

A Partnership of:



Shaping the Future of INNOVATION

Presents
The Innovation Challenge Facility (grant funding)
managed by:



News

Issue 16, July 2025

Welcome to the sixteenth 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.

Call 4 Awardees and Awards Ceremony



The Call 4 ceremony took place on Wednesday 25 June 2025 at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad. Twenty-four awardees have hit the road running to complete projects by October 2025.

1. Agora Technologies Ltd (Trading as oDeliver)
2. Agostini's Limited
3. Air Science TT
4. Amare Probiotics Limited
5. Anima Caribbean Festival
6. Grosvenor Investments Limited
7. Handmade by Jeanette Company
8. Health Mix
9. Horses Helping Humans
10. Ice Connection Industries Ltd
11. Kidavo Creations
12. Koru Green
13. L&S Surveying Services Limited
14. LKJ Accumed Limited
15. New Steam Laundry Limited
16. Pebs Prosperous Hands
17. QURE LTD
18. Ronblock Industries 2017 Ltd.
19. Sarah's Professional Pancake Centre Limited
20. Spool Garment Factory Ltd.
21. Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute
22. Veusse Naturals Ltd
23. VF Packaging Limited
24. YBMS Biotec Ltd

Shaping the Future of Innovation

- **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 commercialisation); **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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Innovations in Health and Wellness

Livhealth – A Partner on Your Healthcare Journey Limited



The staff of LivHealth with founder Dr Chelsea Garcia at bottom centre.

LivHealth was founded in 2021, as a small, home-based palliative and hospice service supporting patients who had the means to afford home care. Their patients were concentrated in the Northwest of Trinidad.

Livhealth was awarded a grant under the Shaping the Future of Innovation project in 2022 (contract signed December 2022) and was one of four businesses selected as an inclusive business. The grant was used to assist Livhealth to recruit, train and certify Doctors, Nurses and Patient Care staff to become specialised in palliative care. Livhealth also invested in specialised equipment (for example mattresses for wound care and portable oxygen tanks), a specialised pharmacy service, emergency kits and a proprietary electronic medical records system supporting patient care, operational efficiency, and HR management across Livhealth.

The emphasis and attention placed in recruiting the right staff, training and certifying as well as digital systems for efficiency and effectiveness and a business model that allows them different income streams, have provided Livhealth with the infrastructure for scaling up and experiencing a multiplier effect.

- They now serve 3,000 patients annually and employ more than 100 healthcare professionals.
- Livhealth operates throughout the Northwest and in the Eastern corridor, Central and South Trinidad. In 2024 alone, the LivHealth team successfully prevented 1,452 hospitalizations.

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- They have established new partnerships with other organisations to manage hospices and homes for aged.
- Introduced an advanced certification programme which equips a new generation of skilled caregivers and creates meaningful employment. Over 75% of the graduates are single mothers or individuals from low-income communities, now thriving in careers with purpose.
- Livhealth has Introduced Liv Eden, the first assisted living flagship facility in Trinidad & Tobago.
- They set -up a foundation to support patients without the financial means to have access to home care.
- Adopting principles of sustainability, they have introduced a ReMed service.
- Experience has led to recognizing there is a need to go beyond caring for patients. Family members and caregivers also require support to deal with grief and bereavement.

With such a positive impact and continuing the emphasis on training, Liv health is ready for a public private partnership, and further expansion to cover Tobago and the region in the future.



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Horses Helping Humans (HHH) - Experience Serenity at Horses Helping Humans



Located on a 6.3-acre property on the North coast of Trinidad in Maracas village, and just minutes from Maracas Bay, the HHH innovation project is unique to Trinidad and Tobago and to the Caribbean.

While it continues its core equine assisted and hippotherapy work, it has introduced new revenue streams in the wellness industry. These include:

- yoga classes (with certified yoga instructors);
- a beautiful space for hosting corporate and other wellness retreats while promoting their own retreat services;
- an on-property café serving delicious vegan snacks made from organically grown produce from the estate such as avocados, a variety of fruit and coconut products already in abundance on the property); the café is also building a network of suppliers of vegan and wholesome foods;

- sale of produce and
- sale of manure.



From left to right: Assistant Hippo Therapist and Riding Coach Jade Gomez and Karen Stollmeyer, Co-founder and Lead Therapist.

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HHH – Utopia is integrating sustainability into their business model.

- The grant is supporting HHH with the installation of renewable energy (solar) which will provide a stable and more sustainable source of power for appliances and cooling systems and facilitate lighting and security systems on the property. In the future, it is expected to save costs.



- Products have been grown without the use of synthetic fertilisers and chemicals and therefore organic or other certification would be feasible in the future. Future work could also involve identifying the level of biological importance of the estate and safeguarding the natural environment.



- Community engagement is a fundamental part of the philosophy of the business. HHH is employing members of the community, buys from the community and is teaching community children about the horses and how to ride. The business is already impacting positively on the community.
- HHH has access to natural spring water, a river and rainwater harvesting and is therefore conscious of the need to measure its use and impact on the water resources in the village, and ensure it safeguards these natural resources in a sustainable way.

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

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RioMed Limited



RioMed Ltd.'s innovation, Cellma Connect is a clinical referral portal to facilitate patient referrals nationally/regionally seamlessly and in a timely manner. Through Cellma Connect, clients are provided with access to a referral portal and a vetted directory of healthcare professionals. In addition, healthcare providers can share and update the results of the patients' assessment on a single file. Cellma Connect was conceptualised locally and using Rio Med's resources internationally along with other local experts implemented with the support of STFOI.

Clients using Cellma Connect will be facilitated with a structured training program to ensure clients are proficient and confident with the customized **CellmaConnect** platform as well as a help desk facility that supports users and maintains a log of help requests.

Since its launch, Cellma Connected has attracted interest from medical labs, doctors and sports rehabilitation centre.

Agostini Limited - Dolphin



Agostini Limited has developed Dolphin - a medication discount platform that enables pharmaceutical suppliers to create and deliver digital coupons to consumers through a mobile app. With Dolphin, pharmacies and suppliers can effortlessly distribute coupons to help customers save on prescriptions.

With support from the STFOI project, Dolphin has onboarded several major retail pharmacy outlets across Trinidad and Tobago since February 2025. To date, Dolphin has collectively supported just over 2500 pharmacy patients with more than \$330,000 in savings on their medication purchases.

Dolphin has also hired eight (8) persons within the last year with the aim of contributing to the development of the HealthTech industry in Trinidad & Tobago. Furthermore, Dolphin will be presented to the wider pharmaceutical community at the annual conference hosted by The Pharmaceutical Society of Trinidad and Tobago on July 20th, 2025.

So, if you are tired of high medication costs, download Dolphin at www.meetdolphin.com

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XHUMA Healthcare Ltd. -: Digital Healthcare Modernisation & Integration

Modernising Caribbean Healthcare Through Digital Integration

XHUMA Healthcare Ltd. is a regional digital health company delivering integrated, cloud-based solutions designed to transform the operations of healthcare providers, insurance entities, and professional regulatory bodies. Its mission is to improve the accessibility, security, and efficiency of healthcare systems across the Caribbean through scalable digital tools.

Their Shaping the Future of Innovation (STFOI) project focused on scaling up their key service areas:

- **XHUMA Clinic Management** – Currently in pilot deployment within a **major public health institution**, this module supports appointment scheduling, billing, patient tracking, and digital record management. The platform has already **registered over 900 appointments**, with **300,000+ patient records** cleaned and prepared for upload into the digital environment.
- **XHUMA Insurance** – Now in active use by a **leading national insurance brokerage**, this module enhances the management of group health plans, improves provider network integration, automates claims workflows, and supports real-time patient insurance validation.
- **Enterprise Security and Infrastructure** – Additionally, STFOI has allowed XHUMA to migrate its infrastructure to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI), with enterprise-grade protections in place including **256-bit AES encryption**, **multi-factor authentication**, **intrusion detection systems**, and compliance

with **HIPAA**, **SOC 2**, and **ISO 20000-1** standards.

- **Customer Support Enhancements** – Helpdesk functionality has been expanded to include automated response workflows, integrated email and account tracking, and improved billing support—ensuring quality service as the platform scales.

Through these strategic developments with the assistance of STFOI, XHUMA is enabling Caribbean institutions to transition from fragmented, paper-based processes to secure, interoperable digital ecosystems—enhancing care delivery and public health outcomes.



Members of the XHUMA Healthcare team pictured at the Shaping the Future of Innovation (STFOI) Awards Ceremony, supported by the European Union, IDB Lab, CARIRI, and the Ministry of Planning and Development.

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Component 2-Building Industry - Academic Linkages

To date we have placed 27 Research Associates in 23 different firms, in a wide range of projects including:

- Food and drink, including new products and implementing new manufacturing processes
- New IT systems and services
- Agriculture
- Health

Both LivHealth and Agostini's featured in this newsletter have hosted Research Associates to support their projects.

Network News and Opportunities

Learn what is happening in Innovation from Partner Organisations.

Innovation Eco-System

For the sustainability of the results of this project, we recognise the need to strengthen the eco-system to support innovators and other small and medium-sized companies to continue expanding their markets, strengthening their business performance and to continue innovating. The eco-system includes organisations offering equity investments and other financial products, organisations that can support access to expertise, market access, research, development and innovation services.



The **Industry Academic Linkages Pilot** is now closed for applications. Here is an update on achievements to date.

The aim of "Building Industry and Academic Linkages" is to support companies who are interested in advancing their innovation-led businesses by utilising skilled post-graduate Research Associates.

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Horizon Europe – Science Diplomacy

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en#:~:text=What%20is%20Horizon%20Europe%3F,2027%20is%20EUR%2093.5%20billion.

Horizon Europe 2028-2034: a framework for excellence, innovation and competitiveness

On 16 July 2025, the European Commission put forward its proposal for the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (2028–2034).

The proposed programme will facilitate the launch of 'moonshot' scientific-driven projects designed to position Europe as a global leader in strategic fields. Look at what is included among the themes of 'moonshot' scientific-driven projects.



Moonshots



Future Circular Collider

What: Sustain Europe's leadership in particle physics by investing in CERN's next-generation collider.

How: Co-invest with other CERN countries, leveraging Horizon Europe funding.



Clean Aviation

What: Lead the world in developing the next generation of CO₂-free aircraft.

How: Develop applications from medicine to climate, solving previously impossible problems for 450 million citizens.



Quantum Computing

What: Make Europe the first continent with fully integrated quantum computing in daily life.

How: Develop applications from medicine to climate, solving previously impossible problems for 450 million citizens.



Next Generation AI

What: Model the new AI on the laws of nature and grounded in physics and biology.

How: AI developed by, with, and for European scientists and industry, drawing to Europe the world's best minds.



Data Sovereignty

What: Make Europe the global leader and safest hub for critical research data.

How: Provide access to critical data for researchers, universities and companies, offering competitive advantage in tackling global challenges.



Automated Transport and Mobility

What: Advance safe, inclusive, and emission-reducing automated transport and mobility in Europe.

How: Invest in smart transport systems to improve traffic, reduce emissions, and enhance access.



Regenerative Therapies

What: Deliver breakthrough therapies to improve people's health and lives.

How: Harness Europe's scientific strengths to treat incurable diseases and personalise medicine.



Fusion Energy

What: The first commercial nuclear fusion power plant, generating safe, consistent, and reliable electricity.

How: Overcome the scientific and technological challenges necessary to put fusion on the grid in Europe by 2034.



Space Economy

What: Make Europe the leader in the space economy.

How: Develop the next generation launch vehicles such as reusable rockets, able to deploy massive cargo by 2040.



Zero Water Pollution

What: Move towards zero pollution of water in the EU.

How: Stimulate innovation to build a true water-smart economy which secures sufficient, clean and affordable water and sanitation to all at all times.



Ocean Observation

What: Achieving strategic autonomy in ocean observation infrastructure, data and information services.

How: Developing, connecting, governing and securing the next generation of European ocean observing technologies.

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Cariri enhances collaborations with Guadeloupe for research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

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



June 30th to July 4th as part of a regional mission to strengthen collaboration in research, innovation and entrepreneurship, CARIRI hosted a visit from I-Nova Technopole Guadeloupe

The focus of the visit was on enhancing collaboration between the organisations to boost trade between Trinidad and Tobago and Guadeloupe, with a broader objective of unlocking access to European markets.

Key areas of discussion included:

- ◆ Joint capacity-building initiatives
- ◆ Inward investment opportunities
- ◆ The development of new extra-regional export pathways for Guadeloupean businesses.

As part of the visit, CARIRI arranged visits to a few manufacturing companies and Global Trinidad and Tobago.

Both parties expressed a strong commitment to advancing this promising partnership through strategic exchanges, innovation-led collaboration, and the sharing of technical expertise—all in support of export diversification and sustainable economic development across both territories.

IDB LAB- Silver Economy Initiatives

<https://www.iadb.org/en/news/idb-and-partners-commit-developing-silver-economy>



The IDB Lab has joined others globally (launched in Barcelona, Spain, January 2025) to commit to programmes which recognise the opportunities of an aging population. This should be of interest to entrepreneurs especially in health and wellness.

According to the IDB, the population of Latin America and the Caribbean is aging at a faster rate than that of any other region in the world. The percentage of people aged 60 and older is projected to more than double, increasing from 12% to 25% by 2050. This growth will bring the size of this demographic to 195 million people – one in four individuals in the region.

Worldwide, the silver economy generates about \$22 trillion annually while in countries like Argentina and Colombia, it accounts for 40% of GDP.

Following a recent Call for Proposals, 35 solutions from 19 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have been selected for support.
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1JUa1RGy7D/>

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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 including guiding companies on preparing to export to the EU 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