

## INNOVATE 4 INDUSTRY RWANDA HACKATHON

### 1. Background

National Industrial Research and Development Agency(NIRDA) is a government institution that plays a key role: to enable a generation of industrial innovators to become competitive through technology monitoring, acquisition, development and transfer and applied research.

This mission is accomplished within the Joint STEM Lab for Industrial Product Development. Prior to Joint STEM Lab, the STEM Lab box serves as a test environment, an echo chamber for products further developed in the fully built infrastructure. It is a bridge to get the innovators ideas taken to the next level with the support of committed professionals.

### 2. About INNOVATE 4 INDUSTRY Hackathon

One of STEM Lab box functions is to support the innovators to bring their ideas into technology business through the incubation program:

- ★ NIRDA is launching a Startup Hackathon to support the development and emergence of innovative solutions that improve the competitiveness of the industry and contribute to the creation of a new industry by leveraging technology along the digital product development.
- ★ The hackathon will bring together up to 25 teams to explore the window of opportunities. Teams will conduct research, develop prototype interventions, iterate their solutions and present it to a diverse jury.
- ★ Teams will compete for the opportunity to win a Grand Prize along with a chance to be selected for incubation program at the end of the event.
- ★ The selected teams will be supported by committed professionals and experts in order to develop prototypes ready for commercialization during their incubation period.

### 3. Objectives of the INNOVATE 4 INDUSTRY Hackathon

The purpose of this Hackathon is to invent the solutions of future industry, by leveraging technology to solve the current/future challenges of our industries and beyond. These solutions must be useful to private sector, customers, industry leaders or specific focus groups.

### 4. Benefits

The hackathon is structured for 3 consecutive days and the innovators will benefit from:

- ★ Knowledge and introductory skills in Design Thinking and Human-centered approach to innovation
- ★ Opportunity to submit their solutions to pitch at Final Challenge Pitch
- ★ Access to mentorship support through the incubation program in the STEM Lab Box which will be for up to 3 months (open from Monday to Friday between 08h00 and 17h00)
- ★ Platform and a community of practice to collaborate with other Young Rwandan Tech-innovators
- ★ Opportunity to win the Grand Prize of 2 million Rwandan francs and to access the innovative space designed for product development
- ★ A Social Media Prize will be awarded to the team that will have been the most active on social media, via tweets and photos with the following hashtags:  
*#i4i #i4irw#innovate4industry #i4industry*

### 5. Eligibility

Nice to have: Enthusiasm., Future-driven; Dreamer with a go-getter attitude; Gets things done; Passionate doing what you love; Out-of-the-box thinking; Diversity and inclusion sensitive; etc.

Young innovators working or studying in STEM area with an interest in smart systems and other related fields including:

- ★ Smart hardware and electronic devices (the main focus area but not limited to Health sector, Agri-tech, Woods, manufacturing, Agro-Processing, textile, Garment industry etc.)
- ★ Health management
- ★ Energetics (supply or storage)
- ★ Emerging Technology (Blockchain, IoT, AI)

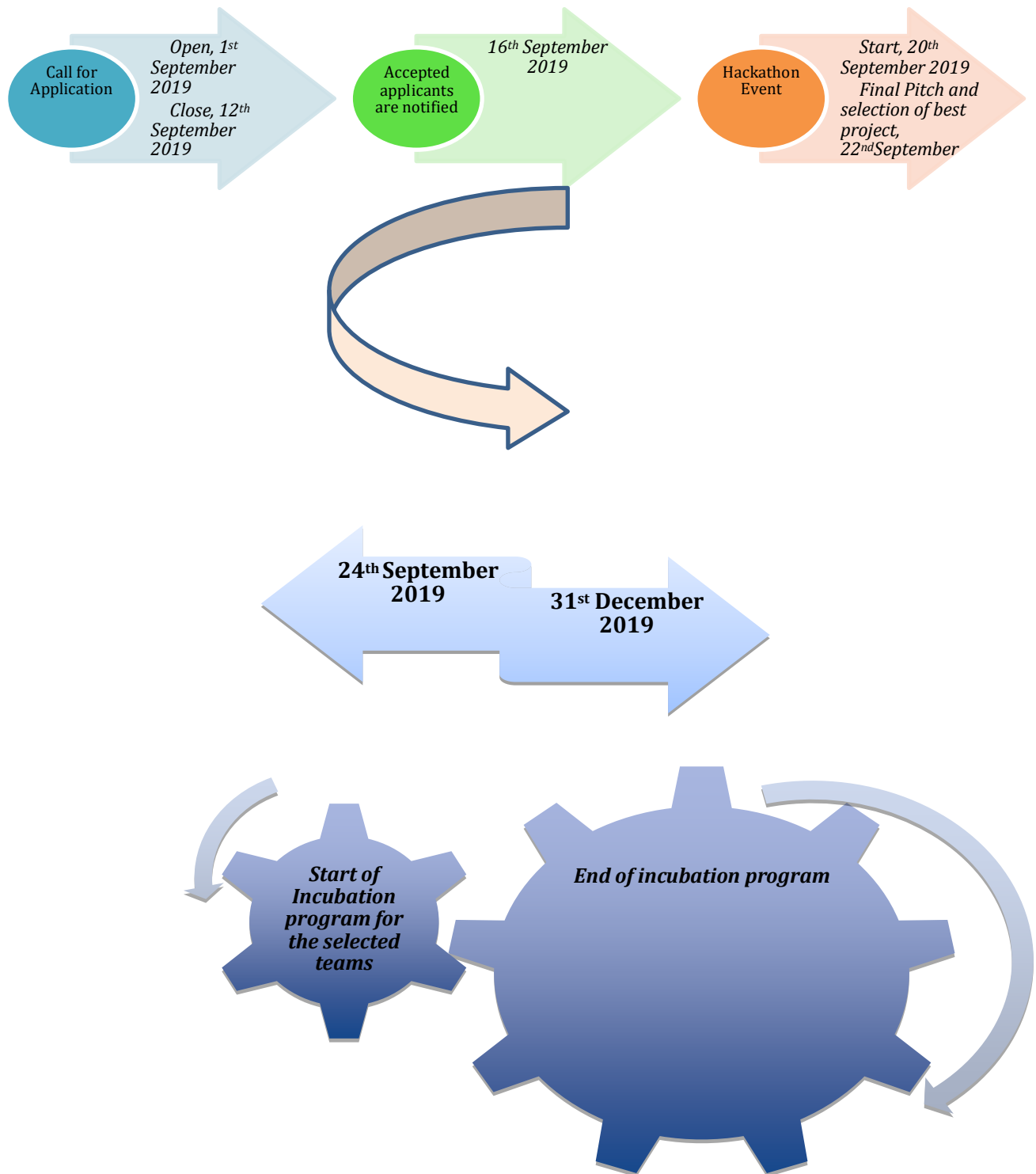
- ★ Digital Art or Technology Art
- ★ Other (but software without hardware solution is not eligible)

Eligible team should:

- Only team of 2 to 4 members allowed for hackathon and STEM Lab Box incubation with multidisciplinary team and prototype is advantage.
- All the programme will be in English only; All team members must have a good command of English.

Technologists, entrepreneurs, designers, hackers, innovators of all kinds and genders, will have the possibility to compete for a Prize and free access to NIRDA STEM Lab Box business incubation program.

## 6. Timeline & Location



The successful applicants will come together to “hack”, compete and innovate for our industry. The event will be hosted at Lemigo hotel.

# HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be received through the following link: <http://bit.ly/Innovate4IndustryRW>

Only online applications are allowed.

Questions will be received through the following email : [innovate4industry@nirda.gov.rw](mailto:innovate4industry@nirda.gov.rw)

For more clarification you can call **1055** (TOLL FREE)