



EMRC-AfDB Project Incubator Award GUIDELINES

To encourage development, innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa, EMRC will present the "EMRC-AfDB Project Incubator Award" to the project judged to have the **greatest economic and social impact on local communities.**

1. WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE PROJECT INCUBATOR AWARD?

Project Profile / Selection Criteria:

- Applications are limited to participants attending the **AfDB – EMRC SME Forum 2011**
- The project must be implemented in **Africa**
- At least one project partner must come from and be based in **Africa** (there are no gender or age requirements)
- The contest is open to all sectors of economic activity
- The project should support **Small and Medium Enterprises** with potential to grow or encourage their creation
- The project should contribute to the **development** of the local community
- The project representative and spokesperson should have good communication skills

2. SELECTION PROCESS

- Candidates are invited to submit the application documents (see attached examples of an application form and presentation), with their complete contact details to: **sp@emrc.be** by the **30th of April, 2011**. After the pre-selection process, the Committee will announce the names and projects of candidates and the nominees will be notified accordingly
- The pre-selected candidates will present their projects during a targeted plenary session on **Monday 6th of June 2011** to an audience of potential partners and investors from Africa, Europe, USA, India and beyond
- The winner will receive the Award of **US\$15.000** during the Gala Evening of the Forum.

3. HISTORY - PROJECT INCUBATOR AWARD

EMRC initiated the Project Incubator Award at the AgriBusiness Forum held in Rome in the spring of 2008. At the Africa Finance & Investment Forum held in Paris at the end of 2008, a US\$10.000 prize was awarded to MUPECI, a Cameroonian microfinance institution for its Soya project. At the AgriBusiness Forum 2009 held in Cape Town the prize was increased to US\$15.000 and the Winner was the Coopérative Générale de Sepingo of Côte d'Ivoire for their cashew nuts project. The Winner of the Project Incubator Award at the **Africa Finance & Investment Forum 2009** was Derekop Ltd. of Uganda.



Project Incubator winner at AFIF 2008, Paris: Augustin Yemene, Mupeci & Alexandre de Carvalho, Mozdahir with Pierre van Hedel, Rabobank & Idit Miller, EMRC



Project Incubator winners at the AgriBusiness 2008, at the FAO, Rome: Adries Mukashema & Michelle Shilling of CGIS, Rwanda



Project Incubator winners at the AgriBusiness Forum 2009, Cape Town: Coopérative Générale de Sepingo, Côte d'Ivoire



Project Incubator winners at the Africa Finance & Investment Forum 2009, Amsterdam: Derek Kwesiga, Derekop Ltd, Uganda

In conjunction with:

4. ABOUT THE PROMOTERS

EMRC International

Established in Brussels in 1992 in Brussels, EMRC is an international non-profit organisation whose mission is to promote sustainable economic development in Africa, through the growing of business partnerships, with a specific focus on economic and trade relations. EMRC is devoted to the development of the private sector in Africa. To this end EMRC encourages Business Collaboration and Public-Private Partnerships within the continent and between Africa, Europe, USA, the Middle East and Asia. EMRC believes that the success of Africa depends on its private sector and supports and promotes the exchange of best practices in reaching this goal. EMRC includes a vast network of entrepreneurs, financiers and officials from over a hundred countries around the world.

The African Development Bank Group

The African Development Bank (AfDB) Group's mission is to help reduce poverty, improve living conditions for Africans and mobilise resources for the continent's economic and social development. With this objective in mind, the institution aims to assist African countries – individually and collectively - in their efforts to achieve sustainable economic development and social progress. Combating poverty is at the heart of the continent's efforts to attain sustainable economic growth. To this end, the Bank seeks to stimulate and mobilise internal and external resources to promote investments through co-financing with bilateral and other multilateral development agencies as well as from the financial markets. It provides its regional member countries with technical and financial assistance. It promotes government and private investment in Africa through policy reforms and dialogue, and provides the technical assistance needed in Africa for the selection, study and preparation of development projects.

About the AfDB – EMRC SME Forum 2011

“Bridging the Missing Middle gap in Africa”

6-7 June 2011, Lisbon, Portugal.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and EMRC are working together to organise a conference on “Bridging the missing middle gap in Africa”. Following the G20 SME Initiative in 2010 there is an increased awareness of the needs of SMEs, and in particular of the so called ‘Missing Middle.’ A concerted effort by the global community is taking place to address the financial and non-financial needs of this target group. This event will build on these efforts, and identify the implications and opportunities in an African context. The event will be merged with the EMRC's Africa's Finance and Investment Forum (AFIF), an international showcase event aimed at strengthening the private sector in Africa, by encouraging partnerships and attracting investments. The AfDB – EMRC Forum will attract entrepreneurs interested in securing finance and or partnerships for projects, as well as policy makers, financiers and bankers.

We invite you to join our AfDB-EMRC SME Forum 2011 and to actively contribute to the full integration of the African continent in the world economy as a true key player, by introducing a project to the committee. We look forward to finding out about the role your ideas and projects are playing in the sustainable development of Africa.

CONTACT FOR APPLICATION:

Samuel Pulido – Project Manager, EMRC International

E-mail: sp@emrc.be (candidates are asked to send their applications by e-mail only)

Tel: +32 2626 1518 / 15 / 11 Fax: +32 2626 1516

287 Avenue Louise, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium, www.emrc.be

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**AfDB-EMRC SME Forum :
Bridging the Missing Middle Gap in Africa**

→ 6-7 June 2011 // Lisbon

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