

## Chivas Venture 2019 now open for entries

Entries for Chivas Venture 2019, a global competition that gives away \$1m in funding every year, is now open.



The Chivas Venture provides a global platform for innovative enterprises that are using business to solve a wide array of social and environmental issues - and South African applications are now open.

Since the competition's launch in 2014, Chivas Venture-supported enterprises have enriched the lives of more than 1 million people in over 40 countries, across six continents.

Just as Chivas blends together whiskies to create Scotch, the Chivas Venture champions entrepreneurs who blend profit and purpose. Chivas' belief in blending ambition with generosity, and in using success to enrich the lives of others, was instilled in the 19th century by founding brothers James and John Chivas. Today that philosophy is kept alive not only through award-winning Scotch but also through initiatives including the Chivas Venture.

Richard Black, global marketing director for Chivas, said "At Chivas we believe that blended is better – in life, business and Scotch – and the 100 finalists we have supported to date have proved this, finding the right blend of profit and purpose in their ventures. Since taking part, finalists have reported saving 8 million trees from deforestation, providing 24 million litres of safe drinking water to those in need, and funding 75,000 days of education for women and girls – and that's just a few examples. The Chivas Venture is continuing to have a global impact and we are proud to be investing another \$1 million for 2019."

Applicants in each participating country will compete in local heats, with the South African winner flying to the United Kingdom to take part in an exclusive accelerator programme. Hosted by The Conduit – a new London establishment that serves as a home for a diverse community of people who are passionate about social change – the intensive training programme will give the global finalists the chance to hone their business and pitching skills.



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Following the accelerator programme, the allocation of the first \$100,000 of the fund will be put into the hands of the public with three weeks of online voting. The Chivas Venture 2019 will then culminate in a series of high-stake pitches at the global final in Europe, where the finalists will battle it out for the remainder of the \$1 million fund.

Radley Connor, marketing manager for Chivas Regal SA says, "The Chivas Venture is an amazing platform for South African social entrepreneurs to attract investment and gain global exposure. The competition rewards and celebrates individuals whose purpose is to make a positive difference to society. If you have great idea, that meets the requirements, we encourage you to enter."

In 2017, innovative South African water company I-Drop water placed third in the global finals, walking away with close to R1 million in funding. Since winning, founder James Steere has received interest from investors globally.

Clement Mokoene is the 2018 South African winner and the creator of the Vehicle Harvest Energy System (VEHS). His business is able to generate electricity at a much lower, affordable cost than coal-fired power stations which South Africa currently relies on. The system works by installing an overlay on the existing road to extract the pressure and transferring it to the side of the road, similar to a wind turbine. Mokoene says 1km highway stretch could generate enough energy to supply the entire South Africa.

For more, visit the [Chivas Venture website](#).

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