



It is barely a month to the Nairobi Innovation Week. Yet how prepared could you be for the rare and special season of witnessing, discussing and celebrating our home-grown radical solutions to the most challenging problems spanning all sectors of our economy?

The three-day [Nairobi Innovation Week](#) (August 05-07) will comprise keynote speeches in plenary sessions, policy discussions, research paper and case study presentations, round-table discussions as well as exhibitions of inventions and innovations by individual innovators, start-ups, and organizations.

Further, while the objectives of the event include attaining certain crucial milestones such as special engagement with policy makers on innovation, proper showcase of spectacular innovations and inventions, creation of useful linkages, successful launch of important journals, and increase of innovator, university and partner visibility, there is more to it than meets the eye.

The essence of all innovation weeks, as this is just the inaugural event paving way for future ones also to be held once annually, is tech-innovation ecosystem development; a brainchild of the [University of Nairobi](#)'s start-up [Incubation Policy](#), which essentially informs the just recently crafted and institutionalized C4DLab's [Incubation Strategy](#).

In it, C4DLab, through the Africa Technology and Innovation Accelerator (AFTIA) programme, will run Pre-incubation, Early stage acceleration, and Growth stage acceleration duly supported by innovation ecosystem partners and faculty.

As a result, to kick-start AFTIA, in the course of the Innovation Week, C4DLab will announce a call for an early-stage acceleration programme to last a maximum period of six months.

Prior to admission for acceleration, the prospective candidates will have to submit their prototypes for vetting.

Expected to benefit immensely from the start-up acceleration programme (AFTIA) are start-ups from within and outside the University of Nairobi—made up of students, alumni, researchers as well as other citizens.

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