CENTRE FOR THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

South Africa

HOSTED BY THE CSIR

Invitation to interested companies and organisations to partner with the C4IR SA as Tier 1 Core Members.

First call deadline: 29 January 2021

1. Introduction

The technological advances in the fourth industrial revolution, inevitably, have both merits and risks. The extent to which the benefits are maximised and the risks mitigated depends on the quality of governance protocols – policies, regulations, norms, standards and incentives – that shape the development and deployment of technologies. Governance must be stable, interoperable, predictable and transparent enough to build confidence among investors, companies, scientists and the general public, but also agile enough to remain relevant in the face of rapid advances in technology.

South Africa's adoption of transformative technologies should be in the form of a unique model, strategy and objectives, informed by South Africa's socioeconomic imperatives, and shaped by South Africa's unique contexts and circumstances as a developing economy. Due to the globalised nature of the economy and digital transformation, South Africa and Africa as a whole will need to actively collaborate both domestically and internationally in order to remain competitive.

The South African Presidency, through the Department of Science and Innovation has established a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR SA) to lead the process of developing quality governance protocols that aim to maximise the benefits of the South African economy. The C4IR SA is managed and operated by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. It is affiliated to the World Economic Forum's Fourth Industrial Revolution Network (C4IR Global Network) to tap into the expertise available within the C4IR Global Network.

The C4IR Network's vision is to help shape the development and application of emerging technologies for the benefit of humanity. The C4IR Network's mission is to co-design, test and refine governance protocols and policy frameworks to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of advanced science and technology.

The C4IR SA will be led by government, but driven by society and industry. A Governance Board will be established to guide the activities of the Centre. It will primarily consist of Tier 1 Core Members, and will be complemented by representation from government and other stakeholder groups.

2. Invitation to prospective Tier 1 Core Members to partner with the C4IR SA

The C4IR-SA invites companies and organisations in the private and public sectors, and other stakeholder groups representative of any of the sectors of the economy to herein express their interest to partner with the C4IR SA as Tier 1 Core Members, as per the guidance in section 3 of this invitation. The expression of

interest should be forwarded to Ms Sokhu Sibiya via email to SSibiya4@csir.co.za or SAC4IR@csir.co.za. Alternatively, she can be contacted via telephone on 012 8412155 or cell phone on 064 511 3628.

The C4IR-SA prospectus with details of the benefits and obligations of the Tier 1 Core Members, the C4IR SA Founding Document (Constitution) and membership forms will be made available when the C4IR SA follows up with prospective partners who formally express interest in this invitation.

2.1. C4IR SA focus areas

Stakeholders in workshops hosted by the C4IR SA in October 2019 identified the following initial focus areas:
- Data Policy;
- Internet of Things (IoT), robotics and smart cities;
- Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies; and
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning.

When in place, the C4IR SA Governance Board will and can identify and adopt additional areas on which the Centre will focus.

2.2. Membership Options

The membership options available at the C4IR SA are as follows:

Tier 1 – Core Members

Core Members will have a broad interest in the development of technology governance frameworks across all priority areas of the C4IR SA. They will form the C4IR SA Governance Board, as well as promote, inspire, guide and monitor the activities of the Centre. They will have the option to actively participate in the co-development of technology governance frameworks or policies and will have access to the results of projects prior to public dissemination.

Tier 2 – Project Partners

Project Partners are parties with a specific interest in one or more of the priority areas in the C4IR SA and the associated projects in that portfolio.

Project Partner invitations will be issued to prospective Project Partners as projects are being initiated by the C4IR SA. The option of prospective Project Partners proposing project ideas aligned to the focus of the C4IR SA will also be considered.

Currently, the C4IR SA is initiating projects on Data Policy and Accelerating Industrial IoT for small, medium and micro enterprises.

Tier 3 – Knowledge Partners

Knowledge Partners will be drawn from academia, government, small business and civil society groups relevant to individual priority areas in the C4IR SA.

Invitations to Knowledge Partners will be issued as part of project initiation and they will participate in project working groups.

3. **Expression of interest by prospective C4IR SA Tier Core Members**

3.1 All expressions of interest must be in writing, preferably in electronic format and should be sent to the person named above.

3.2 The last date for submission is 29 January 2021 at 17:00.

3.3 Submissions will be subject to evaluation and acceptance by the C4IR SA. Therefore, their mere submission will not equate to acceptance or membership to the C4IR SA.

3.4 The C4IR SA will apply a broad evaluation and selection criteria, including demonstrated ability to add immediate value to C4IR SA focus areas; sound corporate governance experience and reputation of the entity; and the ability to raise or make a payment of Tier 1 membership fees.

3.5. The CSIR will contact all organisations that made submissions and advise them of the outcomes of their submissions.

3.6 The expression of interest document must give full details of the organisation; stating the sector of the economy in which it operates, and the focus area in which it is mostly interested.

3.7 The organisation's submission must further state how it intends to make a contribution to advancing the aims of the C4IR SA.

3.8 Once it has been submitted and accepted, the expression of interest will reinforce the entity's commitment and membership to the C4IR SA.

3.9 The C4IR SA will hold further discussions and provide more information on many other aspects of its intended future programme until its Governance Board is constituted.

3.11 Organisations that are not selected for this category of membership may still be invited to submit similar expressions of interest for the other two categories when invitations for these are extended.

3.12. All submissions and subsequent discussions will be treated with utmost confidentiality and strict observance of the principles of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act 4 of 2013). Shortlisted or selected organisations may also be required to enter into a formal confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement.

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