

Supporting SMEs and Innovation: creating an enabling environment

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www.sarima.co.za

What is SARIMA?

- Membership organisation of research and innovation managers
- Operates at an institutional, national and international levels
- Operates across the value chain, from research through to successful innovation (commercialization).
- Purpose
 - ✓ Promotion and facilitation of best practice in research and innovation management
 - ✓ Strengthening the research and innovation system to ensure the social and economic development of the Southern African region

SARIMA Portfolios

Research Management

- Project: SToRM

Africa Engagement

- Project: SRIM

Innovation & Technology Transfer

- Project:
BioFISA courses

Project: SANBio BioFISA courses

Capacity Building Project on the Commercialisation of Products and Services in Biosciences

Key Activities

Development and delivery of online courses:

- IP protection, licensing and negotiation
- Technology transfer of developed bioscience technologies
- Developmental and regulatory pathway to commercialise biotechnology
- The Business of Bioscience

Drivers and Deterrents to Innovation

DRIVERS

- Population support for innovation
- Ability to partner with universities
- Effective intellectual property & patent protection
- Efficacy of public private partnerships

DETERRENTS

- Inefficiency & poor coordination of government support
- Government: Low budget allocations to innovation
- Poor private investment support
- Slow speed at which innovative products come to market



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

- Large companies are innovative but they have a tendency to use innovation to reduce jobs
- Entrepreneurs and small business tend to be more innovative than large business
- Entrepreneurs and Tech Start Ups are more likely to use innovation to develop products and services that people want or need, to create jobs, enhance economic growth

Role of universities in economic development

- Conducting research aimed at solving real-world problems of regional or commercial interest
- Creating new ventures and transferring technologies to companies for job creation & economic growth
- Providing students with valuable knowledge, research experience, marketable skills and entrepreneurship training

University-Industry partnerships

BENEFITS TO UNIV

- Assistance in translating research findings to fit industry needs
- New opportunities for research funding
- Access to external test beds for univ tech
- Finding Licensees and entrepreneurs to commercialise university technology

Industry-University partnerships

BENEFITS TO INDUSTRY

- Access to high quality technologies
- Access to high quality interns and future employees.
- Access to university expertise, resources, equipment

Some Issues

- Problem pull vs solution push
- Spaces for discussing, exploring problems and solutions
- Industry perspectives vs University perspectives

Bridging the gap

- Spaces for discussing, exploring problems and solutions
 - e.g. sandpits, matching events, reverse Dragon's Den
- Visibility
 - Marketing of IP/technology
 - e.g. *Innovation Bridge Portal*
 - Frameworks for collaboration or commercial agreements
- Business Mentorship to univ inventors, industry sabbaticals for univ inventors

Thank you.



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