

# Call for Applications



Vodacom  
Lesotho  
Foundation

## ► The Software Factory Hub

The Vodacom Software Factory Hub is proudly brought to you by Vodacom Lesotho Foundation

Anchored around our purpose of connecting for a better future, our goal is simple yet powerful; to empower tech start-ups with the necessary skills and to succeed through the exchange of top-tier practices in Cyber Security, software development, and Agile methodologies. This equity-free accelerator program is only open to tech start-ups based in Lesotho. **Applications are accepted from the 5 - 26 July 2024.**

We therefore invite tech start-ups not older than 5 years for a learnership opportunity with Vodacom Lesotho Foundation to learn about the development standards and supplier on-boarding pre-requisites to accelerate the start-up's readiness to work with Vodacom and other corporate clients.

### Benefits:

- A unique opportunity for tech start-ups to showcase their skills and abilities
- Mentorship and technical advice from industry experts to help them bring their ideas to market
- Business development support offering a lifeline to realize full potential
- Opportunity to win Prize money upon Action Learning Project completion
- Access to Vodacom Lesotho's Supply Chain eligibility criteria
- Access to support through Vodacom Foundation Innovation Park
- Access to Vodacom Lesotho's tech resources
- Guided development with M-Pesa Open API and Mini Apps

### Technical Skills:

#### Programming Languages:

- Java: Understanding of core concepts, OOP principles, MVC and ability to write and debug basic applications.
- Python: Proficiency in writing scripts and applications, understanding of standard libraries, and familiarity with frameworks like Flask.

#### Databases:

- SQL: Ability to write, understand, and optimize SQL queries.
- Oracle Database: Basic knowledge of Oracle database management, PL/SQL, and performance tuning.

#### Front-end Development:

- React.js: Understanding of component-based architecture, state management, and ability to create and maintain front-end applications.

#### Version Control:

- Git and GitHub: Basic commands for version control, branching, merging, and collaborative development workflows.
- CI/CD Pipelines:
- Familiarity with continuous integration and continuous deployment practices and tools (e.g., Jenkins, GitHub Actions, or similar).

#### USSD Applications:

- Basic understanding of how USSD applications work and how to interact with back-end services.

### Eligibility Criteria

- There is no entry fee
- Any legally registered tech start-up is welcome to apply.
- Applicant(s) must be legally registered in Lesotho.
- Applicant(s) entity must be less than seven (5) years old at the date of application.
- Participants in previous editions of any Vodacom Lesotho programs are NOT eligible to participate in the program.
- Employees of the organizers, its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising, promotional agencies, suppliers and immediate family members are not eligible to participate in the Competition.
- Commitment from CTO and/or technical roles to participate and engage in required program sessions from July 2024-October 2024.

### Soft Skills:

#### Programming Languages:

#### Problem-Solving:

- Ability to break down complex problems, think analytically, and develop solutions.

#### Communication

- Good written and verbal communication skills to effectively collaborate with team members and stakeholders.

#### Teamwork:

- Ability to work well within a team, share knowledge, and support others.

#### Adaptability:

- Willingness to learn new technologies and tools as required.

#### Attention to Detail:

- Careful approach to coding, testing, and debugging to ensure high-quality outputs.

### Portfolio:

A portfolio of projects on GitHub or similar platforms showcasing coding skills and familiarity with the tech stack.

#### Additional Considerations:

- Certifications: Relevant certifications (e.g., Oracle Certified Associate, Java SE 8 Programmer, Python Institute certifications) can be beneficial.
- Continuous Learning: Demonstrated commitment to continuous learning, such as completing online courses, attending workshops, or contributing to open-source projects.
- Deeply technical, preferably leveraging technologies like Machine Learning and AI.

To apply email: [foundation@vodacom.co.ls](mailto:foundation@vodacom.co.ls) with subject line

**"Application: Vodacom Software Factory Hub"**

See proposed application format below

### Proposed Application Form:

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Partners: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Technology Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Incorporation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Developers: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note if shortlisted you will be required to provide the following:

- Incorporation Documents
- Business ID/traders License
- Bank a/c details