



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The COMESA Secretariat is seeking proposals for incubator projects that will help local Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Angola, Burundi, DR Congo, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe integrate ICT tools in their daily business operations with the view to strengthen their enterprises and market share in regional and international trade.

The successful proposals will be funded through a grant scheme under the regional Information and Communications Technologies Support Programme (RICTSP) under the 9th European Development Fund (EDF).

The overall objective of the Regional ICT Support Programme is to contribute to the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Integration Agenda through an effective and efficient Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) environment. The primary purpose of the RICTSP is to achieve a reduction in the “digital divide” by removing some of the constraints to the efficient use of ICT.

This open call for proposals shall culminate with the award of grants to successful applicants to establish and/support projects that demonstrate the viability of the internet. The supported and co-financed initiatives will include joint co-operational activities between ICT stakeholders, at various levels and SMEs under the supervision of SME support organizations in each country.

The minimum amount of any grant will be Euro 5,000 and the maximum Euro 15,000. However, the programme reserves the right to support grants that would require less funds than the minimum stipulated. In addition the grant may not exceed 75% of the cost of the proposed action as successful applicants are expected to contribute at least 25% of the cost of the proposed action.

To be eligible, applicants must be registered legal persons in one of the above listed countries and non profit making organizations such as business incubators or networks of incubators, business development centres, business groups or business networks, trade associations, community based NGOs, women groups, etc. Applicants must also be responsible for the preparation and management of the action with their partners and not acting as an intermediary.

The call for proposal including guidelines for grant applicants and the grant application form are available at

http://www.comesa.int/tenders%20and%20Consultancy?b_start:int=10

Applications must be submitted in a sealed envelope by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery to the addresses given below.

For registered mail:

Regional ICT Support Programme - RICTSP
COMESA Secretariat
COMESA Center
Ben Bella Road
P.O. Box 30051
Lusaka - Zambia

Address for hand delivery or by private courier service:

Regional ICT Support Programme - RICTSP
COMESA Secretariat
COMESA Center
Ben Bella Road
Lusaka - Zambia

Please note that a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer of the mail.

The deadline for the submission of applications is **31 July 2008 at 16:00** in the time zone of Zambia (+2 GMT).