



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG

## THE SITA AIR TRANSPORT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INNOVATION AWARD 2017

# GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS



### THE AWARD

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SITA, the world-leading air transport IT and communications specialist, has proposed the SITA Air Transport Community Foundation Innovation Award of US \$10,000 to be awarded to a Wits Team in 2017.

**The purpose of the SITA Air Transport Community Foundation Innovation Award is to reward collaborative team work at Wits that uses IT to find an innovative solution to an aviation issue, or to a more general issue that relates to the core business in which the donor, SITA, operates – namely IT and technology solutions for air transport (passengers and cargo).**

The award has been described in broad terms deliberately, so that entries may range widely. For example, an aviation issue could include solving an engineering problem, or it could be finding an IT solution to an airport customer experience issue; or a more general issue could include using big data analytics to address an issue facing people traveling through a city. This award, however, cannot be made to a team focusing on an issue in a subject which is not related to the core business of SITA; for example, an app developed to help a patient take medication, or to monitor wildlife, would not be considered for the award.

The prize money is a reward for innovation. The award money needs to be spent in line with the goals of the SITA Wits partnership. After the announcement of the results, the winner(s) must propose and obtain approval for the planned use of the funds, and ultimately report on their use.

## HOW IT WORKS

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The competition is open to teams of two or more individuals,

- who must be associated with Wits by being Wits postgraduate\* students and/or members of Tshimologong.

\*postgraduate includes PhD, Masters, Honours, and Honours-equivalent students in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of professionally qualifying Bachelors degrees e.g. 4<sup>th</sup> year BSc(Eng) students  
and

- at least one member of each team must either be a student from Aeronautical Engineering / Computer Science / Electrical and Information Engineering / Information Systems in Commerce, or a member of Tshimologong.

The teams are encouraged to seek the guidance of Wits academic staff and/or Tshimologong staff.

The competition will open on 7 June 2017.

By 1 August 2017, an announcement will be made to tell you how to make your submission.

Submissions must be made by 12 midday SAST on 1 September 2017.

No submission will be accepted after the closing date.

Submissions must be made as follows:

- Submissions must be described in a written report of no more than 15 A4 pages.
- The report must include an executive summary of no more than one A4 page.
- The report with the executive summary (maximum 16 A4 pages together) must be submitted in pdf.
- You must also submit a presentation in an electronic format (e.g. in Power Point).
- You may also send accompanying material in other format(s).

Entrants must be ready to present their entry in person, whether on one or more occasions, between Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Such presentation may include a demonstration if the material requires that. For example, the entrants may have to present their entry early in that week, and again later in the same week to the whole judging panel.

There will be between three and five judges. The Chair of the panel of judges is Professor Ken Nixon of Electrical and Information Engineering at Wits.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

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Based on a discussion amongst themselves, the judges will score the entries from 1 (lowest possible mark) to 10 (highest possible mark) against the following criteria.

1. **Aviation or other issue:** The submission explains clearly the issue it seeks to address.
2. **Innovation:** The solution is innovative in that it has one or more of the following attributes: it is novel, original, shows creative thinking, shows advanced thinking.
3. **Solution:** The solution has been well thought through. It should be beyond the stage of pure concept and be as close as possible to implementation.
4. **Use of IT:** IT is used appropriately and effectively.
5. **Team work:** The submission describes the skills and explains the contributions of the members of the team, including the supporting role played by Wits/Tshimologong staff.

Note: A pre-requisite is eligibility, i.e. the team members must be eligible to enter the competition, and other award requirements need to have been met, such as that the submission was made on time. Any team not meeting the eligibility requirement will be disqualified.

The judges may decide amongst themselves whether to make one award, or more than one award. The decision of the judges is final.

## USE OF THE FUNDS

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The award prize money is a reward for innovative work done. It needs to be spent in line with one or both of the goals of the SITA Wits partnership which are:

- to support students from the African continent who need financial backing for their studies;
- to add much-needed skills and expertise to the aviation industry through support for specific academic disciplines.

For example, winners may propose to use the funds to continue to develop the innovative solution for which they won the prize, or may propose to use the funds to help students from the African continent to succeed in their studies.

Within a month of the announcement of the results or by 6 October 2017 (whichever date is sooner), the winner(s) must submit a plan and budget for the use of the funds, which must include a commitment to report on the outcome of the use of the prize within one year. The proposal must meet the approval of the Chair of the panel of judges who will consult the Director of Corporate Solution Responsibility of SITA prior to approval.

The final report(s) on the use of the funds by the winner(s) must be submitted by 7 December 2018 (unless a different deadline is approved by the Chair) and will be shared with the donor, SITA.

## QUESTIONS

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If you have any questions please email [sita.competition@eie.wits.ac.za](mailto:sita.competition@eie.wits.ac.za)