

BIOPHARMING SOUTH AFRICA

LIFElab and PlantBio Trust are biotechnology innovation centres (BICs), established by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Republic of South Africa, to invest in Human Health, Bioprocessing and Plant Biotechnology projects. The DST and these BICs will jointly invest in a national initiative to establish a "Biopharming" Research and Development (R&D) program. Biopharming is defined as the use of plants as vehicles for the production of pharmacologically-relevant biologicals, such as vaccines, antibodies, diagnostic reagents and high-value enzymes. This program will be based on the establishment of: **(1)** national biopharming service platform(s) in which the necessary development skills, technologies, equipment and infrastructure will be consolidated, and **(2)** biopharming R&D projects focusing on specific products that will be developed in collaboration with the service platform(s).

Interested parties are therefore invited to apply for one or both of the following:

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: BIOPHARMING SERVICE PLATFORM

Ref. No.: 1962

Invitation and scope of work: Parties with the relevant technical expertise, experience and know-how are invited to express their interest in establishing a biopharming service platform and the delivery of relevant services to the broader biopharming R&D community.

Criteria: • The platform should be located in the Republic of South Africa • The relevant experience and track record of the applicant and his/her willingness and capacity to offer a service should be stated clearly • A detailed service offering should be included • There should be a clear description of current capacity in terms of technical and physical infrastructure, skills and institutional commitment.

CALL FOR PROPOSAL: BIOPHARMING R&D PROPOSALS

Ref. No.: 1963

Invitation and scope of work: Parties with the relevant technical expertise, experience and know-how are invited to submit proposals for biopharming R&D projects to be developed in collaboration with the national biopharming service platform(s). Although these projects will typically be based at the applicant's institution, close collaboration with the service platform(s) will be a prerequisite to help prevent the duplication of infrastructure and ensure access to state of the art know-how, technologies and infrastructure. Available funds for a project are estimated at R2 million over a three year period.

Criteria: • The proposal should be completed in the appropriate template (available from LIFElab and PlantBio).

FOR BOTH NOTICES:

Closing date & time: 12h00 - Monday, 01 February 2010.

All queries and submissions should be addressed at e-mail: Xolisa@plantbio.co.za or tel.: (033) 846 1992.

LIFElab and PlantBio Trust reserve the right not to accept any submissions or proposals if the assessment criteria are not met.



**science
& technology**

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA