SPROUT

An Akwa Ibom State Market in-demand ICT Training and Entrepreneurship Support Programme

Start Innovation Hub
Uyo, Nigeria.
SPROUT is a Market in-demand ICT Training and Entrepreneurship Support Programme designed to help connect 300 talents in Akwa Ibom State to global opportunities in the technology sector within 12 months. This initiative will also help create 50 direct jobs in 12 months, fund 3 startups and attract foreign direct investment to the state.
About us - Start Innovation Hub

Start Innovation Hub is a technology pre-incubation centre in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. We are official Facebook hub partners in Nigeria serving a centre of excellence for Facebook Activities in Nigeria.

Our core business concern is in talent development and incubation of startup ideas. Our trainings are job guaranteed and our engineers are working in most of Nigerian tech companies. We have also talents who got jobs abroad and relocated while some work from the hub in Uyo and earn foreign exchange.

We also host Facebook and Google technology community activities which gives us access to contents and engineering support from the tech giants.
About The CEO

- 2010: 1st Degree in Electrical Electronics Engineering (Communications Engineering Option) from Federal University of Technology Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria.
- Nanodegree Android Development from Udacity, USA.
- Google's guest in Silicon Valley annually since 2014
- Facebook's guest in Silicon Valley annually since 2018.
- 2014: Founded Start Innovation Hub
- 2019+: Ecosystem Director, Innovation Support Network (ISN) Nigeria.
- 2016+: Country Mentor, Google Developer Groups (GDGs) Nigeria.
- Has supported the establishment of over 10 innovation hubs across Nigeria, Kenya, Madagascar and Ghana
- International ICT Consultant - Projects for Government of the UK, DAI etc

Hanson Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
Start Innovation Hub
The problem

1. Unemployability.
2. Angel investors and Venture Capitalists prefer Lagos.
3. Lack of local Role Models in tech.
4. Lack of opportunities
5. Market Linkages
6. Lack of conducive environment that support innovation
7. Double/over regulation in government policies
8. Internet and Power
9. Data for informed decision making
10. Funding
The solution

- Job guaranteed market in-demand ICT, entrepreneurial and soft skills training.
- Internship Placement
- Fellowship Programme
- Job/Market Linkages
- Monthly Ecosystem Meetup
- Incubation and Demo Day
- Access to funds and investments
Our Target

Technical Talents
Successful graduates will be connected to jobs globally after training

Funding for Startups
Viable and sustainable ideas will be funded

Jobs
Direct jobs will be created
Commitment

We have a commitment as a sub grant of **8 million Naira** from Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND Foundation) through Ford Foundation.

We need counterpart fund of **58.6 million Naira** to enable us achieve this.

---

**Funds Secured**

- Donor: PIND Foundation
  - N8 million

**Funds Needed**

- Total Project Cost
  - N58.6 million
Proposed deliverables - *All can happen in parallel*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Software Development Training</td>
<td>6 months programme</td>
<td>Graduates qualify for internship or fellowship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Design, Animation, Digital Marketing</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>Graduates qualify for internship or fellowship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIH Specialty Fellowship Programme</td>
<td>6 months paid programme to work on projects</td>
<td>Graduates become world-class and in high demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incubation, Entrepreneurship</td>
<td></td>
<td>Selected ideas are groomed to launch in 3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Investors invited for a demo day at the end</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Proposed deliverables - *All can happen in parallel*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Demo Day**           | • After 3 months pre-incubation programme  
                         | • Holds during ecosystem meetup                                        |
| **Job Fair**           | • Employers, Entrepreneurs, Startups, Talents converge.  
                         | • We showcase talents to employers                                      |
| **Job & Market Linkage** | • Link talents to opportunities with partner companies  
                             | • Connect businesses to opportunities                                      |
| **Ecosystem Meetup**   | • Monthly gathering of ecosystem players  
                         | • Focusing on Tech meeting other sectors of the economy                  |
Project Phases

Entry Level (3-6 months)
- Technical Talent Development

Pre-incubation
- Grooming from ideas to products within 3 months

Job Linkage
- Employed by partner organisations or Join SIH Fellowship Programme

Demo Day
- Entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to Investors

Ecosystem Meetup
- This will happen monthly

Internship
- HNG Internship, Corporate Internship

Demo Day
- Entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to Investors

Incubation
- Take products to the market within 3 months
Benefits

- It will create employment opportunities for citizens locally and internationally
- Attract Foreign Direct Investment to the state
- Place Akwa Ibom on the Tech Map
- Encourage more businesses to start tech enabled businesses
- Enhance Youth engagement
Potential Partners

Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, USA Inc.
Total Budget - N58.6 Million

The success of SPROUT is encapsulated in:

1. Technical Talent Development
2. Fellowship Programme
3. Incubation programme to discover and fund 3 viable startups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N30 million</th>
<th>N3.6 million</th>
<th>N25 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Talent Development</td>
<td>SIH Specialty Fellowship</td>
<td>Incubation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **N30 million**
  - Training Fees for Administration, Wages, tools and materials for 6 months training for **300 people**

- **N3.6 million**
  - 6 month stipends for 20 Fellows
  - 20 top performing graduate trainees will be selected for a paid fellowship programme where they will be learning and working on real world production projects for 6 months while building their work portfolio to make them job ready for top technology firms anywhere in the world.

- **N25 million**
  - Top 3 startups will be funded after 3 months incubation programme.
  - This budget is for Seed Funds for 3 startups, Mentors, Coaches and Judges allowance, Materials, Administration, Food.
Conclusion

We are excited about this project and the prospects of reducing the rate of unemployment in Akwa Ibom State. With your support, we promise to create a pipeline through this programme where local talents in the state will be most sought-after in the tech space as we prepare to SPROUT.
The Team

Hanson Johnson, CEO
Hanson Johnson is the founder of Start Innovation Hub and Country Mentor to GDGs in Nigeria

Mark Essien, CEO
Mark Essien is the co-founder of Hotels.ng and HNG Internship.

Youth Johnson, Convener
Youth Johnson is the Convener of StartHub Women, a community of young women in technology and entrepreneurship.

David Inyang-Etoh, CEO
David Inyang-Etoh is the CEO of Jiggle and co-Lead Facebook Developer Circle Uyo
Testimonials

Some of our success stories are at https://starthub.com.ng/project-create/:

- Edidiong Asikpo (Female) recognised by Facebook as an Icon of Change in Africa - https://web.facebook.com/facebookappAfrica/posts/3605118512839211
- Nsikak Thompson got invited to Google HQ in Silicon Valley - https://facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1995190987220021&set=a.107491199323352
- Esther Ibong (Female) - https://web.facebook.com/esther.ibong/posts/10221203461012823
- Jude Ben joined a startup in London as a Blockchain Developer.
- Enobong Okpongette (Female) now with Tek-Experts - a Microsoft Partner.
- Godstime John became the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Spottr, Abuja after contributing to the development of the startup as a backend engineer.
- Aniefon Umanah is a remote staff at Vision Dev, USA
- Evidence Ekanem - Working for Theatri Soft in the US as a remote staff
- Ufak Solomon (Female) founded a startup called elax
- Etiene Asuquo (Female) - working with AfriLabs in Abuja
- Nsikak Thompson - Co-Founder Jiggle.ng