CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

NATIONAL ICT INNOVATION AWARDS

The Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) invites applications from ICT innovators, startups, researchers, and enterprises to participate in the Innovate Malawi Awards, to be held on 21 April in commemoration of World Creativity and Innovation Day.

The National ICT Innovation Awards aim to recognize, promote, and support home-grown ICT innovations that address clearly defined societal challenges and demonstrate, or have strong potential to demonstrate, tangible impact within local communities and contexts, in line with Malawi Vision 2063.

Who Can Apply?

Applications are open to:

- Malawian citizens or Malawi-registered entities

- ICT startups, SMEs, and technology enterprises

- Individual innovators and developers

- Students, academic institutions, and research organizations

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Only ICT innovations that have reached at least the prototype stage will be considered

- The prototype must be functional and demonstrable (hardware, software, platform, or system)

- Innovations must be relevant to the Malawian context

- Solutions should address clearly defined societal challenges and demonstrate, or have strong potential to demonstrate, tangible impact within local communities and contexts

Concepts or ideas without a working prototype will not be eligible.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Societal impact and local relevance

- Innovation and originality

- Technical feasibility and quality

- Scalability and sustainability

- Market potential and social impact

- Inclusivity and accessibility

Prizes and Recognition

The top two innovators will receive an all-expenses-paid opportunity to showcase their solutions at the **ITU AI for Good Global Summit** in Geneva, Switzerland, gaining international exposure and engagement with global ICT and AI stakeholders.

Finalists may also receive:

- Business incubation or acceleration support
- Mentorship and technical advisory services
- Exposure through national media and MACRA platforms
- Networking opportunities with investors, operators, and partners

How to Apply

Interested applicants are invited to submit their applications online through the following link:

https://forms.office.com/r/w0CRJFPT3X?origin=lprLink

Applications are open from the 9th February to the 14th March 2026

Offline Application Worksheet

OVERVIEW

In the National ICT Innovation Awards application, you will be asked a series of questions across different sections. This document contains overviews of each question that will be asked in the application.

While this is a helpful tool to get started, you will still be expected to fill the online application form. Find the application form here:

Question	Response Guide
Section 1- Applicant information	**This section requests for basic information of the applicant**
Full name of Applicant/Team Lead*	Input your full name
Name of organization/startup/institution (if applicable)	Input your organization's name if applicable
Type of applicant*	Select whether applying as: An individual innovator Team innovation Startup/SME Academic/research institution
Applicant/Team lead email address*	Input your email address
Applicant/Team lead phone number*	Input your phone number
Applicant/Team lead current physical location*	Input your current physical location e.g Area 13, Lilongwe
Section 2- Innovation overview	**This section requests for an overview of the innovation developed**
Name of innovation*	Input name of innovation
Innovation category*	Select whether the innovation falls under any of these categories: AgriTech Digital Inclusion/Accessibility Edtech E-government Fintech Healthtech Telecommunications/Networking Other
Brief Description of the Innovation (150 words)*	Input an overview description of the innovation
What problem does the innovation address*	Input the problem statement the innovation addresses
Who are the primary target users or beneficiaries?*	Input the target users/beneficiaries of the innovation
Implementation area/district*	Input the area/district the innovation is **currently** implemented
Section 3- Technical details	**This section requests for the technical details of the innovation**

Describe the how the innovation works (max 300 words)*	Input the technical explanation of how the innovation works
What technologies are used (tick all that apply)*	Tick the technologies that apply: Web-based Mobile application Cloud computing AI/ML IoT Blockchain Other
Current stage of the innovation*	Select the current stage of the innovation: Functional Prototype Pilot Tested Early market deployment
Deployment environment*	Select the deployment environment Cloud On-premise Hybrid Not applicable
Section 4- Innovation & Impact	**This section request the social and economic impact the innovation has had**
What makes this innovation unique or different from existing solutions (150 words max)*	Input what makes the innovation unique
Describe the social and/or economic impact of the innovation (150 words max)*	Input the social and/or economic impact of the innovation
How does the innovation contribute to Malawi's digital transformation goals?*	Input how the innovation contribution contributes to MW2063
Provide evidence of usage, adoption or pilot (if available)	Provide links to show usage or adoption or pilot
What is the current level of deployment or scaling of the innovation?*	Select the current level of deployment: Community District Regional National International
Section 5- Sustainability and Scalability	**This section requests for commercial viability and scalability of the innovation**
Describe the sustainability or business model of the innovation (150 words max)*	Input the business model of the innovation
How can the innovation be scaled?	Input the future plan of how the innovation can be scaled whether locally, nationally, regionally or globally
Identify any key risks and how they are being mitigated (300 words max)*	Input identified risks and mitigation strategies (if any)
Section 6- Compliance and ownership	**This section focuses on the intellectual property of the**

	innovation and compliance innovation meets
Who owns the IP rights of the innovation?*	Input ownership model
Is the innovation locally developed in Malawi?*	Select yes or no
Are there any partners/investors involved in the development or deployment of the innovation?*	Provide details of existing partners of investors.
Does the innovation require any regulatory approval or compliance?* If yes explain	Provide details of regulatory approval or complaince
Section 7- Supporting documents	**This section requests for supporting documents of the information provided above for the innovation**
Provide a link to the Concept Note or Pitch Deck (maximum 10 pages).	Provide link to access the concept not
Provide a link to the Screenshots / System Architecture Diagrams*	Provide a link to access screenshots of the innovation or system architecture diagrams
Provide a Demo Video Link (Optional)	Provide a link of the innovation being used
Section 8- Declarations	**This section requests for the applicant to confirm declarations**
I declare that the information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.*	Select the button confirming that all information provided is truthful
I consent to the use of submitted information by MACRA for evaluation, publicity, and promotional purposes related to the National ICT Innovation Awards.*	Select the button confirming consent for MACRA to use the information for evaluation, publicity and promotional purposes in relation to the awards
I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the National ICT Innovation Awards.*	Select the button confirming that you have read the terms and conditions guiding the awards
Name of Applicant / Authorized Representative*	Input full name

N.B: * means required field