

A Partnership of:



Shaping the Future of INNOVATION

Presents

The Innovation Challenge Facility (grant funding)

managed by:



News

Issue 14, April 2024

Welcome to the fourteenth 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.

The Innovation Challenge Facility Project Update- Congratulations to all Call 3 Awardees



We are thrilled to announce that following the evaluation process for Call 3, eighteen (18) businesses have attained the threshold mark that allows them to be eligible to receive grants to support the implementation of their innovation projects.

1. Carbon Zero Institute of Trinidad and Tobago. **Project:** Development of a "Farmers Companion" AI-Driven Climate-Smart Agriculture Advisor App
2. Caribbean Bottlers (Trinidad and Tobago Limited) and Container Recycling Services Ltd. **Project:** TreeFree Products by Every Bottle Back
3. Caribbean Roasters Limited. **Project:** CRL brand launched
4. Charlotteville Estate Limited. **Project:** Tobago Cocoa Rehabilitation Project
5. Cocoa Research Centre, The University of the West Indies. **Project:** RECREATE Cocoa Communities

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:** Approximately USD 9.1 million to support this innovation project in Trinidad and Tobago. **The impact expected:** Jobs, contracts and livelihoods, foreign exchange/ exports, growth/profit potential/ financial sustainability, climate resilience/ sustainability (social and environmental) are impacted positively.

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

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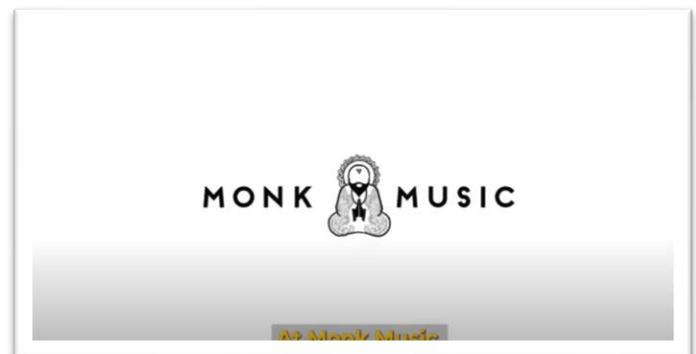
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6. Let's Talk Brand Ambassador and Wizdom CRM. **Project:** WizdomCRM Sustainable Stock Market Game
7. MIC Institute of Technology Limited. **Project:** Quick to Market Scheme (QMS)
8. Mr. Bionic Mobile Repairs Ltd. **Project:** Mr. Bionic - Mobile Rescue
9. PayWise Limited. **Project:** Mobile Financial Solution for Credit Unions
10. Planting Seeds Caribbean Limited. **Project:** The Planting Seeds Private Equity and Investment TV Series
11. Restayge Networks Limited. **Project:** Restayge: Bridging Brands and Influencers for Authentic Connections
12. RioMed Ltd. **Project:** Clinical Referral Portal
13. Sky Cover TT Aerial Solutions Ltd. **Project:** Sky Cover Active
14. Trinibakes limited. **Project:** Instalment of Production facility and Staff Development to improve Export Readiness
15. Upward Innovation Technologies Ltd. **Project:** TTWeSafe Travel Wallet
16. Virtana TT LTD. **Project:** Indoor Drone Localization and Research
17. V'Toria Rhonda Vineyard & Winery Ltd. **Project:** Innovative Wines, Wine Jellies and Tinitario Chocolate Wine Bars
18. Xtatik Limited. **Project:** Soundbridge: Music Industry Innovation in Trinidad and Tobago. A Project by Xtatik Ltd. & Monk Music



Container Recycling Services Ltd with the project TreeFree Products by Every Bottle Back.

This project is expected to have an environmental impact by reducing the amount of waste going to landfills, waterways and oceans and creating a new industry around re-using waste for new end products - circular economy concept. Additionally, it will impact livelihoods of 100 entrepreneurs and create new jobs. The project contributes to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and especially: SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities.



Inclusive Business Innovation category

Among the 18, two (2) projects have won under the **Inclusive Business Solutions category:**

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Xtatik Limited with its project **Soundbridge: Music Industry Innovation in Trinidad and Tobago**. A Project by Xtatik Ltd. & Monk Music and **Caribbean Bottlers (Trinidad and Tobago Limited)**. This innovation will provide a wide range of jobs in the local community including music artists, music producers, band members, songwriters, mixing and mastering sound engineers, record label executives, project managers, graphic designers, video producers, photographers, editors, social media influencers, marketing executives, royalty accounting. The project is well aligned with SDG 8, which aims to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.

two lots as follows: **Lot 1:** Grant Facility and **Lot 2:** Grant Facility and Research Associate.

Remember the importance of evidence of customers/ market for your innovation. This continues to be the main reason why projects have not crossed the threshold.:

- Who are the customers?
- What are their unmet needs/ jobs to be done?
- Are their specific needs your innovation will target?
- Can the needs be quantified, qualified, located?
- What’s your value proposition?
- How will you reach the specific market segments?

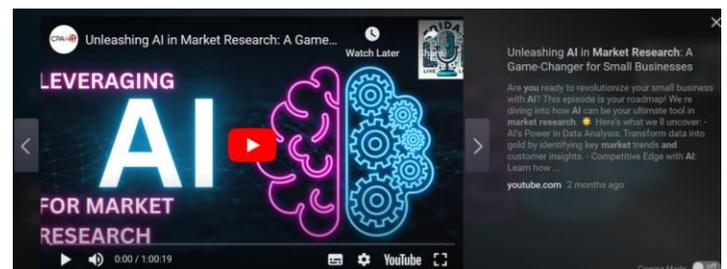
Call 4 -To Open within the Next Few Weeks

Check out this You Tube video on how AI is helping in market research.

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=You+tube+and+AI+and+market+research&type=E211US714G0#action=view&id=7&vid=3190653cd8e5957221c46e1cbe8357cb>



Call 4 is in the planning stage and will be opened in a few weeks. Stay tune for the news. Call 4 will have



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Component 2 – Building Industry - Academic Linkages



The **Industry Academic Linkages Pilot** is open for Expressions of Interest.

The "Building Industry and Academic Linkages" programme welcomes companies who are interested in advancing their innovation-led businesses by utilising skilled post-graduate Research Associates. Companies can submit their Expressions of Interest at any time, allowing them to work on projects with Research Associates for a maximum of six months. Upon submission of the Expression of Interest, companies will receive assistance defining their projects and matching them with appropriate post-graduate Research Associates. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can obtain up to 75% of funding towards the cost of engaging a Research Associate, while larger

companies can receive up to 50%. The host companies and the Research Associates will receive support from an academic mentor. Don't hesitate to submit your Expression of Interest today!

We have a skilled group of more than 80 post-graduates who are prepared and eager to take on placements in host companies. They can assist with research and development, bring in fresh energy and expertise, and fill any skill gaps to boost your innovation capacity. Our post-graduates come from a variety of fields, including but not limited to:

- International business development
- Food science and technology
- Renewable energy
- Innovation
- Marketing
- Economics
- Chemical engineering

Our pool of Research Associates is still growing, and we welcome new candidates. To qualify, you must be a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago and either currently enrolled in or have recently graduated from a Master's or PhD programme within the past two years.

Five firms are now running live projects, with more in the pipeline. The Research Associates are supporting projects in the following areas:

- Implementing new e-commerce strategies and systems to support international trade.
- Market research and testing for new educational products.
- Developing an innovative IT-based voting platform.

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- Implementing a new healthcare coupon initiative.
- Enhancing a trade portal with ESG reporting.

We have set up a LinkedIn group to facilitate networking and will post suitable opportunities for Research Associates and companies as they arise. You can join the group via the following link:

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

If you would like to find out if this support is applicable to you or submit your CV as a Research Associate, contact:

stfoi@betatechnology.co.uk.



The EU's largest research and innovation programme will be holding sessions on research in the following important 5 cross cutting themes:

1. **Adaptation to Climate Change:** support at least 150 European regions and communities to become climate resilient by 2030.
2. **Cancer:** working with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan to improve the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030 through prevention, cure and solutions to live longer and better
3. **Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030**
4. **100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030**
5. **A Soil Deal for Europe:** 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030.

Network News and Opportunities

Learn what is happening in Innovation from Partner Organisations.

Horizon Europe:

[Info days for EU Missions and cross-cutting activities to take place between 25 and 26 April 2024 - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

IDB Lab- IDB Lab launches Gateway Program to Scale Latin American and Caribbean Startups in the US

<https://technoart.org/miami-latam-us-gateway/>

Applications close on 18 April 2024.

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The Miami LAC Gateway program is designed to support Latin American and Caribbean based startups looking to expand their operations to the US by establishing a base in Miami.

The offer:

- Stay and work at Selina Miami.
- Connect with local investors, accelerators, service providers, and industry experts for insights, guidance, and potential investments.
- Partner with local businesses and startups to explore mutual growth opportunities.
- Participate in Miami's tech ecosystem events, workshops, and discussions to gain valuable insights.
- Utilize exclusive startup services such as mentorship and coworking space for business scaling.
- Leverage our partners' networks for global reach and explore international collaborations.

CARIRI – SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURS AND BUSINESSES IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY
<https://www.facebook.com/caribbeanindustrialresearchinstitute>



PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Food Technology Department has relocated from UWI Campus, St. Augustine to the CARIRI Centre for Enterprise Development, Innovation Avenue, Freeport.

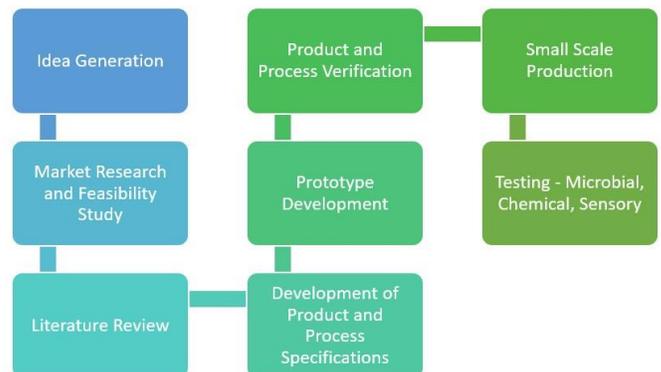


Feel free to contact us to schedule your next visit at 299-0210 Ext. 2127 or email us at: biotech@cariri.com

www.cariri.com



Did you know that CARIRI's Food Technology Department offers all these services? Have you visited the Small-Scale Productions bays in Freeport – an ideal opportunity to prototype your food innovations.



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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



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 facilitating access to expertise, benchmarking and markets.

<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