



merSETA
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

IMPORTANT NOTICE: MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY GRANT SUBMISSIONS

Theme: Skills for Rapid Economic Reconstruction and Recovery

The merSETA informs all stakeholders and all Skills Development Facilitators (SDFs), about an opportunity to apply for Mandatory and Discretionary Grants available from Monday, 8 February 2021.

Applications are to be received electronically through the NSDMS platform of the merSETA. The submission deadline for the financial period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, for Mandatory and Discretionary grant submissions by merSETA levy paying, merSETA non-levy paying (SARS exempted) companies and other legal entities including but not limited to Cooperatives, NGOs, TVET/Universities, Community Colleges, operating in the MER sector, is Friday, 30 April 2021.

Key submission information is as follows:

1. **Mandatory Grants:** All merSETA levy paying companies applying for Mandatory Grants and want to be considered for Discretionary Grants for PIVOTAL programmes must submit their Mandatory Grant application and indicate the method of funding as Discretionary Grants (PIVOTAL and non-PIVOTAL) on the WSP (Workplace skills plan).
2. **Discretionary Grants:** Small companies and other legal entities operating in the MER sector that only want to be considered for Discretionary Grants for PIVOTAL and non-PIVOTAL programmes must submit on the NSDMS by selecting the Discretionary Grant option only.
3. **Special Projects:** Entities applying for other interventions that support the theme of "skills for Rapid Economic Recovery" will apply for funding through the Project Portal on merSETA NSDMS. A user guide for application of special projects is downloadable from the project portal. A guideline to priority special projects will be available on the merSETA website and applicants are encouraged to download the documents. Priority special projects include but not limited to:
 - a. Programmes that support retrenched workers within the Mer-sector.
 - b. Programmes to provide skills that ensure business continuity, maintenance and enhanced business processes.
 - c. Programmes that support new manufacturing opportunities inclusive of research interventions as well as digital learning approaches.
 - d. Programmes targeting rural and township economy, SMEs, black industrialists, People with Disability, etc.
 - e. Programmes that support Career Development in future manufacturing skills.
 - f. Programmes that support TVETs and CET Colleges infrastructure and equipment support/partnership to deliver occupational programmes.
 - g. Programmes that support capacity building of TVETs and CET Colleges staff to offer and coordinate occupational programmes.

Preference will be given to applications linked to merSETA's identified priority skills, as outlined in the merSETA Sector Skills Plan, Annual Performance Plan, Strategic Plan which are available on the merSETA website.

Skills Development Facilitators are reminded that the reporting periods are as follows:

- **The annual training report will be for the period 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020**
- **The workplace skills plan period will be 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2021**
- **PIVOTAL report will be 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021**

The merSETA has adopted a multi-year application process where organisations will submit a 3-year plan based on their organisational strategy. The proposed PIVOTAL plans are as follows:

- Year 1 - merSETA **1 April 2021 until 31 March 2022**
- Year 2 - merSETA **1 April 2022 until 31 March 2023**
- Year 3 - merSETA **1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024**

Where a recognition agreement exists between the organisation and labour/ labour union, regardless of the size of the workforce, a labour SDF who is a member of the Training Committee, is required to sign-off the grant application electronically on or before the deadline date.

Where a recognition agreement does not exist and the company employs 50 or more employees, an employee SDF who is a member of the Training Committee is required to sign-off the mandatory grant and discretionary grant applications, **electronically** on or before the deadline date. It should be noted that the employee SDF may not form part of the organization's management structure.

Any new entity applying for consideration for a discretionary grant is requested to register online using the NSDMS on the merSETA website and clicking on "Register".

NB: All allocations will be made in line with the merSETA Grant Policy all Skills Development Facilitators/stakeholder applicants must ensure that they have read and understood this document.

The merSETA Roadshows: WEBINARS

The merSETA will organize and conduct two (2) Webinars based roadshows. The Webinars are meant to capacitate the merSETA stakeholders on the Mandatory and Discretionary Grants application processes. These two Webinars will be organized along Coastal and Inland demarcations.

Details of the webinars will be advertised on the merSETA website. In addition, merSETA regional offices and call centre is available for assistance. Stakeholders are encouraged to attend a webinar in line with the demarcation described above. The Webinar dates are 11 February 2021 and 25 February 2021. Any additional stakeholder engagements will be arranged by the regions.

For assistance, please contact the merSETA regional offices or the call centre on 010 219 3000 or 086 163 7738