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Attention: The News Editor

MEDIA RELEASE

Empowering female-owned bio-businesses to close the perfect deal

National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) recently partnered with BioFISA to roll-out the first leg of the FemBioBiz competition in Namibia . On 22 February, BioFISA, a partnership programme between the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in South African and the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA), launched an acceleration programme for female-owned businesses. The programme, called FemBioBiz, invites leading female entrepreneurs or senior managers in bioscience-based companies in the SADC region, to embark on a journey of leadership and technological and business skills development.

The Programme is presented in three phases, with the first part executed as a 2-day pitch training workshop, rolling out in seven locations in Southern Africa. The second phase will take the top performers through a mentorship programme with plenty of opportunities along the way and will be concluded by a pitching event at the 10th SA Innovation Summit, held in Cape Town from 6-8 September 2017. The best performer throughout the Programme will join Europe's leading start-up event in Finland - Slush, as well as receive a seed cash grant of ZAR 250 000 from the SANBio BioFISA II programme to develop their business.

Ambitious female entrepreneurs leading businesses in the biosciences arena (human/animal nutrition or health) are invited to apply to be part of the programme on the SA Innovation Summit website at <http://innovationsummit.co.za/fembiobiz-acceleration-programme> by 15 April 2017. To connect to the programme and become part of the Bioscience Buzz, email fembiobiz@nepadsanbio.org or visit www.innovationsummit.co.za or www.nepadsanbio.org.

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