



WRC 2020/2021 RDI PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION CYCLE

The WRC plans and implements Open and Directed Annual calls for research, development and innovation (RDI) project proposal funding and/ or budget streams annually. This document records summaries of various activities and due dates that are applicable to and during the 2020/2021 Annual Call.

RDI PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS AND EVALUATION TIMEFRAMES FOR 2020 (FOR FUNDING FROM 01 APRIL 2021)

1. CALL FOR PROPOSALS: OPEN AND DIRECTED STREAMS

- 14 February 2020 Deadline for submission of KSAs', Thrust and Programmes Priorities and budgets, including terms of reference that must be in the 2020 call for proposals
- 1 May 2020 Call for open RDI project proposals by Special Announcement on the WRC website.
- 1 June 2020 Call for directed RDI project proposals and Publication of Terms of Reference (ToRs) by Special Announcement on the WRC website.

These will be accompanied by:

- a) A list of thrusts and programmes (research areas) priorities to be addressed; and
 - b) An indication of budgets and/ or funds available against each research area.
- 31 July 2020 Deadline for submission of open and directed calls for proposals. The WRC On-line proposal submission for 2020 closes.

2. PRE-SELECTION PROCESS: OPEN AND DIRECTED PROPOSALS

- 1 – 14 August 2020 Completion of internal screening and pre-selection of RDI project proposals and nomination of reviewers (in accordance with specified screening criteria) by the Research Manager

- 15 – 21 August 2020 KSA peer review Screening meetings: Pre-selection/ screening by KSAs and confirmation of external reviewers that were identified and recommended by the Research Managers

3. PLANNED REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

- 22 August 2020 External reviewers are invited and the RDI project proposal review process starts.
- 31 August 2020 Deadline for submission of completed external reviews to the WRC.
- 1 – 30 September 2020 Research Managers start and complete consolidation of RDI project proposal reviews and KSAs conduct internal peer review and assessment and make recommendations to the Research and Development Branch.
- 14 – 16 October 2020 Research and Development Branch meets and considers KSAs recommendations and make final (branch) recommendations to the WRC Executive.
- 25 October 2020 Deadline for submission of final and/ or internal (KSA) RDI project proposal evaluations and Consolidation of final (branch) recommendations to the WRC Executive.
- 4 - 6 November 2020 WRC Executive meets and considers recommendations by the Research and Development Branch and makes final selection of proposals to be funded during the 2020/ 2020 financial year.
- 16 November 2020 The outcome of the WRC Executive funding decision i.e. acceptance/non-acceptance of RDI project proposals, are communicated to proposers.
- 17 November 2020 Deadline for confirmation of acceptance of Exco funding decision by project leaders/ proposers to the WRC. And the RDI project Proposal amendments period start.
- 11 December 2020 Deadline for project leaders and/ or proposers to complete RDI project proposal amendments and comply with funding conditions of the WRC.

4. PREPARATION AND SIGNING OF CONTRACTS AND COMMENCEMENT OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- 17 December 2020 - 17 January 2021 The WRC verifies compliance to conditions of funding and the prepares, finalises, signs and couriers the contracts to the lead organisation/ contractor.
- 29 February 2021 Lead organisation's/ Contractor's deadline to process, sign and return contracts to the WRC.
- 1 April 2021 The WRC funds become available for successful RDI project proposals and all approved projects commences.
- 1 April – 30 June 2021 The Project Leader submits student verification documentation i.e. student identification and official proof of registration, to the WRC.