

A Partnership of:



Shaping the Future of **INNOVATION**

Presents

The Innovation Challenge Facility (grant funding)

managed by:



Issue 10, October-December 2022

News

Welcome to the tenth issue of the Shaping the Future of Innovation newsletter. Our aim is to contribute to building a culture of innovation and an innovation eco system by sharing news of the project as well as information from Partner programmes and relevant topics around innovation. We hope the content will inspire the local community to put creativity to work for a better quality of life for all.

Innovation must lead to a better quality of life for all. It must be inclusive.

Best wishes for the Season and for a Positive New Year 2023



The Innovation Challenge Facility Project Update

Component 1 – The Innovation Challenge Facility (grant fund for business innovation) CALL 2

The Innovation Challenge Facility **Second CALL FOR PROPOSALS** for grant funding support for business innovation projects was launched on **28th September** and submissions were due **23rd November 2022 at 23.59**.

Shaping the Future of Innovation and the Innovation Challenge Facility (grant fund)

Partners - Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the European Union (EU) and IDB LAB in collaboration with the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) as the executing agency.

Aim: to contribute to a diversified economic base in Trinidad and Tobago.

Actions: **Component 1:** The Innovation Challenge Facility (grant fund for business innovation); **Component 2:** Building Industry and Academic Linkages (support for further research and development towards commercialization); **Component 3:** Building the Innovation Network (towards a sustainable innovation eco system).

Funding: over Euro 8 million provided by the European Union and the IDB LAB to support this innovation project in Trinidad and Tobago.

The impact expected: job creation, new skills, increased efficiency / productivity and competitiveness, new markets, export growth, business growth / profit potential and positive environmental, social and inclusive impacts.

Visit: Shaping the Future of Innovation website at: <http://future.cariri4.com/> .

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We have now entered the evaluation phase for CALL 2 while CALL 1 awardees are in the implementation phase of their projects. We are also pleased to announce that the preparation for CALL 3 to be launched in quarter 1, 2023 has begun.

CALL 3 will have 2 lots: Lot 1 for SME Business Innovation Projects and Lot 2 for Inclusive Innovations Business Projects.



Concept of “Inclusive” in Development and Inclusive Sustainable Projects



Inclusive innovations are innovative products and services that enhance quality of life. They are affordable and accessible to all and especially designed to be accessible to the most vulnerable, such as:

- Socially disadvantaged communities
- Remote and rural areas
- Women groups
- Youth groups and future generations
- Physically challenged.

Inclusive innovative businesses pursue opportunities in traditionally unattractive markets such as the above segments, as **they have been able to design technologies, systems and business models that allow them to operate in these traditionally unattractive market segments while remaining viable.**

Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, one of India’s most eminent scientists, promotes inclusive innovation through the mantra: Getting **More** from **Less** for **More** (MLM). The idea is **not** just to produce low performance, cheap knock-off versions of rich country technologies so that they can be marketed to poor people. Rather, the objective is **to harness sophisticated science and technology know-how to invent, design, produce and distribute high performance technologies** at prices that can be afforded by the majority of people – “**Value for Many.**”

Great examples of inclusive innovations have been:

The Tata Nano –a compact city car, inexpensive rear-engined hatchback intended to appeal to current riders of motorcycles and scooters (the

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inspiration) – with a launch price of US\$1,300 on 10 January 2008.



Example in Education - use of Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) to deliver vocational training in computer repair, electrical work, welding and nursing allowing many more to access the training for much lower costs than attending technical school.

Example in health

Telemedicine - allows healthcare professionals to treat patients remotely via digital technologies.

Bump2BabyandMe is an EU funded project seeking to develop a cost-effective way of supporting pregnant women, at risk of developing gestational diabetes.



Jaipur Foot - The Jaipur Foot is a low-cost prosthetic leg with lifelike performance. It uses many of the advanced joint designs found in other prosthetic limbs. It retails for USD \$80, in contrast to American-made prosthetics which can cost more than USD \$10,000.

Gestational diabetes is the most common complication a woman will experience in pregnancy, and it has a significant impact on health service costs. Around one in eight pregnant women will experience gestational diabetes and it can seriously affect their future health and that of their children.

The project involves developing and trailing an app and remote health coaching. It has the potential to allow healthcare services to provide remote support to at risk women, including those in remote areas who have difficulty attending regular clinics.

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Inclusive innovations are also aligned to the UN SDGs for example, solutions that contribute to:

- Goal 3 – Good health and well being
- Goal 4 – Quality education
- Goal 5 – Gender equality
- Goal 6 – Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 – Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 9 – Resilient infrastructure
- Goal 10 – Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 – Sustainable cities and communities - including affordable and sustainable housing, transport
- Goal 12 – Responsible consumption and production -including sustainable tourism and agriculture.

Example from COP 27 Virtual (innovation)Hub:

1. The [potential for bamboo](#) to play a more important role in future construction projects: bamboo is a renewable, fast growing, lightweight and strong building material, also with higher carbon sequestration;
2. [“Beans is How”](#), an initiative by the SDG2 Advocacy Hub aimed at highlighting the potential of beans as an affordable and accessible solution to the world’s growing health and climate challenges.

Another perspective of inclusive innovation is “the means by which new goods and services are developed for and/or by those who have been excluded from the development mainstream, particularly those living on the lowest incomes”.

“Minds at the margin are not marginal minds” words by Anil Gupta, founder of the Honey Bee Network

and “grassroots innovation” promote the idea that when public services fail, citizens come up with coping strategies to solve their own problems. Solutions may even be more relevant given their proximity to the problem.

Component 2 – Building Industry - Academic Linkages is open for Expressions of Interest – continuous open call.

This Component targets early-stage research and innovation projects, providing firms with access to top performing post graduate research associates to advance their projects to a higher level of readiness. We have already received interest from Masters and PhD post-graduates with expertise in chemical engineering and ocean sciences. This support package will enable firms to bring in new knowledge and expertise to boost innovation, improve productivity and further develop your Intellectual Property.

You can read a case study here from the UK where under a similar scheme, a luxury caravan manufacturer introduced a new digital manufacturing process to improve productivity and embed a culture of innovation within the organisation.

<https://www.ktp-uk.org/case-study/ktp-between-grwp-llandrillo-menai-and-fifth-wheel-co-unlocks-innovation-2/>

If you would like to find out if this support is applicable to you, contact:

stfoi@betatechnology.co.uk

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Network News

Learn what is happening in Innovation from Partner Organisations.

IDB <https://www.iadb.org/en>

[IDB to support the region in implementing the new Global Biodiversity Framework | IADB](#)

At the 15th UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15), held in Montreal, Canada, on December 7 to 19, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) committed to increasing its nature-positive finance and will continue its process to develop a green finance target. The IDB will also continue leading work with other multilateral development banks (MDBs) to develop a commonly agreed definition of nature-positive finance and a tracking methodology for the second quarter of 2023.

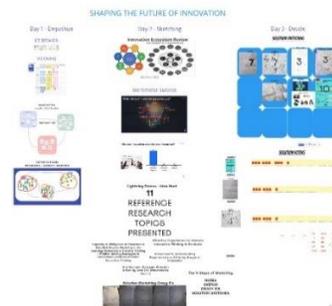
CARIRI

<https://www.facebook.com/caribbeanindustrialresearchinstitute>

Under the Shaping the Future of Innovation project - **Component 3: Building the Innovation Network** CARIRI hosted a virtual **Design Sprint Workshop** via zoom with key industry stakeholders to build the innovation ecosystem in Trinidad and Tobago. The workshop is a 5 days' event and will be held in two parts. The first part was held over three days, November 29th, 30th and December 7th, 2022.

The first day of the workshop was spent understanding the context, mapping and framing the problems. Day 2 saw participants sketching and researching solutions for the problems they identified. and Day 3 was Decide Day (D-DAY), where the participants voted on the top 3 solutions they would like to collaborate on.

After the 3 days, 15 problems were identified, 15 solutions were proposed through a series of sketches and re-sketches, idea hunt and reference research. The 3 stakeholder solutions identified were an ecosystem stakeholders' platform to share information and opportunities among the network and with the entrepreneurs they support – fostering more cohesion, sharing of resources and reducing silos; the second solution was an Innovation Intercol Challenge – fostering creativity and accelerating innovation; and the third solution is an entrepreneurship programme in schools, including students and teachers to start preparing innovative minds. The Workshop was facilitated by Project's Innovation Coordinator, Dr. Marcia Brandon. The second part of the workshop will be held in February 2023 over 2 days, in person, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain. The dates will be announced.



The Design Sprint is a Google Ventures method to drive innovation and encourage user-centred thinking; improve, adapt or create products or services in a few days and get a tangible prototype to test with customers.

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Management Firm

The Consortium led by Beta Technology Limited and EUROCHAMTT have been contracted by CARIRI to provide support in the management of components 1 and 2.

Working closely with CARIRI, who are leading the initiative, the ethos of the team is to build capacity for the future and deliver high quality support to businesses, academia and other stakeholders, to unlock the innovation potential in Trinidad and Tobago.

Beta Technology Limited (Beta) is a small innovation company based and registered in the UK. Beta was founded in 1984 by an entrepreneur as a spin out from the University of Sheffield. Its mission is to connect people and knowledge to promote innovation. Beta has worked for over 35 years supporting innovative SMEs across Europe on their innovation journey – from making grant applications to commercialisation and market development.

www.betatechnology.co.uk



facilitating access to expertise, benchmarking and market.

<https://eurochamtt.org/>



EUROCHAMTT

The Management Team is available to support businesses with queries about the facilities and have set up a dedicated email address for this purpose: innovationchallengefacility@gmail.com

EUROCHAMTT was established in February 2013 as a non-profit company and supports companies in three principal areas: (i) advocacy (ii). trade support and (iii). promoting and supporting its members and partners in climate action initiatives. EUROCHAMTT is part of a worldwide network of European Business Organisations (EBO Worldwide Network) and is in close contact with other European networks