



Shaping the  
Future of  
**INNOVATION**

# Building Industry and Academic Linkages – Pilot

April 2023

A Partnership of:



# Shaping the Future of **INNOVATION**

Presents

**Building Industry and Academic Linkages – Pilot Programme**

managed by:



**Goal of Shaping the Future of Innovation:** To contribute to a more diversified economic base

**Partners:**

- Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago through the Ministry of Planning and Development
- European Union
- IDB Lab
- CARIRI

**Funding:** 9.1M USD from the European Union and the IDB Lab

**Executing Agency:** CARIRI

**Consulting Firm:** Consortium of Beta Technology and EUROCHAMTT

# Shaping the Future of **INNOVATION**

## Expected **IMPACTS**

- Job creation
- New skills
- Increased efficiency / productivity and competitiveness
- New markets
- Export growth
- Business growth / profit potential
- Positive environmental, social and inclusive impacts

# Shaping the Future of **INNOVATION**

## Component 1

### The Innovation Challenge Facility

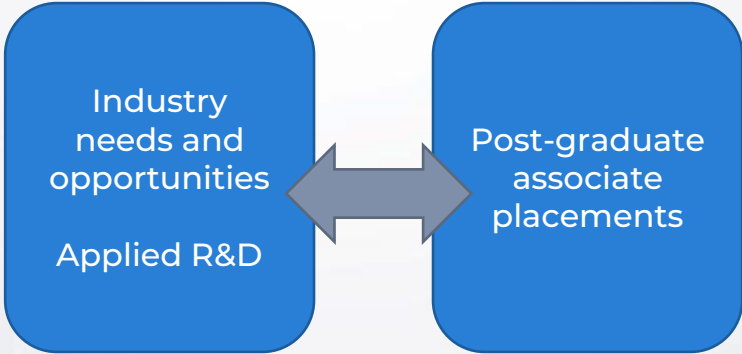


**Grant funding and technical support**

Mainly for **SMEs** with innovations – close to or ready for commercialisation

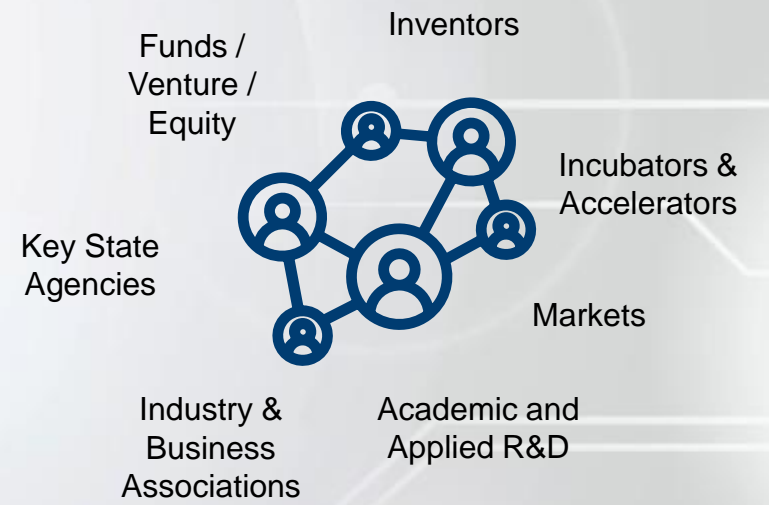
## Component 2

### Building Industry and Academic Linkages



## Component 3

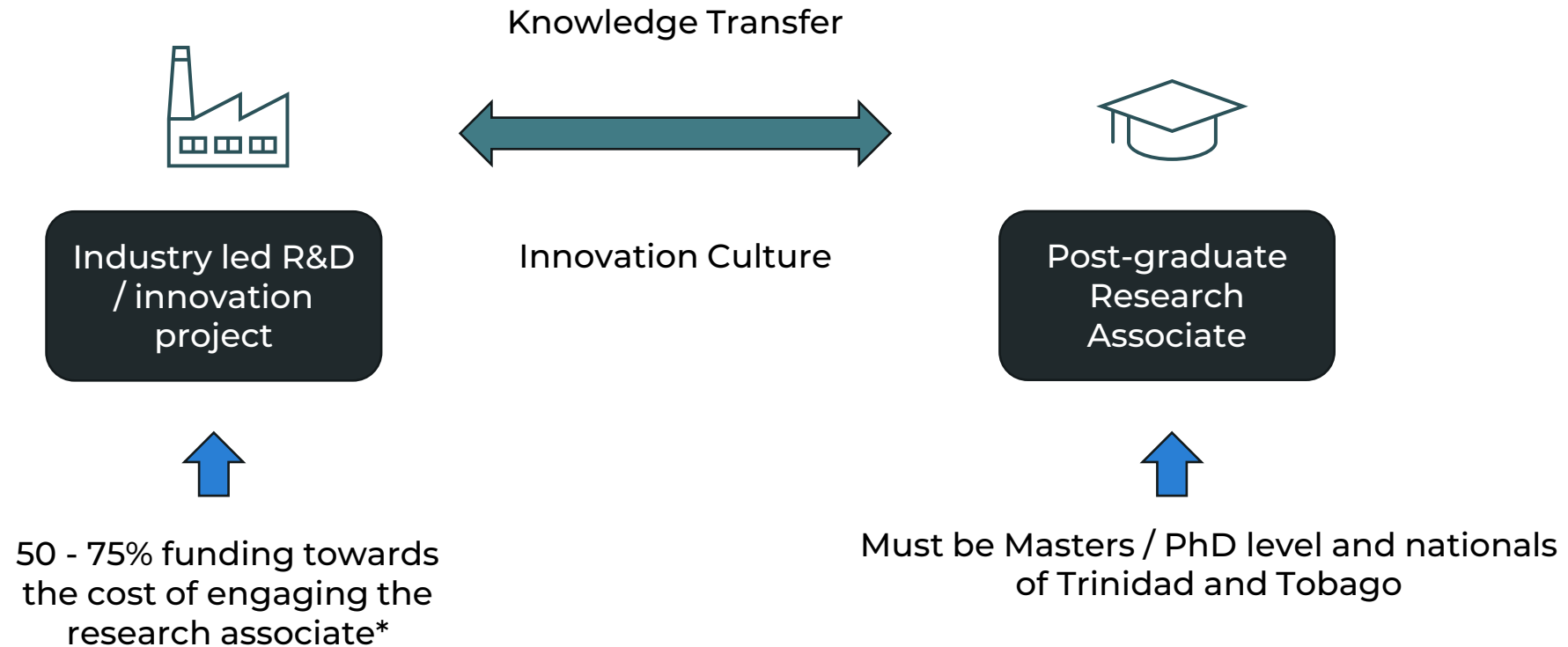
### Building the Innovation Network



<http://future.cariri4.com/>

## Component 2 – Building Industry Academic Linkages

Pilot intervention aimed at supporting business-led innovation by fostering and strengthening links between companies in Trinidad and Tobago and universities through **knowledge transfer**.



\*SMEs can receive up to 75%, large companies up to 50%. Some companies may be eligible for R&D tax concessions.



# Pilot Programme - Overview

- The research associate must be engaged by the company as a consultant to work on a pre-defined innovation or applied R&D project meeting a specific business need and / or market opportunity.
- The company must cover any other costs e.g. consumables, equipment, access to facilities at universities associated with the project.
- SMEs can receive up to 75% of the cost of engaging the associate, large companies can receive up to 50%.
- The research associate may be supervised by the company and an academic mentor.
- The company owns any IP / results arising from the project.
- Contract will be between the company and CARIRI – the research associate is engaged directly by the company as a consultant.

# Eligible Projects

- All projects must be in the context of innovation / applied R&D – development of new products and services, process / productivity improvements / building and testing prototypes TRL 2-7.
- The scope of the project will be defined via an iGap intervention and ensure the eligibility criteria are met. However, companies that have already applied to the Innovation Challenge Facility and have a pre-defined project may be fast-tracked through the process.
- Projects must be new / additional activity – projects will not fund routine company activities / existing projects.
- All projects must define and deliver one or more ‘Key Exploitable Results’ – outputs and outcomes to improve the productivity / competitiveness of the host company.

# Technology *Readiness* Levels

(TRLs)

Research

Applied research &  
*development*

Demonstration

Pre-commercial  
deployment

TRL 1

**Basic Research** - Basic principles observed

TRL 2

**Technology Formulation** - Concept and application formulated

TRL 3

**Applied Research** - Proof of concept, first lab tests

TRL 4

**Small Scale Prototype** – Built in lab environment

TRL 5

**Large Scale Prototype** - Tested in intended environment

TRL 6

**Prototype System** – Tested in intended environment, close to expected performance

TRL 7

**Demonstration System** – Operating in operational environment pre-commercial scale

TRL 8

**First Commercial System** - System complete and qualified, issues solved *technology proven to work*

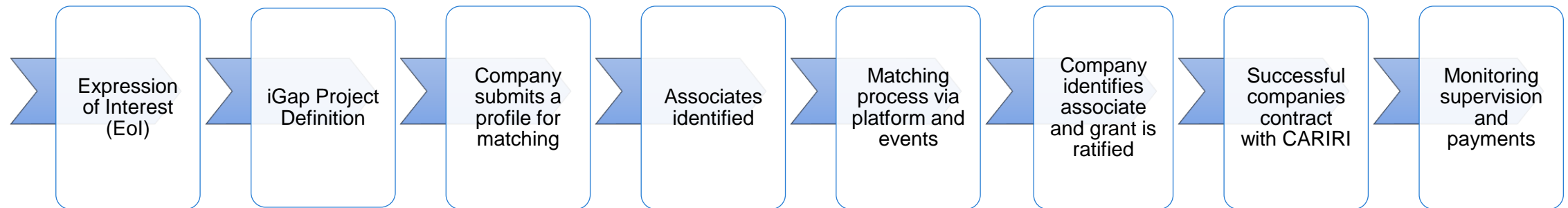
TRL 9

**Full Commercial Application** - application of technology in final form, available to customers



# Application Process

'Open Call' for applications (no deadlines)



↑  
Part 1 – Eol reviewed by CARIRI

↑  
Part 2 – Assessed by Advisory Panel – Fast tracked applicants enter at this stage.

# Why should your company apply?

- Access to new skills and expertise from a high-calibre post-graduate 'research associate' – knowledge is transferred and embedded into the company.
- A part funded resource to undertake a specific innovation project, that you might not be able to do otherwise.
- Embedding a culture of innovation in your business, driving business growth and future sustainability.
- Opportunity to broaden your networks and develop closer links with UTT / UWI / CARIRI and other organisations.
- We are open for Expressions of Interest through an open call, you can submit at any time.
- Support is available to help you define your project and find associates.



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Further information:

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<https://future.cariri.com/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12783673/>

