

Minister Pandor (centre front), Dr Phil Mjwara (DST Director General), Mr Khaled El Mekwad (UNIDO Representative and Head of South Africa Regional Office) and Mr Barlow Manilal (TIA CEO) with the 2017 GCIP-SA Finalists



SA's BEST and BRIGHTEST cleantech innovators ready to take on the world

Water saving taps, fly larvae that turn organic waste into animal food and plastic car parts made from agricultural waste are among the innovations by entrepreneurs who have just completed the 2017 Global Cleantech Innovation Programme for SMEs in South Africa (GCIP-SA). Eleven finalists were chosen for their innovations that aim to solve environmental challenges in areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste beneficiation, water efficiency, green buildings and green transportation.

The GCIP-SA is a competition-based business accelerator offering participants extensive training and mentoring on key business aspects such as product/market fit, business model development,

financing strategy, management team, sustainability, and innovation to help them get their products investment-ready. They are also connected to local and international networks and exposed to potential partners and funders.

The winners were announced at a gala event in Pretoria in November 2017 where participants also showcased their innovations to Minister of Science and Technology, Mrs Naledi Pandor, and other high-level guests from government, foreign embassies, the private sector, the investment community and academia. Awards by industry sponsors Spoor & Fisher, Skeg Product Development, Africawide and Cape Media were also announced at the event.

"Participating in GCIP-SA is hard work and it stretches entrepreneurs... This is one of the best entrepreneurial accelerator programmes globally."

Euodia Naanyane-Bouwer, Gracious Nubian

"The GCIP-SA gave me skills to develop a working business model... and it provided me with a platform to network with other business people."

Linda Langaniso, Unizulu

The GCIP-SA is part of an international initiative to promote clean technology innovation and grow SMEs into sustainable businesses. Over the past four years, the programme has been jointly implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), with funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GCIP-SA will be integrated into TIA on 1 January 2018.

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2017 GCIP-SA Winners and Finalists

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Winner (R120k in cash, plus a fully paid trip to Cleantech Open Global Forum in California) | Bandile Dlabantu (Khepri Innovations) | Mobile Insect Bio-conversion Units which use black soldier fly larvae to convert organic waste into animal feed |
| Runners-up (R60k in cash each and a trip to California, as above) | Sara Andreotti (Sharksafe Barrier) | Eco-friendly physical barrier which protects beachgoers from sharks, without harming sharks and other marine animals |
| | Euodia Naanyane-Bouwer (Gracious Nubian) | Washable, re-usable and bio-degradable sanitary pads |

Special Category Award Winners (Cash prize of R20k each)

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| Innovation for Social Impact | Euodia Naanyane-Bouwer | See above |
| Best women team | Stephanie Pons (Beautiful-U) | TouchTap, a special valve designed to control water flow from any tap, saving water and facilitating easy access, also by rural communities and the disabled |
| Most promising youth team (also received a TIA-sponsored laptop) | Pontsho Moletsane (Yellow Beast) | Nosets™, an automated irrigation system that enhances the efficiency of the irrigation of shallow-root agricultural crops |

Other Top Performers

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| Albin Baecker | Biotrans Pole Sleeves | Flexible, impenetrable sleeve that covers the bottom of wooden poles, protecting the wood from decaying and increasing the lifespan of the poles |
| Clement Mokoene (currently in Top 5 for 2017 Chivas Venture) | Vehicle Energy-Harvesting Systems | Portable powerplant that harnesses the power of traffic by extracting pressure from the road to drive a turbine and generate renewable electricity |
| David John Price | Green Iron Tech | Iron-bearing material conversion technology, an eco-friendly, low-cost way of turning discarded iron bearings into a sellable product. |
| George Oliver | IceEnergy | Thermal battery that efficiently stores energy in the form of latent heat in ice |
| Linda Langaniso | Unizulu | Process using agricultural waste to produce plastic parts for the automotive and other industries |
| Marius van der Merwe | NewCarbon | Biochar to feed poultry and livestock - reduces carbon emissions by using biomass, and improves the health of poultry and livestock |



South Africa

