
Construction Industry Development Board

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Call for Proposals for the Establishment of **cidb** Centres of Excellence

Background

The **cidb** was established by Act No 38 of 2000 as a statutory body “to provide strategic leadership to construction industry stakeholders to stimulate sustainable growth, reform and improvement of the construction sector”. Aligned with this, the **cidb** aims to support the establishment of Centres of Excellence to enhance professional, academic and research capability for construction delivery and development of the built environment in South Africa. The long term aim of the **cidb** is to establish several Centres of Excellence, each of which are aligned with key delivery objectives of the **cidb**.

In the short term, the **cidb** aims to establish two Centres of Excellence, for which the **cidb** will undertake to fund for a minimum of three years – which forms the basis of this call for proposals for the establishment of **cidb** Centres of Excellence.

cidb Centres of Excellence

The aim of the **cidb** Centres of Excellence that are to be established is to support:

- **the development of sustained R&D and academic capacity** in support of the built environment and the construction industry;
- **increased and improved training** of built environment professionals, including bursaries and internships;
- **targeted research** aligned with the needs of the built environment and the construction industry, with a particular focus on the needs of the public sector.

The establishment and funding of the **cidb** supported Centres of Excellence will be guided by the following principles to be incorporated into a Framework Agreement between the **cidb** and the institutions hosting the Centres of Excellence:

- Centres of Excellence will be funded by the **cidb** for a period of a minimum of three to five years to allow for a planned and strategic approach towards long-term capacity building and high level skills development;
- Centres of Excellence will be monitored annually, with interim evaluations, and a final evaluation on completion of the funding cycle;
- financing for R&D, academic capacity and bursaries will be conditional on, and guided by, Research Programme areas identified by the **cidb**; and

- research funding will only fund non-proprietary R&D, which will be placed in the public domain to achieve broader public sector and industry impact.

Research Programme Areas

The cidb Centres of Excellence must be aligned with one of the following areas of importance to construction industry development:

- **sustainable growth** where the objective will be to promote research on factors influencing construction demand, business performance, contractor development, skills development and labour practices, as well as to promote strategies to improve the performance of the industry – including procurement strategies;
- **performance improvement** with an emphasis on promoting research aimed at enhancing industry performance, yielding value for money to clients and protection to the public; and
- **construction industry policy** to facilitate a better understanding of the impact of current policies on construction industry development.

Call for Proposals

Proposals are sought for the establishment of up to two Centres of Excellence in 2011, which will be funded to a maximum of R3 million each over a period of three years.

Interested institutions are invited to submit proposals to the cidb in line with the following guidelines:

i) Human resource development (HRD) and academic excellence:

- Proposals for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence focusing on HRD and academic excellence must be from a department of built environment, construction economics or management from an academic institution (such as a university or university of technology), or a consortium comprising of two or more departments of the same institution.
- Notwithstanding this, proposals for a Centre of Excellence focusing on HRD and academic excellence may be combined with proposals for a Centre of Excellence focusing on targeted research (but collectively not exceeding funding requirements of R3 million over three years).
- Proposals for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence must be aligned with the Research Programme areas identified by the cidb.
- Proposals must clearly identify the funding requested together with the support that is to be provided for HRD and academic excellence and the expected outcomes. Requests for funding could include subvention of academic positions, post-graduate bursaries, research assistants, peer reviewed publications, teaching and research training support programmes, etc.
- Preference should be given to supporting historically disadvantaged individuals.

ii) Focused research:

- Proposals for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence focusing on targeted research must be from academic institutions, research centres attached to academic institutions or from science councils with a recognised track record in research.
- Proposals for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence must be aligned with the Research Programme areas identified by the cidb, and must be accompanied by a proposed Research Programme around which sustainable R&D capacity will be developed.

- The proposed Research Programme must be accompanied by proposals for funding of targeted research projects (and each research project must clearly motivate the relevance of the proposed research project), the outputs to be achieved, and the potential application and impact of the research on construction industry development.
- Preference will be given to Research Programmes and to research projects which demonstrate the following:
 - applied research (and not basic research);
 - the development of a sustainable R&D capacity to create a Centre of Excellence; and
 - supporting historically disadvantaged researchers.
- Proposals must include details of the costs of the individual research projects, together with the aggregated costs of the Research Programme. The full cost of research, based on market related rates including overheads, can be recovered through the proposal for funding of the Centres of Excellence.
- The cidb reserves the right to enter into discussions with successful host institutions regarding alternative research projects – but to the value of the proposed Research Programme, and in accordance with the cost structures of the proposed Research Programme.

Further information regarding this call for proposals for the establishment of Centres of Excellence can be obtained from Ms Ntebo Ngozwana at 012 482 7236 or ntebon@cidb.org.za.

All proposals must be submitted to Ms Ntebo Ngozwana at ntebon@cidb.org.za, and the closing date for such submissions to the cidb is the 15 December 2010.

All eligible proposals will be evaluated by a panel convened by the cidb, and successful host institutions will be expected to sign an initial three year contract commencing in February 2011.

The decision of the cidb on the establishment of Centres of Excellence at a host institution will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into. The cidb does however reserve the right to not award the establishment of any Centre of Excellence.