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## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING AN EARTH OBSERVATION INNOVATION LAB

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### Background & Rationale

The [Kenya Space Agency](#) (KSA) is mandated ‘to promote, coordinate and regulate space-related activities’. A key focus of the Agency is to enhance the utilization of space science, technology and services across public entities for National socioeconomic development. In this regard, **KSA hereby invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from Kenyan National Universities and/or associated entities to host an Earth Observation (EO) Innovation Lab.**

This programme is a collaboration between KSA and [Expertise France](#) under the auspices of the “Data Governance in Africa Initiative” implemented as a collaboration of the Africa Union (AU) and jointly financed by the European Union (EU) and five EU Member States (namely Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France and Germany) under the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub Team Europe Initiative (TEI).

The initiative aims to promote a “**Development-oriented and human-centric data economy and society in Africa supported, in line with the AU Data Policy Framework**”. A specific objective of the Action, Objective 2, is to promote data use and cross-border data flows; leveraged on to promote innovation, create value and inform regulations in selected sectors.

The key objective of this programme is to increase the ability of National institutions, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Inter/Non-Governmental Organizations (I/NGOs) and Private Sector entities to access, analyze, use and share data for value creation.

The cooperation on the establishment of an Earth Observation Innovation Lab aims to promote data access, sharing and use, and thereby foster innovation and value creation for data-based services and products. The Lab shall offer several potential functionalities and opportunities, such as:

- access to geospatial data and processing tools,
- learning and training activities, ideation and open work sessions enabling individuals and teams to design, prototype and test their ideas, whether for personal or professional projects.
- meeting and networking space for developers, entrepreneurs, students and enthusiasts

As part of the programme, support will primarily be provided as **backbone resources** on existing infrastructure of the recipient entity (computing laboratories, internet access, networking, creative/lecture spaces et al) to improve access to relevant data and adequate open-source tools. Further support may be mobilized on governance aspects and ideation activities, complementary to the hosting institutions existing resources and priorities.

Note: Prior to final award, an on-site assessment phase will be conducted to confirm hosting conditions and align on specific needs. Applicants are invited to describe the existing infrastructures and hardware

available; to what extent it could be leveraged; and what kind of equipment upgrades and additions would be necessary. These may be refined during the assessment phase. Agreements on specific support conditions and commitments by each party will be formalized in partnership framework after award. Universities and their associated entities are encouraged to collaborate.

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### Scope of Proposed Cooperation between KSA and the Selected Host

1. Collaboration/Partnership Framework to host the EO Lab.
2. Project inception and planning.
3. Identification of adequate space/laboratory with requisite supporting infrastructure for the center
4. Development of capacity building plans and activities to catalyze the EO sector and innovation ecosystem.
5. Commission of the EO Data Lab including integration into existing systems.
6. Stakeholder engagement plan and activities to facilitate horizontal and vertical collaboration with/within Government, Academia and Private Sector with regard to promoting and mainstreaming ST&I.
7. Resource Mobilization plan to enable sustainability and growth of the Lab.
8. Action plan 2025-2026.

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### Eligibility Parameters and Selection Criterion

1. Public Universities and associated derived entities.
2. Demonstrable experience in applied research, innovation and incubation/ideation/acceleration of science and technology extending to Geo-Information Technology (GIT) as well as its thematic derivatives.
3. GIT project management capabilities, staff resources and robust corporate governance relating to special programmes as that envisaged in this call.
4. Existing capacities that can be leveraged upon to compliment the infrastructure and technical support extended under the initiative.
5. Demonstrate Resource Mobilization capacities/capabilities to enable sustainability and growth of the Lab.
6. Demonstrate robust stakeholder network of actors/players in Government, Academia and Private Sector with regard to promoting and mainstreaming ST&I.
7. Interest for the use of the Earth Observation Innovation Lab for training activities (academic and/or professional trainings).

8. Experience in technical support for all stakeholders and beneficiaries of programs to be supported by the EO Lab.
  9. Capacity to host and moderate forums for all stakeholders.
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### Programme Objectives

1. Establishment of an Earth observation Innovation Lab.
  2. To promote the uptake, use and application of EO data/information for improved decision making and thus sustainable development in Government, Academia and most importantly Private Sector as well as Industry stakeholders (organization of events).
  3. To catalyze the start-up ecosystem by incubating/accelerating innovative solutions through use/application of EO.
  4. Continued and appropriate capacity transfer/building in EO and GIT for stakeholders as a Centre of Excellence.
  5. To provide technical support to stakeholders wishing to use EO data (academia, researchers, startups, government et al).
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### Submission Requirements

Prospective universities are requested to provide a 15-page (*maximum on A4 @12 point on Times New Roman Font*) Expression of Interest indicating the following;

- I. Official/Letter Headed cover letter indicating interest, experience and main promoters (Project Patron or host faculty, project manager and deputy).
  - II. Components;
    - a. Proposed operational approach and activities envisaged;
    - b. Proposed location of Lab and existence of requisite support/complementary infrastructure; and
    - c. Bios of 3 Key staff.
  - III. Capacity development and skills transfer intent.
  - IV. Resource Mobilization and sustainability intent.
  - V. References as briefs (or links) of three (3) similar programmes with lessons learnt and benefactor contacts as executed by the expressor.
  - VI. Any supporting information and links.
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## Submission Details

KSA remains desirous in achieving its mandate in collaboration with stakeholders thus looks forward to receiving respective EOI from National Universities keen to promote earth observation technologies and respective applications towards sustainable development of Kenya and Africa as a whole.

Completed EOI responses should be submitted by **11.59Hrs (East African Time – EAT) on December 18, 2024** to email address [eolabs@ksa.go.ke](mailto:eolabs@ksa.go.ke).

## Programme Timelines

- Launch of EOI Call – **November 28, 2024**
- Requests for clarification(s) on EOI through email only – by December 6, 2024
- Close of EOI Call/Deadline – **December 18, 2024**
- Outcome of shortlisting and notification to all candidates – by January 17, 2025
- Assessment and Award from shortlisted candidates – by January 31, 2025
- Tentative EO lab set-up and commissioning – Quarter I of 2025 (January – March)

End.