



Global  
Alliance

Africa



KTN Global Alliance Africa

# Rapidly find Innovative Solutions to Circular Economy Challenges

We are looking for Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa based companies wanting to find rapid innovative solutions to their industry challenges.

**Deadline to apply: 14 September 2021**

Connecting for  
Positive Change

[ktn-uk.org/programme/africa](https://ktn-uk.org/programme/africa)

# Background

## Who are we?

KTN Global Alliance Africa is a UK-funded 6-year project that aims to promote job creation, inclusive growth and poverty reduction through knowledge transfer, skills building and opportunities to support businesses and innovations that can deliver scalable impact.

## What is iX?

Leveraging expertise across our diverse network, the iX Platform promotes cross-sectoral innovation transfer, matching real industry challenges from large businesses to companies or academic institutions who can provide novel solutions to those challenges. iX breaks sectoral barriers, giving you access to market-ready solutions from outside of your traditional network.

## We have experts and reach into a variety of sectors including:



Manufacturing and Materials



Construction



AgriFood



Plastics and Packaging



Waste Management



Healthcare

When looking for solutions to innovation problems the iX model allows you to look for solutions outside of your traditional supply chain. Our expertise across a range of sectors allows us to help identify and support cross-sector solutions to your challenge.

# The Process



## ① Challenge Translation

We will help you identify and translate your innovation challenges

Timeline: 3 hours to 4 weeks depending on availability of both parties



## ② Competition

We will launch your challenge for competition

Timeline: Preparation 1-4 weeks depending on person availability. Competition advertised for 6-8 weeks



## ③ Solution Selection

Our experts will filter and select responses by solution providers to the call

Timeline: 2-3 weeks



## ④ Relationship Building

We will engage with chosen companies and identify routes for technology development

Timeline: Pitches to challenge holder 3-5 weeks after challenge close



## ⑤ Feedback

We will provide feedback on the process and support you with next steps

Timeline: Feedback to all participants following pitches to challenge holder



# Circular Economy

## Why invest in the Circular Economy?

As the world moves towards a more sustainable future we are changing the demand profile on many materials. At the same, world population rises, resulting in an ever increasing demand for energy and products which puts increasing pressure on materials (and their supply chains) but also is contributing to the generation of more and more 'waste'.

Investing in Circular Economy is an integral part of the solutions necessary to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets and contributes towards industrialising middle-income countries, transforming their economies whilst providing a high-quality life to all its citizens in a clean and secure environment. The iX Challenge Programme is a quick route to access solutions to solve those challenges.

## Examples of circular economy challenges include (but are not limited to):

- Finding reusable alternatives to single-use products and packaging
- Generating value from industrial by-products and/or waste
- Redesigning products/services so they can be easily repaired, remanufactured and recycled
- Extending usable life of materials, products and services and recovering value through value retention processes
- Finding alternative non-fossil based materials for existing products
- Identifying supply chain solutions to embed resource efficiency and reduce waste
- Using technology to increase resource efficiency
- Identifying innovative solutions for improved tracking of materials and products



## What is Circular Economy?

A Circular Economy is one in which products or materials are kept in use for as long as possible, delivering the highest value they can, for as long as they can. So rather than making, using and then throwing material away (a linear system), a circular economy means looking at each of those stages for new ways of using materials and products again and again, in many different forms.

### The three key underlying principles of a circular economy are:

- Design out waste and pollution
- Keep products and materials in use
- Regenerate natural systems

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# Challenges

## What challenges are we looking for?

KTN Global Alliance Africa is looking for challenge holders to help find rapid solutions to Circular Economy sector problems.

## Who is this challenge for?

- **Companies that have a concrete challenge that would benefit from cross-sector solutions**
- **Large Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa-based companies looking to solve Circular Economy challenges with:**
  - **Kenya:** a workforce size of over 50 employees and/or an annual turnover of over KES 25 million
  - **Nigeria:** a workforce size of over 50 employees and/or an annual turnover of over NGN 100 million
  - **South Africa:** a workforce size of over 50 employees and/or an annual turnover of R 50 million

## How can we help solve your Circular Economy challenges?

A challenge holder with a here and now tangible problem is identified and the challenge is translated into a technical problem statement that will attract other sector solutions and is then launched for public competition. Solution providers submit their response and, through a selection and pitching process, the best solutions are then selected for technology development through a collaboration between the two parties.

In addition to this, and as part of the KTN Global Alliance Africa iX Challenge Programme, an additional opportunity to partner with UK solutions providers will also be integrated into the process (prior to selection and pitching). This additional component will be added where partnership with a UK-based company is a value-add and the challenge would benefit from internationally collaborative solutions.

## Seed funding

KTN Global Alliance Africa will allocate seed funding to the winners of the iX Challenge. This will provide startup and SME ecosystem financial support to develop the identified solutions in partnership with specific challenge owners as well as additional mentoring for projects moving into commercialisation.

# Case Studies



## Upcycling protective plastics from offshore wind

Disposing of waste in a safe, ethical and responsible manner is key to reducing negative impacts on the environment. We worked with Orsted to identify solutions for upcycling wind turbine protective plastics, helping to make the energy industry more sustainable.



## Making chemical production safer and more sustainable

Ensuring chemicals make a positive contribution to society without harming the environment or people's health is a core aspect of sustainable waste management. We supported Robinson Brothers identify solutions for making chemical production from manufacturing of resorcinol safer and more sustainable.

*“ We were really impressed with the way the innovation challenge worked. It generated new contacts and an impressive range of different approaches and ideas to the challenge.”*

Russell at Robinson Brothers



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# Why the iX Challenge Programme?



## Quick and Simple Exposure to New Technologies

We bring you companies with technology solutions from areas outside your usual supply chain.



## Time Efficient

It requires minimal time commitment, with the bulk of the resource provided by us.



## Optional Disclosure

Your involvement can be made confidential or your challenge undertaken in a 'closed' iX Programme although having your name behind competitions can ensure better responses.



## International Collaboration

Where solutions cannot be found in-country, we foster international collaboration partnerships to achieve the optimal solution.

Submit your challenge by 14<sup>th</sup> September

[SUBMIT NOW](#)

For any queries related to the challenge email us at

✉ [ix@ktn-global.org](mailto:ix@ktn-global.org)

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