



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Waste Research Development and Innovation Roadmap

Research, development and innovation (RDI) to advance the South African waste sector

2020 CALL FOR PROPOSALS MARINE PLASTIC DEBRIS

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) is pleased to announce a **Call for Proposals on Marine Plastic Debris** for projects commencing in January 2021. Applicants are requested to familiarise themselves with the information provided in this Call as well as in the Waste Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Roadmap for South Africa (2015-2025), before preparing an application.

The Waste RDI Roadmap is available online at <https://wasteroadmap.co.za/waste-rdi-roadmap/>

1 Background

The Waste RDI Roadmap is an initiative of the DSI, managed by the CSIR, aimed at strengthening –

- human capital development (HCD)
- research and development (R&D), and
- innovation in the field of solid waste management

Through the strategic investment in science, technology and innovation, the Department aims to support the prevention of waste and the optimised extraction of value from waste reuse, recycling and recovery, in order to create significant social, economic, and environmental benefit for the country. The objective of the Waste RDI Roadmap Call for Proposals is to directly support –

- More effective decision-making
- Faster insertion of context-appropriate technology
- Export of know-how and technology
- Strengthened RDI capability and capacity

2 Research themes

The DSI initiated a science review on marine plastic debris in South Africa in May 2019, under the 'Waste & Environment' cluster of the Waste RDI Roadmap. This culminated in the publication of five

science review papers in the South African Journal of Science (SAJS) in May 2020, available online at <https://www.sajs.co.za/issue/view/800>.

The science review papers addressed current gaps in knowledge and research needs. Based on the findings of these science review papers, the DSI would like to invite research projects in the following two thematic areas –

- Land-based sources and pathways of marine plastic debris
<https://www.sajs.co.za/article/view/7700>
- Ecosystem service and economic impacts of marine plastic litter
<https://www.sajs.co.za/article/view/7695>

Applicants wishing to submit a proposal in one of these areas, are requested to review the SAJS papers and familiarise themselves with the evidence gaps and research needs. Research proposals must respond directly to the identified evidence gaps and research needs outlined in the papers.

3 Typical award amount and project duration

Projects will be awarded for a maximum duration of two (2) years. Previous 2-year grant projects have ranged in value between R350,000 and R1,500,000 with an average grant amount of R695,000. Proposals in excess of R695,000 should contain sufficient detail to justify the need for the higher than average budget. The total funding available for 2020/21 is limited and so the process will be highly competitive.

4 Eligibility criteria

Researchers from only South African Universities, Science Councils and other public research institutions, working in relevant disciplines, are invited to submit proposals for a Waste RDI Roadmap Research Grant. Lead Researchers must be qualified to do the proposed research and should be experts in the subject matter referenced in the proposal. Typically this would include full-time faculty at academic and research institutions.

5 Evaluation criteria

All proposals will undergo evaluation by an independent review panel, to assess the suitability of the proposal in terms of the Waste RDI Roadmap's objectives. All proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Alignment:** the research proposal must address the priorities and research themes of the Waste RDI Roadmap (Section 2 above)
- Relevance:** the research must have the potential to directly, and positively, influence marine plastic debris in South Africa. Preference will be given to proposals which are impact driven and solution orientated.
- Scientific/technical soundness and credibility:** the research proposal has a sound scientific and/or technical base, reflects a sound grasp of the issues requiring investigation, the proposed methodologies are appropriate for achieving the objectives; and the deliverables and associated time frames for delivery are realistic.
- Innovation:** the project is original and contributes to the body of knowledge or develops practical solutions to address marine plastic debris

- v. **Research Outputs/Deliverables:** the project must result in a significant research output, such as a research report, post-graduate dissertation(s), technologies, journal papers, etc.
- vi. **Capacity development:** Preference will be given to proposals that include capacity development through the training of post-graduate students, interns or junior staff
- vii. **Institutional capacity:** the applicant should demonstrate sufficient institutional capacity to implement the project
- viii. **Value for money:** the benefits of the proposed research are measurable and the value of the benefits exceed the value of the investment

6 Equity and redress

In line with the national imperative of equity and redress, the research call prioritises support for designated groups viz. black, female and persons with disabilities.

7 Submission of proposals

Only proposals submitted on the research proposal template, issued together with this Call, will be considered. Proposals should be submitted in MSWord or PDF format.

Research proposals (Part III: Detailed description of the project) **must not exceed 10 pages** (at font Arial 10, line spacing 1.15). **Proposals may be rejected prior to evaluation if they exceed the set length and if they do not make use of the template provided.**

A concise 1-2 page curriculum vitae (CV) of the Lead Researcher must be submitted together with the proposal.

8 Reservations

The DSI expressly reserves the following rights:

- To reject all or any proposals
- To waive any or all irregularities in the proposals submitted
- To retain the right not to select any application/s even if meeting all the requirements

9 Contract negotiations

The successful applicant/s will be required to enter into a written Agreement with the CSIR, who manages the Waste RDI Roadmap on behalf of the DSI.

10 Closing date

Proposals must be submitted electronically via email to LGodfrey@csir.co.za on the Waste RDI Roadmap Grant Proposal template (issued with this call).

The deadline for the submission of proposals is **Friday, 24 July 2020 at 17:00.**

All applicants will be notified about the outcome of their applications by early September 2020 (or sooner) to allow sufficient time for students to be recruited for the 2021 academic year.

11 Confirmation of receipt

All applicants will receive a confirmation of 'receipt of proposal' email. If you do not receive such a confirmation within one week of application, please follow up with the Waste RDI Roadmap office to ensure that your proposal has been received. Proof of submission before the closing date will be required.

12 Validity

All applications will be regarded as valid for 120 days from the 24 July 2020 whereafter the CSIR may request an updated application, should this become necessary.

For any queries relating to the call for proposals, contact:

Prof Linda Godfrey

Manager: Waste RDI Roadmap Implementation Unit

Telephone: 012 841 4801

Fax: 012 842 7687

E-mail: LGodfrey@csir.co.za