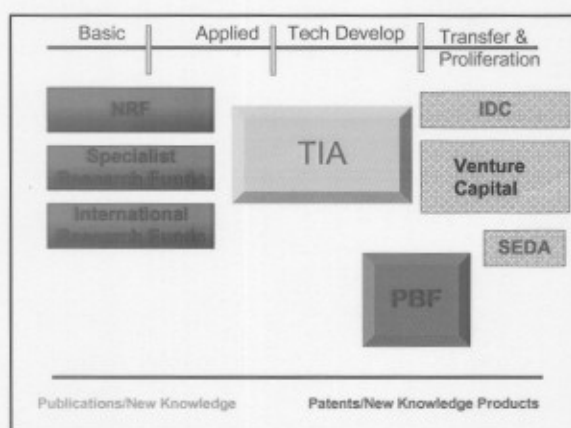


Motivation

To develop a public institution that, **together with private sector partners** where appropriate, develops the country's capacity towards translating a greater proportion of local R&D into commercial products and services







TIA Objectives

Develop a significant technology base for the SA economy, through:

- Stimulating the development of technology-based services and products
- Stimulating the development of technology-based enterprises – both public and private
- Providing an intellectual property support platform
- Stimulating investment by means of venture capital, foreign direct investment and other mechanisms
- Facilitating the development of human capital for innovation




Innovation: A National Competence

Consolidating and enhancing existing instruments:

- Biotechnology Regional Innovation Centres (BRICs)
- Innovation Fund
- AMTS project
- Advanced Minerals Initiative (AMI)
- Hydrogen Economy Competency Centres
- Tshumisano







2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Process Milestones:

- **25 July 2007:** Cabinet approves the process towards the establishment of the TIA
- **17 August 2007:** The draft TIA Bill is published in the *Government Gazette No. 30164*
- **October 2007:** Draft Bill revised and certified by the Office of the Chief State Law Adviser
- **2 December 2007:** Revised TIA Bill published with invitations for written submissions (closing 10 January 2008)





Approach

| PHASE I | PHASE II | PHASE III |
|--|---|---|
| Planning ✓ Process planning ✓ Stakeholder map ✓ Concept ✓ Legislation ✓ Develop instit. migration strat. | Legislation ✓ Concept testing ✓ Finalise legislation ✓ Finalise migration strategy One-on-ones; Seminars; Workshops | Establishment ✓ Institutional migration ✓ Public awareness ✓ Develop regulations Change management workshops; Info campaigns |
| February '07 to February 2008 | | March to end 2008 |



Comments to Draft Legislation

Comments to the draft legislation received from:

- Science councils & research institutions
- Higher education institutions
- Government departments
- State owned enterprises
- Financial institutions, private sector and industry bodies
- S&T networking and collaboration forums





Comment Highlights

Early indications are that:

- Receptivity towards the TIA is positive
- Efforts towards the actual establishment of the TIA widely welcomed at this point
- Specific emphasis on TIA operations that should be informed by:
 - Sound business principles
 - Quick turnaround times in decision making
 - Providing end-to-end support for technology commercialisation and entrepreneurship





3. Objects of the Bill

1. To provide for the establishment of a juristic person known as the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)
2. The purpose of the Agency is to support the State in stimulating and intensifying technological innovation and invention in order to improve economic growth and the quality of life of all South Africans
3. To provide for the appointment of the TIA Board and Executive
4. To describe the objects, powers and functions of the Agency



Funding of the Agency

- The funds of the Agency consist of –
 - money appropriated by Parliament;
 - revenue, including interest derived from investments;
 - money raised or borrowed by the Agency;
 - Money obtained from other sources;
 - donations and contributions





Repeal of Law and Transitional Provisions

- The Inventions Development Act, 1962 (Act No. 31 of 1962) would be repealed
- The South African Inventions Development Corporation would be disestablished





Short title and Commencement

- The Act will be called the Technology Innovation Agency Act, 2008, and come into operation on a date determined by the president by proclamation in the Gazette