



OpenIX: An African Open Innovation Exchange

OpenIX is an Open Innovation Exchange that delivers tangible solutions to real challenges posted by solution seekers in government and the private sector, and connects leading African researchers and entrepreneurs with new opportunities to commercialise their innovations. OpenIX is managed by The Innovation Hub, Africa's first internationally accredited science park with the IASP and a subsidiary of the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA), an agency of the Gauteng Department of Economic Development.

Background

OpenIX is leading a growing movement towards open innovation on the African continent and has built a track record of novel solutions and new deals for their members.

Through their extensive relationships with both the growing African innovation community *and* global science and technology partners, they are able to access a unique mix of unconventional ideas and recognised experts.

Team and Partners

OpenIX is run by a team based at The Innovation Hub that includes open innovation and PhD sector specialists, with strong backgrounds in innovation, research and management consulting in South Africa, Africa and globally. We have partnered in the launch of OpenIX with the City of Tshwane, home of The Innovation Hub, and a leader in driving innovation practices within local government; as well as the Research Institute for Innovation and Sustainability (RIIS), a pioneer of open innovation services in South Africa.



Image:
<http://openix.theinnovationhub.com/>



How it works

A Proven Methodology

OpenIX connects solution seekers and providers by engaging the open innovation market to find solutions for Challenges posed by regional innovation seekers from government, state-owned enterprises, private companies and local communities; whilst creating opportunities for solution providers and entrepreneurs from the region.

They use a proprietary, rigorous and robust C4 methodology to define the organisation's need or Challenge which is then posted on the platform and activated through a focused campaign that funnels more than 50,000 potential contacts down to a handful of high potential solutions. A similar approach is used to assist innovators in showcasing their Technology Offers.

What is a Challenge

A Challenge is a specific business problem defined by a solution seeker in government or the private sector that articulates a problem, key specifications and the desired results of a potential solution. It is written into a concise and compelling 2-3 page document inviting potential problem solvers to respond with a proposal of their solution to the Challenge. Each Challenge is carefully crafted in collaboration with the organisation to address a genuine need and attract the appropriate solution providers.



Image:

<http://openix.theinnovationhub.com/index.php?page=about>

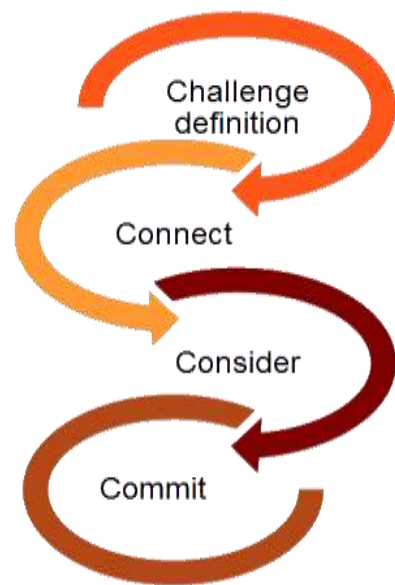


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http://openix.theinnovationhub.com/index.php?page=about_challenges

Benefits and Impact

They source the appropriate solution for companies' needs but also give them a picture of global trends and weak signals in your technology space. Their intensive campaign and wide reach accelerates the innovation process for organisations and the time to market for technology developers.

Information:

<http://openix.theinnovationhub.com/>

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