

NORTH WEST NCIC CHALLENGE FAQs / TERMINOLOGY

| Question | Answer |
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| Who can apply? | Entrepreneurs, researchers, students, innovators, and SMMEs based in South Africa — especially those with solutions applicable to the North West Province's Food–Water–Energy nexus challenges. |
| Can applicants be individuals or teams? | Yes. Both individuals and multidisciplinary teams (up to 5 members) can apply. Collaboration between academia, private sector, and communities is encouraged. |
| What stage of innovation is required? | Prototypes or MVPs (TRL 3–7) that can demonstrate proof of concept and are ready for pilot testing. |
| Do applicants need to be from the North West? | No, but proposed solutions must be implementable or piloted within the North West province. |
| What support will winners receive? | Winners will receive financial awards, technical mentorship, pilot-site access, and post-acceleration through GCIP's ecosystem. |
| Will there be training or bootcamps? | Yes. MDiHub will host regional bootcamps focusing on design thinking, business modeling, and prototype development to prepare applicants for judging rounds. |
| What happens after the challenge? | Successful teams may enter TIA's post-acceleration phase, receive funding facilitation via Impact Amplifier, and participate in national or international cleantech programs. |