

UK invests £1.9 million to boost science, tech, and innovation in West Africa

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The UK Government has announced a £1.9 million investment to support economic growth and strengthen technology and innovation across West Africa. Through the West Africa Research and Innovation Hub (WARIH), the government will partner with countries in the region to drive innovation and development.

Sankore, a new initiative launched under WARIH, aims to facilitate the commercialization of innovative solutions, improve innovation policy, and enhance government digital service delivery. The initiative will provide funding and support to non-profit organizations working in these areas.

Launching a call for proposals at a press conference in Accra, Lord Collins, UK Minister for Africa, said “This initiative is all about how we can work together to strengthen the global technology sector, creating opportunities for rapidly growing economies with lots of potential to compete on the world stage. The Sankore grant fosters partnerships at its heart, with a strong message that we go far when we go together.”

Nigeria’s Minister of Innovation Science and Technology, Uche Nnaji said “Sankore project is a pivotal opportunity for Nigeria to enhance its innovation landscape, by strengthening industry-science linkages and developing an enabling policy environment. This partnership underscores our shared commitment to developing practical solutions that lead to sustainable and inclusive growth.”

British Deputy High Commissioner in Lagos, Jonny Baxter, added “Sankore exemplifies the UK’s commitment to driving innovation and sustainable development in Nigeria. The project will strengthen partnerships between businesses and innovators as well as drive the development of innovative solutions

that address critical gaps in priority economic sectors. The project will build on the UK's wider efforts to support economic growth, create job opportunities and propel Nigeria's technology and innovation ecosystem."

The Sankore call for proposals is open to non-profit organizations and will be accepting submissions until October 25, 2024. For more information and to submit a bid, please visit [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).