

Applications now open for Telecel ASIP Accelerator Programme

Over the course of 2021, it's reported that African tech startups raised \$4.42bn in funding - almost double the record-breaking \$2.4bn raised in the previous year. "With investment in African innovation increasing, so too has the demand for hands-on support and access to markets from startups," says Eleanor Azar, Telecel Group executive deputy and director of the Telecel Group Africa Startup Initiative Programme (ASIP).



Source: www.pexels.com

To scout, skill and scale the next generation of early-stage African tech startups, the Telecel ASIP Accelerator Programme, powered by Startupbootcamp (SBC) AfriTech has opened applications for its next cohort. ASIP Accelerator is seeking the most impactful 'African solutions for African challenges' across key industry verticals including agritech, supply chain, IoT & Connectivity, machine learning, data analytics, cybersecurity, cleantech, regtech, and fintech.

Once selected, the top 10 participants will spend three months undergoing intensive coaching through expert-led masterclasses covering scaling fundamentals from the business model canvas, and lean methodology, to fundraising. The program will take place in Dakar, Senegal, culminating in a Demo Day where startup founders will pitch their disruptive solutions to a broad audience comprised of media, investors, corporate partners, and industry stakeholders.

Startups will also have access to a proprietary tailored coaching platform, Accelerator Squared, which offers a complete library of content, group workshops, one-on-one mentoring, and collaborative sessions with Entrepreneurs in Residence, along with invite-only discussion forums with founders from around the globe. This is in addition to customised support from experienced mentors and dedicated Entrepreneurs-In-Residence. The 10 startups will also receive benefits valued at more than \$750,000, including credits from AWS, Google Cloud Services, and many more, together with an \$18,000 cash stipend from ASIP.

"This program is an opportunity for early-stage startups to build a solid foundation and set up their businesses for success. We will help you make some tough decisions, create a sustainable business model and access the right people and resources," shares SBC AfriTech's Founder-In-Residence, Oshone Ikazoboh.

Azar also explained that Telecel will provide the participating startups with access to markets through their mobile services in 30 countries across the continent. "Telecel Group is also continuously seeking other partners in addition to our existing ones such as AWS, Google, Microsoft, and the United Nations International Trade Centre (ITC) to find more ways to support and push the whole ecosystem forward for the benefit of the startups."

For more, go to <https://vc4a.com/startupbootcamp-africa/asip-2022/>

Applications close on Friday, 28 January 2022.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>