



MERSETA 2023/24 SPECIAL DISCRETIONARY GRANT WINDOW 2 DGY23 FOR RESEARCH"

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The Manufacturing Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) hereby invites eligible stakeholders to apply for the **Special Discretionary Grant Window for Research & Innovation Projects**. The grants are intended to address national and sectoral priorities; as well as strategically position the merSETA to fulfil its mandate set out in the merSETA Sector Skills Plan (SSP), Strategic Plan (SP) and Annual Performance Plan (APP) for the 2023/24 period and onwards.

The allocation of grants is intended for research and innovation projects to address priority skills needs, future skills, sectoral transformation, localisation, reindustrialization, and growth supported by skills development. In this special window, the merSETA will be allocating Discretionary Grants funding for the following projects:

1. Tracer Study

(Terms of Reference: <https://www.merseta.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Tracer-Study.pdf>)

2. Sector Skills Plan Methodology

(Terms of Reference: <https://www.merseta.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Sector-Skills-Plan-Methodology.pdf>)

3. Clean-up of the Organising Framework for Occupations (OFO)

(Terms of Reference: <https://www.merseta.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Clean-up-of-the-Organising-Framework-for-Occupations.pdf>)

4. Occupational reference groups

(Terms of Reference: <https://www.merseta.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/RFI-Occupational-Reference-Groups-Innovation-Challenge.pdf>)

5. SMMEs and skills development in the mer sector

(Terms of Reference: <https://www.merseta.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/SMMEs-and-Skills-Development-in-the-merSector.pdf>)

The following stakeholder groups are encouraged to apply, the entities required are further stipulated in the Terms of Reference:

Who can apply?

- merSETA levy-paying and non-levy-paying employers.
- Industry Associations
- Higher Education Institutions.
- TVET/CET Colleges.
- Research Organisations.
- Skills Development Providers.

Mandatory compliance documents:

- Proof of company registration.
- Valid Certificate Tax Clearance – must not have expired.

Please note that the B-BBEE Certificate or a sworn B-BBEE affidavit, are not applicable for this submission, however due to systems constraints, companies MUST upload a letter explaining that a B-BBEE certificate is not required for a research submission when prompted to upload a B-BBEE certificate online. Failure to submit any of the above-listed documents will result in the disqualification of the application. New Applicants must provide proof of/track record of education & training/ skills development capacity to deliver learning programme/s for which application addresses.

How to Apply?

- All applications must be submitted through NSDMS via the Projects Portal Platform <https://nsdms.merseta.org.za/>
- Applicants who are not registered on NSDMS must do so **BEFORE** attempting to submit an application. Follow the directions on the NSDMS landing page to register. Allow time to register and submit your application by the time the window closes.
- The funding window opens on 29 November 2023 and closes on 30 January 2024.**
- merSETA reserves the right to request supplementary information where applicable, and applicants will be given 7 working days to submit the information or address any queries that merSETA may have concerning the applications submitted. Failure to submit the supplementary information within the stipulated timeframe would lead to disqualification of that application.
- The due date for submission will not be extended, and any late or incomplete application will not be considered.
- No email applications will be accepted.