



UNILAG SHELF-TO-MARKET INNOVATION CHALLENGE (S-MIC)

Bridging Academic Research and Societal Impact through Commercialisation

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The **Entrepreneurship Skills Development Centre (ESDC)**, University of Lagos, is organizing the **Shelf-to-Market Innovation Challenge (S-MIC)** aimed at stimulating the commercialisation of research outputs and innovations developed by academic staff across the University's Faculties.

Mission Statement: The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between academic research and societal impact by challenging faculty members to identify research findings, technologies, creative works, processes, and intellectual assets with commercial potential and transform them into viable products, services, enterprises, policies, and technology-driven solutions capable of addressing real-world problems.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING ACADEMICS

Participating academics across all Faculties will be guided through a structured pathway designed to maximize market readiness and commercial success:

1 Output Identification: Identify promising research outputs, inventions, discoveries, and creative works with high commercialisation potential.

2 Solution Development: Develop market-oriented, practical solutions based directly on research findings and faculty expertise.

3 Market Validation: Validate the societal, industrial, and commercial relevance of innovations with industry partners.

4 Business Modeling: Design scalable, sustainable business models and effective market implementation strategies.

5 Prototyping & MVPs: Develop functional prototypes, proof-of-concepts, and Minimum Viable Products (MVPs) where applicable.

6 Expert Pitching: Pitch innovations before a distinguished panel of industry experts, investors, policymakers, and specialists.

FACULTY-SPECIFIC TRACKS & ALIGNMENT

To facilitate the development of tailored faculty-specific tracks for S-MIC, ESDC seeks to identify high-impact innovation challenge areas, market opportunities, and commercialisation pathways aligned with the distinct research strengths and expertise of each Faculty.

3. CALL FOR THEMES & OPPORTUNITY DOMAINS

Accordingly, academic staff across all Faculties are invited to submit innovation challenge themes, problem statements, opportunity domains, and solution concepts that address pressing societal, industrial, economic, environmental, and technological needs.



Market-Ready Tech

Research-driven products, software, and physical technologies.



Enterprise Creation

Spin-off ventures, startups, and scalable business models.



Societal Impact

Policy innovations, creative works, and community solutions.

Submissions should focus on research-driven innovations and ideas with strong potential for **commercialization, scalability, enterprise creation, investment attraction, revenue generation, and measurable social impact**. Particular consideration will be given to challenge areas that stimulate market-ready solutions capable of contributing to institutional advancement, national development, and global competitiveness.

4. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- Identify commercially promising research outputs and intellectual assets across UNILAG Faculties.
- Accelerate the transition of academic discoveries into viable market-ready products, services, and spin-off companies.
- Foster strong industry-academic collaborations and attract venture investment for university-born innovations.
- Build commercialisation capacity, IP management skills, and entrepreneurial competencies among UNILAG faculty members.
- Drive measurable economic development, institutional advancement, and national progress through research translation.

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Scan the QR code or use the link below to complete the S-MIC Academic Staff Application Form:

<https://forms.gle/nYS5wZQuSpVWb4Qx8>



Scan to apply

**SUBMISSIONS OPEN TILL
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