DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SMART AGRI FACILITIES AT DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY RIVERSIDE CAMPUS - PIETERMARITZBURG

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1. NOTICE AND INVITATION

Compulsory Virtual Information Session	**17 July 2025 – 10am** **https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YmYwMTA2YzYtOGI3Yi00ODljLThmODItODAxZTQ0M2IzNTVl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%224b1930d1-12f4-40b5-b48c-bd86117429d8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2202a61c45-4a94-4092-8c3d-efbfeae619de%22%7d**
Closing Date	**30 July 2025**
Closing Time	**No later than 11h00**
Tender Submission	**Email the RFI in one email (zip or wetransfer) to tenders@dut.ac.za**
Technical queries	**Sarojine Doyle SelvanagieD@dut.ac.za**

2. INTRODUCTION

The Durban University of Technology (DUT), through innobiz DUT Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation NPC (innobiz DUT), is embarking on an ambitious project to establish a Smart Agri facility at the Riverside Campus. This initiative involves the development of a 4,500m² multi-span greenhouse designed primarily to serve as a commercial production facility for high-value vegetable crops and to act as a dynamic learning hub for student entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. The project intends to integrate advanced technologies (climate controls, auto irrigation and crop management) to ensure efficiency and maximize productivity, and profits.

In 2021, DUT established innobiz to serve as an umbrella body for all entrepreneurial units within the university, offering both theoretical and technical entrepreneurial learning, business support, and related activities. The centre focuses on producing confident, knowledgeable, and innovative entrepreneurs who can adapt to changing environments and solve complex problems. The university strategy, ENVISION2030, emphasises innovation, entrepreneurship, and the development of adaptive graduates who can contribute to socio-economic prosperity. innobiz DUT directly contributes to the realization of ENVISION2030.

This project aligns with DUT's strategic vision, ENVISION2030, which aims to create a distinctive, impactful, and sustainable university. As a key driver of this initiative, innobiz aims to bridge the gap between industry and academia, driving research, innovation, and the commercialization of solutions to address local food production and distribution challenges in our region.

The Durban University of Technology is a result of the merger in April 2002 of two prestigious Technikons, ML Sultan and Technikon Natal. It was named the Durban Institute of Technology and later became the Durban University of Technology in line with the rest of the universities of technology.

DUT has approximately 33 000 students, the Durban University of Technology (DUT) is the first choice for higher education in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). It is located in the beautiful cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg (PMB). As a University of Technology, it prioritizes the quality of teaching and learning by ensuring its academic staff possess the highest possible qualification that they can get.

DUT, a member of the International Association of Universities, is a multi-campus university of technology at the forefront of higher education, technological training, research, and innovation. In alignment with DUT's strategy ENVISION 2030, the University would like to see its people (staff, students etc.) become entrepreneurial and innovative.

In 2020, DUT was ranked amongst the Top 500 Universities globally, and 10th for citations globally and 5th Nationally. DUT has six Faculties, Accounting and Informatics, Applied Sciences, Management Sciences, Engineering and the Built Environment, Health Sciences and Arts& Design.

The RFI is to obtain information from experience service providers on the implementation of a Smart Agri Hub.

2.1. DUT FOOTPRINT

DUT consists of seven (7) campuses and residences situated in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. There are high-rise buildings with the total size of circa 273,887 square meters over an area of circa 62.28 hectares.

2.1.1. CAMPUSES

- Steve Biko - Durban
- Ritson - Durban

- ML Sultan - Durban
- City Campus - Durban
- Brickfield - Durban
- Riverside – Midlands / Pietermaritzburg
- And Indumiso – Midlands Pietermaritzburg

2.1.2. RESIDENCE

- Steve Biko Residence: Gate 7, Steve Biko Road, Durban, 4001
- Winterton Residence: Gate 7, Steve Biko Road, Durban, 4001
- Student Village Residence: Gate 7, Steve Biko Road, Durban, 4001
- Stratford Residence: Gate 7, Steve Biko Road, Durban, 4001
- Corlo Court Residence: 18 Heswall Road, Berea, Durban, 4001
- Berea Residence: Gate 5, Steve Biko Road, Durban, 4001
- Walsingham Residence: 31 Currie Road, Berea, Durban, 4001
- Campbell Residence: 23 James Henderson Crescent, Glenwood, Durban, 4001
- Alpine Residence: 347 Alpine Road, Springfield, Durban, 4091
- Indumiso: 201 Fj Sithole Rd, Imbali, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

3. SCOPE OF WORK

Innobiz DUT has been operating on very small scale which was established a pilot project. The industry and market showed interest on the facility and produce. Unfortunately, the current facility cannot fulfil the needs of the market. Hence, the transition to smart multispan greenhouse to enhance productivity, improve yields and quality, ensure efficiency and sustainability.

The Centre is looking to invest in climate smart multispan greenhouses that can fit 4500m^2 at Riverside Campus (-29.603570 30.395679).

The primary objective of this document is to ***request for information from*** suitably qualified agricultural engineering consulting service providers to provide information to DUT for the infrastructure implementation of the Smart Agri facility.

The service provider should provide information on the following:

- Conducting market and feasibility studies to identify local production, demand and constraints.
- Current company experience with regard to a turnkey solution for implementing the Smart Agri facility.
- Key Resources (Personnel) that are available to assist with managing the project and ensuring its successful implementation.
- Possible project plan and estimated costs for stage 1 to 6:

    1. Stage 1 – Inception
    2. Stage 2 – Concept and Viability
    3. Stage 3 – Design Development
    4. Stage 4 – Documentation and procurement
    5. Stage 5 - Contract administration and Project Management
    6. Stage 6 – Closeout

- Confirm the appropriate location for the hub and propose alternatives.

- Possible project specifications for the procurement of a turnkey service provider to implement the project.
- Design and oversee the turnkey project implementation as per the specification and designs provided.
- Monitor the integration of advanced smart agriculture technologies: irrigation, climate control, water harvesting and purification, fertigation, etc.
- Ensure quality assurance for all key deliverables.
- Oversee the construction process to ensure compliance with design specifications and timelines.
- Compile and submit reports for key project milestones.]
- Service providers should submit evidence of previous work that was undertaken for a Smart Agri hub.
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NOTES

- This RFI is for information purposes and DUT reserves the right to conduct a closed tender with the applicants that have submitted the RFI.