



the dti

Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

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Ms Nolwazi Gasu
Acting Director General
Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
Private Bag X1000
PRETORIA
0001

Dear Nolwazi

IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT EVALUATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN RESOURCES FOR INDUSTRY PROGRAMME (THRIP)

Thank you for carrying out the Implementation and Impact Evaluation of the Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP), especially in recognition that the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) has carried the full costs.

I have noted with great interest the contents of the full Final Report as approved by the Evaluation Steering Committee on 30 March 2015. As requested, comments on the recommendations have been made as outlined in Annexure 1 (attached). I am confident that the management response will be taken into account as both **the dti** and DPME proceed to the next stages of the process.

I also endorse the DPME's commitment to collaborate with **the dti** in developing the THRIP Improvement Plan that will further enhance the programme's efficiency and effectiveness going forward. Kindly note that, if required, **the dti** will provide the DPME with necessary support when presenting the THRIP's implementation and evaluation report to both the Economic Sectors Cluster and Cabinet Committee.

Yours sincerely

Lionel October
Director General – the dti

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cc. Mr Stephen Hanival: **the dti**
Ms Nkuli Shinga: **the dti**
Dr Kaluke Mawila: NRF
Dr Ian Goldman, Head: Evaluation and Research: DPME



Lefapha la Dikgwebisano le Diintaseteri • Lefapha la Kgwebo le Indasteri • uMnyango wezoHwebo neZimboni • Muhasho wa zwa Mbambadzo na Indasiteri • Departement van Handel en Nywerheid • Kgoro ya Kgwebo le Indasteri • Ndzawulo ya to Mabindzu na Tiindastri • LiTiko leTekuhweba netiMboni • ISebe lezoRhwebo noShishino • UmNyango wezokuRhwebelana namaBubulo



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE THRIP EVALUATION	RECORD OF AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT	REASONS FOR DISAGREEMENT
1. the dti should retain THRIP and enhance the government's financial support. A doubling of the Programme's funding should be the first objective over the intermediate term.	Agree	
2. the dti and NRF should protect and enforce the core principles contributing to THRIP's successes.	Agree	
3. the dti and NRF should act to improve the operational challenges of the Programme, namely the number of Programme objectives; partial funding; participation of companies partially owned by HEI/SETIs; participation of unsuccessful universities; Programme evaluation		
3.1 THRIP should reduce the number of Programme objectives following international good practice.	Agree – however objectives regarding race and gender would be maintained as these are critical to South Africa.	
3.2 The issue of partial funding of projects should be applied only when the committee has reasons to believe that the relevant costs are inflated.	Disagree	Due to limited funding partial funding of projects will remain to ensure that THRIP supports as many projects as possible. There are many ambitious, innovative, and imaginative projects that are brought to life through THRIP thus it is critical to enable all these projects to get a piece of the pie. Besides it would be very difficult to determine whether costs have been inflated or not

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE THRIP EVALUATION	RECORD OF AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT	REASONS FOR DISAGREEMENT
3.3 The monitoring of the projects should be expanded so that their impacts could be monitored after their completion.	Agree	
3.4 THRIP should consider accepting contributions from companies owned wholly or partly by HEIs/SETIs up to a limit of 25% ownership.	Disagree	The limit will remain at 5% to maintain the independence and objectivity of the industry partner and to ensure that researchers do not abuse the fund and apply on behalf of their own companies. A THRIP grant-holder should have an impartial, unbiased attitude and avoid conflict of interest situations, as that would prejudice his/her ability to perform the duties objectively.
3.5 THRIP should consider developing separate approaches linking unsuccessful universities with relevant industrial establishments and successful THRIP institutions.	Agree	
3.6 Programme evaluations (like this one) should be undertaken every five years. The ten-year horizon is too long for evaluation as the majority of the early participants are not available to participate in the evaluation.	Agree	
4 The THRIP management and executive should create links with international similar programmes and learn from their experiences.	Agree	
5 the dti should consider the expansion and supplementation of THRIP in support of	Agree	

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE THRIIP EVALUATION	RECORD OF AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT	REASONS FOR DISAGREEMENT
industry to uptake and commercialize the generated knowledge, including the monitoring and evaluation of THRIIP project outcomes beyond project conclusion.		
6 the dti should engage with DST in order to resolve the challenge of intellectual property ownership.	Agree	



Lionel October
Director-General – the dti

22/04/2015