



THE OMNIVERSE

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# Research Exchange

2025 REPORT



PREPARED BY TECHQUEST STEM ACADEMY



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We also warmly acknowledge all participants and the entire Omniverse Africa team for their invaluable contributions and commitment.

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# Executive Summary

The Omniverse Research Exchange was a cross-sector event that sought to connect African researchers with one another and the broader research community. By connecting researchers, academics, research funders, and innovation practitioners with a focus on the African continent, the Exchange aimed to catalyze fruitful partnerships and border-spanning collaboration. The event was implemented in two stages: a virtual prelude on 20th February 2025 and a hybrid main event on 28th February 2025, which took place at the Landmark Event Centre in Lagos, Nigeria. Implemented by TechQuest STEM Academy in collaboration with NITDA IT Hub (NITHub), the Research Exchange was hosted as part of the broader Omniverse Africa Summit 2025, themed “Unified by Vision, Empowered by Collaboration” which held from February 25th to 28th, 2025.

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# 1.0



The Research Exchange aimed at fostering collaboration, innovation, and commercialisation of research to drive real-world impact, with objectives including



**Collaboration:** Partnerships for impactful research projects



**Mentoring & Networking:** Among researchers, academics, innovators, & funding organisations.



**Access to Funding:** Cross-continent matchmaking for research finance



**Research Visibility:** Platform for Nigerian researchers to gain international recognition.



**Research Commercialisation:** Co-creation workshop on research commercialization, grant writing, & IP management.

The virtual prelude, a two-hour session, served as a visibility platform for African researchers and international stakeholders interested in African-led research. With a total of 538 participants (86 in the prelude and 452 in the main conference), the event resonated geographically with African scholarship. Hosted by Dr. Ito Emembolu, Director of TechQuest STEM Academy, and with guest introductions by Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa, Acting Director of NITDA IT Hub, the prelude was addressed by distinguished guest speakers Mr. Kingsley Godwin (NIIRIC, Nigeria), Mr. Oluwaseyi Christopher Ogidiolu (DTC Nigeria), Dr. Erik Hansalek (Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany), and Dr. Calvin Bonds (Global Leadership Training Consultant, USA). Guest scholars who made presentations included Dr. Julio Hanson (USA), Dr. Folasade Mojisola Dahunsi (Nigeria), Dr. Sherry Davis (USA), Dr. Julius Ehigie (Nigeria), and Dr. Kai Dupe (USA).

The one-day Main Event commenced on 28th February 2025 with a welcome speech by Dr. Ito Emembolu, setting the tone for a sharing of knowledge and ecosystem engagement. Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Thuweba Diwani, Project Head at GIZ/ Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria. The keynote address by Engr. Dr. Kabiru Mu'azu, Director-General and CEO of the National Research Institute for Chemical Technology (NARICT), titled "From Lab to Commercialisation," highlighted the need to bridge the gap between research and industry. This was preceded by a keynote speech by Mallam Naufal Ahmad, Director-General of the Katsina Directorate of ICT, outlining the directorate's strategy for using digital infrastructure and indigenous innovation to power inclusive development and ICT learning.

Two panel sessions added value to the day's deliberations. The first panel, "Research-Based Innovation & Translation from Lab to Fab (Innovation to Market)," was moderated by Dr. Calvin Bonds and featured Professor Aloysius-Michaels Nnabugwu Okolie, Dr. Philipp Köhn, and Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa. It examined the challenge and opportunity of translating academic research to the marketplace as a viable business solution. The second panel, "Student-Based Innovation—The Next Generation of Innovators," moderated by Dr. Adewunmi Yinka, dealt with innovation and entrepreneurship driven by the youth. Panelists included Dr. Peter Bamkole, Dr. Helen Emore, and Mr. Makinde Joseph, who shared strategies to empower Africa's future innovators.

A Research Synergy Roundtable further facilitated thematic, cross-sectoral dialogues on Research Commercialisation, Intellectual Property Management, Entrepreneur Support Organisations (ESOs) and Research Intersections, Funding Opportunities, and Technology Adoption and Transfer. The session provided a platform for participants to articulate their research agendas, map ecosystem resources, identify common challenges, and generate actionable insights for future partnership development. The session was structured into five parts: Rapid Research Snapshot, Connecting the Dots, Stakeholder Mapping and Thematic Discussions, Showcasing & Bringing It Together, and a brief Session Summary.

The Rapidfire Research Showcase session was a time for African researchers to highlight important ongoing research in brief five-minute time slots. Presenters were Mr. Mamadou Djigo (Senegal Interoperable Health Information Exchange), Dr. Omolola Salako (Symptom Monitoring for Cancer Care in Low-Resource Settings), Dr. Gbeminiyi M. Sobamowo (Low-Cost Energy Systems for Vaccine Storage), and Prof. Benjamin Aribisala's team (Centre of Excellence for Sargassum Research – CESAR). The event concluded with a reflective address by Mr. Oluwaseyi Ogidiolu, Technical Advisor, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria (DTC Nigeria), who reiterated the importance of sustained and collective work towards transforming research results from abstraction to real application.



# List Of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Meaning
CESAR	Centre of Excellence for Sargassum Research
DTC	Digital Transformation Centre
Ed.D	Doctor of Education
ESO	Entrepreneur Support Organisation
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IHE	Interoperable Health Information Exchange
IP	Intellectual Property
LASU	Lagos State University
NARICT	National Research Institute for Chemical Technology
NIIRIC	Nigerian Impact Investing Research Industry Collaborative
NITDA	National Information Technology Development Agency
NITHub	NITDA IT Hub
R&D	Research and Development
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
UNILAG	University of Lagos
USA	United States of America

# Overview of the Research Exchange

The Omniverse Research Exchange was a hybrid event designed to connect African researchers to one another and with the global research community by bringing together selected researchers, academics, funding organisations, and innovators with a focus on the African continent. The Research Exchange was held in two stages: a virtual prelude on 20th February 2025 and the main event on 28th February 2025 at the Landmark Event Centre, Nigeria, and online via Microsoft Teams. It was hosted as part of the Omniverse Africa Summit 2025 (Unified by Vision, Empowered by Collaboration) that took place between February 25-28.

The Research Exchange was implemented by TechQuest STEM Academy in collaboration with NITDA IT Hub (NITHub).

# 2.0

## 2.1 Objectives of the Research Exchange

This transformative initiative was aimed at fostering collaboration, innovation, and commercialisation of research to drive real-world impact. The objectives of the omniverse research exchange were:

- Collaboration: Partnerships for impactful research projects
- Mentoring & Networking: Among researchers, academics, innovators, & funding organizations.
- Access to Funding: Cross-continent matchmaking for research finance
- Research Visibility: Platform for Nigerian researchers to gain international recognition.
- Research Commercialisation: Workshop on research commercialisation, grant writing, & IP management.

This report outlines the two stages of the research exchange: the virtual prelude, and the hybrid main event. By bringing together researchers, industry experts, and ecosystem players, the Research Exchange creates a dynamic environment for visibility, collaboration, and knowledge sharing; where ideas can be exchanged and transformed into real-world solutions. The increased visibility from such collaborations can attract funding opportunities and strengthen stakeholder engagement, aligning with best practices in research development that emphasise the importance of proactive information sharing to spark and sustain collaboration and research commercialisation.

## 2.2 Research Exchange Partners



### 2.2.1 The Omniverse Africa

The Omniverse Africa Summit serves as a hub for diverse stakeholders, including development partners, public sector entities, regulatory agencies, academia, startups, finance and investment professionals, media, entertainment, arts, culture, and the creative industries. By connecting these stakeholders, the Omniverse breaks down silos, bridges gaps, and encourages cross-industry collaboration. This collaborative approach is essential in driving innovation, propelling economic growth, and solving pressing challenges that hinder Africa's progress.



### 2.2.2 Digital Transformation Center Nigeria (DTC Nigeria)

The Digital Transformation Center Nigeria (DTC Nigeria) is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The project focuses primarily on digitalisation, innovation, and entrepreneurship. It aims to improve the capacity of the Nigerian economy to utilise digital innovations for growth and the innovation ecosystem. GIZ/DTC Nigeria follows a holistic ecosystem and gender-transformative approach to digitising the economy. It works with all stakeholders in the digital ecosystem to promote the supply of and demand for digital innovation.



### 2.2.3 TechQuest STEM Academy

TechQuest STEM Academy is a nonprofit organisation that provides technology education content, tools, resources, and research to build digital and technology capacities and foster innovation and growth. TechQuest supports young people, women, innovators, entrepreneurs/startups, educators, and the innovation ecosystem. TechQuest believes that bridging the digital divide and supporting youths and businesses in developing their capacities are foundational for modern-day economic growth, and equipping young people with these skills will be critical for Africa's rise in the digital economy.



### 2.2.4 NITHub

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) IT Hub (NITHub) is a Tech Innovation Hub focused on talent upskilling, product development, startup incubation, and acceleration. They provide a dynamic platform that brings together tech talents, entrepreneurs, industries, and investors; to collaborate, innovate, and create driving technological advancements and enhancing the nation's digital economy.







# Research Exchange: The Prelude

## 3.1 Overview

On February 20th, 2025, a virtual webinar was hosted as a prelude to the Omniverse Research Exchange, scheduled for February 28th, 2025. This webinar brought together researchers, academics, and innovators to present their work and discuss collaboration opportunities. The Omniverse Research Exchange Prelude was a 2-hour virtual event designed to create visibility for researchers and stakeholders from across the world with interests in Africa. The event aimed to foster partnerships, mentoring, funding access, research visibility, and commercialisation, setting the stage for the main event at the Omniverse Africa summit that took place at the Landmark Event Centre, Lagos, Nigeria, the following week (28th February 2025).

The event was hosted by Dr. Itoro Emembolu, Director of TechQuest STEM Academy, in collaboration with Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa, Ag. Director of NITDA IT Hub (NITHub).

**Date of the Prelude Exchange:** 20th February 2025

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

# 3.0

## 3.2 Attendance Highlights

137 Registered

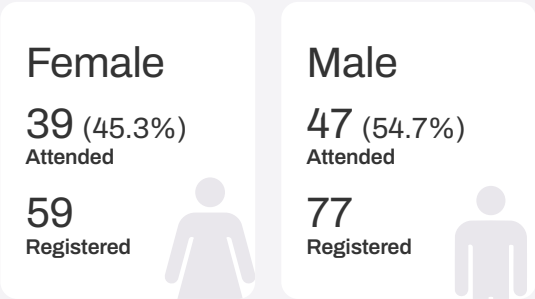
86 Attended



137 people registered for the virtual research exchange prelude from across 9 countries, with 86 participants from 8 countries in attendance. 83.7% (72) of the participants were based in Nigeria, 4.7% (4) from the United Kingdom and United States, 2.3% (2) from South Africa, and 1.2% (1) from Uganda, Canada, Germany, and Algeria.

Attendance by country		Registered	
	Nigeria	117	72
	South Africa	4	2
	United States	4	4
	Canada	2	1
	Uganda	1	1
	Germany	3	1
	Algeria	1	1
	United Kingdom	4	4
	Angola	1	1

45.3% (39) of the participants that attended the virtual Research Exchange identified as females, and 54.7% (47) identified as males.



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The Omniverse Research Exchange

20th of February, 2025

- GUEST SPEAKERS/RESEARCHERS -



Dr. Ito Emembolu



Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa



Dr. Erik Harsalek



Oluwaseyi Ogidiolu



Kingsley Gbolun



Dr. Calvin Bonds



Dr. Sherry Davis



Dr. Kari Dupe (Ed. D)



Dr. Julio Hanson



Dr. Folasade Dahunsi



Speakers and Guest Researchers at the Research Exchange – Prelude

The Omniverse Research Exchange Prelude brought together researchers, academics, and innovators to present their work and discuss collaboration and funding opportunities.

## 3.3 Hosts

**Dr. Ito Emembolu**  
Director, TechQuest STEM Academy, Nigeria

**Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa**  
Ag. Director, NITDA IT Hub (NITHub), Nigeria

**Dr. Ito Emembolu**, Director of TechQuest STEM Academy and host of the Research Exchange Prelude gave the welcome address and explained the purpose of the exchange. She encouraged participants to engage and talk about the work they are involved in as a first step towards identifying research interests and shared collaboration. She moderated the conversations at the virtual exchange.

**Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa**, Ag. Director, NITDA IT Hub (NITHub), encouraged participants to attend the on-site Research Exchange scheduled during the Omniverse Africa Summit and expressed the need to share experiences and build relationships with funders and other participants who were ready to take the output of their research and commercialise it.

### 3.4 Speakers



**Mr. Kingsley Godwin**  
Programme Manager,  
The Nigerian Impact  
Investing Research Industry  
Collaborative (NIIRIC), Impact  
Investors Foundation, Nigeria



**Oluwaseyi Ogidiolu**  
Technical Advisor, Innovation  
and Entrepreneurship Digital  
Transformation Centre Nigeria  
(DTC Nigeria)



**Dr. Erik Hansalek**  
Head of Division - Corporation  
with Africa and Middle East -  
Federal Ministry of Education  
and Research, Germany



**Dr. Calvin Bonds**  
Global Leadership Training  
Consultant, USA

**Mr. Kingsley Godwin**, Programme Manager for the Nigerian Impact Investing Research Industry Collaborative (NIIRIC) from Impact Investors Foundation, Nigeria, was the first guest speaker. He spoke about the Impact Investors Foundation (IIF) and how the IIF is addressing the critical need for research, cohesive industry collaboration and building a robust policy framework for impact investing research and innovation in Nigeria. He shared the mission of NIIRIC in fostering collaboration and accelerating the growth of Nigeria's impact investing Research and Innovation Ecosystem. He spoke about the different consulting opportunities they had for the research community, including facilitation of workshops for research commercialisation, drafting the bill for impact investing, commercialisation framework for research outputs, and mapping of the impact investing ecosystem.

**Mr. Oluwaseyi Ogidiolu**, Technical Advisor, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria (DTC Nigeria), spoke about the research exchange from a GIZ perspective. He spoke about GIZ engagements, including policy implementation frameworks, working with supply chains, supporting digital transformation of businesses, innovation organisations and networks to drive impact. He highlighted the importance of research in innovation and the move from mainly research publications and conceptual research to

applied research and commercialization of research. He also encouraged participants to attend the onsite Omniverse research exchange planned at the Omniverse Africa Summit 2025.

**Dr. Erik Hansalek**, Head of Division (Corporation with Africa and Middle East), Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany, spoke about the German African Innovation Incentive Award (GAIIA). GAIIA recognizes remarkable ideas and innovative approaches from collaborations between German and African researchers and partners. The award is presented every 2 years by his ministry, and last year's event was in collaboration with the German Chamber of Commerce in Berlin, Germany. Due to the intersections between research and innovation; creating knowledge, applying it in practice, creating concrete solutions to solve grand global challenges, and going to market, it was important for the Chamber of Commerce to be involved.

**GAIIA** - Each German-African research collaboration selected receives up to 150,000 euros to bring their joint research project and vision to life. Winners also receive tailored business training and personalized coaching. Dr. Hansalek thanked Dr. Ito Emembolu for her collaboration and contributions as a jury member in the last winners' selection process. He highlighted Germany's worldwide expertise in renewable energy, artificial intelligence, and other fields, and Germany's willingness to cooperate internationally and to work with the best. He expressed interest in cooperation on innovations emerging from Africa, connecting doers from both regions and fostering collaborations that yield significant benefits for both sides and all involved. The next call for GAIIA would be in late 2025 or the beginning of 2026, and he enjoined participants to keep an eye out for the announcements.

### 3.5 Guest Researchers



**Dr. Julio Hanson, Ed.D**  
Principal, Loyola Village Fine  
and Performing Arts Magnet,  
California, USA



**Dr. Folasade Mojisola Dahunsi**  
Team Lead/ Smart Systems  
Engineer, ImoleDe - Smart  
Solar Energy Management  
Systems, Nigeria





**Dr. Sherry Davis Ed.D**  
President, Association of Pan-African Doctoral Scholars Inc., California, USA



**Dr. Julius Ehigie**  
Senior Lecturer, University of Lagos, Nigeria



**Dr. Kai Dupe Ed.D**  
Associate Professor of Computer Science - Skagit Valley College, Washington, USA

The first rapid-fire research showcase was from the creative sector by **Dr. Julio Hanson** who is the principal of Loyola Village Fine and Performing Arts Magnet in California, USA. He spoke about his immersion in the creative sector, his research work on the power of artistic activism in changing communities, and his work with the students and his community as the principal of Loyola Village Fine and Performing Arts Magnet. He spoke about arts and mental health, listing some of the benefits, such as stress reduction, emotion regulation, improved cognitive functions, and social connections. He worked participants through some of his processes with practical exercises, including muscle stretching and vocal cord massage.

From an engineering and tech background, **Dr. Folashade Mojisola Dahunsi**, the team lead and Smart Systems Engineer at ImoleDe - Smart Solar Energy Management Systems, Nigeria. Addressing the issue of electricity, Dr. Dahunsi spoke about their solution, ‘the emulator,’ an innovative, non-intrusive add-on solution that optimises energy generation and consumption in solar setups. The non-intrusive solution uses IoT to control smart energy installations using a mobile application; it manages, predicts, and controls solar usage remotely. Her team has a functional prototype able to monitor energy parameters with integrated automatic switching.

**Dr. Sherry Davis** is the president of the Association of Pan-African Doctoral Scholars, a nonprofit organisation that focuses on the support and mentorship of Pan-African doctoral candidates and scholars, based out of Los Angeles, California, USA. Her research focuses on the intersection of online learning and AI literacy and how to provide accessible, quality education through digital platforms. She also touched on the need for more females in STEM and how her team is creating a virtual faculty development program that focuses on STEM and women. She is exploring partnerships with universities and collaborations in Nigeria

**Dr. Julius Ehigie**, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and a mathematician, spoke about a research project of one of his previous Master’s students that modeled diseases. The solution is a malaria model that models the dynamics or spread of Malaria in a particular ecosystem or population and provides an understanding of the number of people infected and those recovering, using neural networks. He also spoke about how the team has used the understanding from this model and machine learning to explore air pollution and use an ‘air quality index’ to track toxic concentrations in the atmosphere. Useful for good health, well-being, sustainable cities, and climate action.

**Dr. Kai Dupe**, a professional software engineer and an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Skagit Valley College in Washington, USA, spoke about his research aimed at broadening the participation of African Americans in computing and related areas. He highlighted the importance of digital transformation – the process of digitising and automating aspects of one’s business – and the many benefits it provides to the organisation such as speed to innovation, reduced inefficiencies, and utilisation of data analytics and predictive analytics. He touched on skill shortages and the need for acquiring relevant technical skills needed by organisations starting with foundational pieces of knowledge, leveraging Massive Open Online Curriculums (MOOC) and getting the required certifications. His research and other research have identified video gaming as very effective for teaching and learning for young people and highlighted some of the works of AWS and Microsoft in their gamification offerings. He end his rapid-fire conversation by talking about broadening the participation of people of colour and bringing them to the table in building computational algorithms and devices, and how that will go a long way toward equity, diversity, and inclusion

## 3.6 Audience Spotlight

As part of the research exchange, participants attending the session were encouraged to share a bit about themselves or their organisational interests. These are some audience spotlights

“We are working with university business units in researching digital progression trends in entrepreneurship and the small business sector.

- **Christoff Oosthuysen,**  
Entrepreneurial Planning Institute

“A research organisation that develops science and technology using African Indigenous Knowledge Systems, especially Odu Ifa, combined with modern science. We seek funding, support, and collaboration to build this technology

- **CENProject**

“At BB Teams, “We provide a bridge linking secondary students in underserved communities to Digital Literacy, the primary driver for Africa’s Digital Economy

- **Bella Bassey**

“At Empowering Africans, “We fund and execute impact projects in education, focusing on STEM, entrepreneurship, vocational training, and teacher capacity building. We seek collaborations with educational institutions, funding partners, and nonprofits.

- **Angel Benson**

“I am a Crop Physiologist focusing on lodging resistance of crops like rice and tomato. I train students on research and its translation to large-scale production. Open for collaboration

- **Solomon Olagunju,**  
Olabisi Onabanjo University

“I am interested in funding opportunities for solar/green energy for tech hubs.

- **JohnPaul Hampo**

“At ElewaTV, “We are a media production company focused on storytelling and the creative industry. We seek funding and collaborations to expand our reach and strengthen productions.

- **Happiness Udoh**

“Ubulu Africa, a Digital Innovation Hub in Nigeria, focuses on university-industry collaboration, startup and small business support, and corporate innovation. We seek partnerships with industry and academic institutions for research projects on open innovation and incentive-based competitions.

- **Odiong Akpan, Ubulu Africa**

“I am interested in opportunities supporting flexible working in healthcare, edtech, and digital collaborations for women in the workplace. Open for consulting opportunities

- **Elizabeth Uchealor,**  
University Hospital Dorset, UK

“I seek scholarship opportunities for PhD studies in renewable energy optimization and climate change mitigation. Currently enrolled in the Master Research Program on Informatics and Climate Change at Joseph Ki-Zerbo University

- **Salifou IDI.K**



## 3.7 Opportunities Shared

**The Nigerian Impact Investing Research Industry Collaborative (NIIRIC)**, established under the auspices of the Impact Investors Foundation (IIF) and the Nigerian Advisory Board on Impact Investing (NABII) shared some opportunities during the buildup to the Omniverse Summit.

- Call for consultants to:
- Produce a Quarterly Research and Innovation Industry Brief
  - Produce a Quarterly Impact Investing Market Research & Policy Brief
  - Facilitate the Research and Innovation to Commercialization Workshop
  - Map the Nigerian Impact Investing Market Ecosystem
  - Consultant/Website Designer to Develop a User-Based Website for the Nigerian Impact Investing Research Industry Collaborative (NIIRIC)
  - Develop a roadmap for mainstreaming Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) in the Nigerian Impact Investing Ecosystem
  - Facilitation of a Validation Workshop and Support for the Organisation of the 3rd Gender impact Investment Summit (GIIS)

**German African Innovation Incentive Award (GAIIA)** held every 2 years with an award of 150,000 Euros. Each, recognizes remarkable ideas and innovative approaches from collaborations between German and African researchers and partners. Call for Applications will be communicated once open

Other opportunities shared included the opportunity to participate at the Omniverse Research Exchange on Friday 28th February 2025 at the Omniverse Summit, Landmark Event Centre in Lagos, Nigeria and opportunities for researchers to showcase their research to a global audience in the research compendium.



# Omniverse Research Exchange: Main Event

## 4.1 Overview

On February 28th, 2025, the Omniverse Research Exchange Main Event was held on the final day of the 4-day Omniverse Africa Summit held at the Landmark Event Centre, Nigeria. The initiative was led by TechQuest in collaboration with NITHub, hosted by the main sponsor, GIZ/Digital Transformation Centre (DTC) Nigeria, and implemented with the support of multiple key partners who played vital roles in ensuring the event's impact and reach. The Research Exchange main event was a 4-hour onsite event. It consisted of keynote addresses, panel sessions, a research synergy roundtable, and rapidfire research showcases.

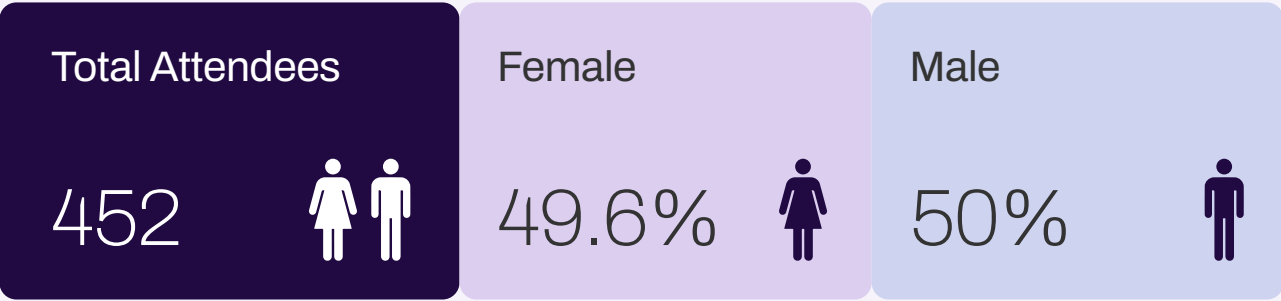
**Date of the Research Exchange (Main Event):** 28th February 2025

**Location:** Digital Transformation Room, Omniverse Africa Summit, Landmark Events Centre, Lagos

**Moderator:** Anita Agbakoba, Growth & Partnerships Manager, TechQuest

# 4.0

## 4.2 Attendance Highlights



The Omniverse Research Exchange originally targeted 100 participants; however, the event attracted an impressive 452 attendees. This overwhelming turnout reflects the growing interest in research collaboration, innovation, and multi-stakeholder engagement across academia, government, and industry. It underscores the relevance of the Exchange as a timely and needed platform for bridging research with practice and policy.

Among the 452 attendees, 50% identified as males, and 49.6% identified as females.

The categories of participants in the Omniverse Research Exchange reflect the diverse ecosystem engaged in research, innovation, and development.

Academia made up 8.2% of the attendees. 2.9% of the attendees were from Government organisations. Innovation hubs constituted 6.2% of the attendees at the Research Exchange. 42.7% of participants were young people (National Youth Service Corps - NYSC).

Policy advocates made up 6.0% of the attendees. Potential funders made up 6.0% of the attendees. 23.0% of the attendees were private entities. Research collaborators constituted 6.0% of the attendees and Research Commercialisation Partners made up 2.0% of the total attendees at the Research Exchange.





## 4.3 Visit of the European Union Ambassador to Nigeria

During the Research Exchange main event, **Ambassador Gautier Mignot**, the European Union Ambassador to Nigeria, **Inga Stefanowicz**, Head of Section, Delegation of the EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, visited the Digital Transformation Centre (DTC) Room, in the company of **Charles Emembolu**, Convener of the Omniverse Africa and **Dr Thuweba Diwani**, Head of Projects at GIZ / Digital Transformation Centre (DTC), Nigeria.



L-R: Dr. Thuweba Diwani, Head of Project at GIZ/Digital Transformation Center (DTC) Nigeria; Ambassador Gautier Mignot, the European Union Ambassador to Nigeria; Inga Stefanowicz, Head of Section, Delegation of the EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS



Dr. Thuweba Diwani, Head of Project at GIZ/Digital Transformation Center (DTC) Nigeria; Engr. Charles Emembolu, Co-convener of Omniverse Summit; Delegation of the EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS; Inga Stefanowicz, Head of Section, Delegation of the EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS



## 4.4 Keynote Addresses

**Dr. Itoro Emembolu**, Director of TechQuest STEM Academy and Co-host of the Omniverse Research Exchange gave the welcome address, welcoming all participants: researchers, special guests, and ecosystem players. She spoke about the importance of the research exchange in creating visibility for innovative research across the continent and the importance of collaboration for amplifying impact and outlined the objectives of the research exchange.

**Dr. Thuweba Diwani**, Head of Project at GIZ/Digital Transformation Center (DTC) Nigeria, gave the opening remarks. She acknowledged the importance of the Research Exchange as a timely platform aligning with GIZ/DTC's commitment to supporting research institutions and fostering digital innovation across Nigeria.



**Engr. Dr. Kabiru Mu'azu**, Director-General and CEO of the National Research Institute for Chemical Technology (NARICT), delivered a keynote address titled "From Lab to Commercialisation." In his speech, Dr. Mu'azu advocated for stronger collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to create an ecosystem that supports innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable national development.

Highlighting NARICT's commitment to technological advancement, he cited the institute's successful reverse engineering of a tomato processing plant originally based on Vietnamese technology, now operational across several northern local governments.

**Mallam Naufal Ahmad**, Director-General of Katsina Directorate of ICT gave a keynote address. In his keynote address, he emphasised the Directorate's strategic focus on leveraging digital infrastructure and innovation to drive inclusive development, enhance ICT education, and support local tech ecosystems across Katsina State.







L-R: Dr Cavin Bonds, Global Leadership Training Consultant; Dr. Itoro Emembolu, Director TechQuest STEM Academy; Mallam Naufal Ahmad, Director-General of Katsina Directorate of ICT; Engr. Charles Emembolu, Co-convener of Omniverse Summit; Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa, Director at NITHub; Engr. Dr. Kabiru Mu'azu, Director-General and CEO of the National Research Institute for Chemical Technology (NARICT)

## 4.4 Visit of the Lagos State Commissioner for Youth & Social Development

The Lagos State Commissioner for Youth & Social Development Mr Mobolaji Abubakre Ogunlende also visited the Research Exchange at the Digital Transformation room during his tour of the Omniverse Summit sections.



L-R, Isimeme Whyte, Chief Innovation Officer, Genius Hub, Daniel Chinagozie, CEO IG Hub, Segun Alimi, Technical Advisor, Digital Policy & Cooperation, Charles Emembolu, Co-convener, Omniverse Africa, Mr Mobolaji Ogunlende, Lagos State Commissioner for Youth & Sports Development, Itoro Emembolu, Director TechQuest STEM Academy, Daniel Von Ritter, Component Manager at GIZ/Digital Transformation Center (DTC) Nigeria, Anita Agbakoba, Growth & Partnership Manager, TechQuest STEM Academy



# Panel Session Discussions





## 5.1 Panel Discussion I Research-Based Innovation & Translation from Lab to Fab (Innovation to Market)

The first panel of the day, titled “Research-Based Innovation & Translation from Lab to Fab (Innovation to Market),” explored how research outputs can be effectively translated into practical industry applications. The session aimed to address the persistent gaps between academic research and commercial viability, offering diverse perspectives from academia and innovation ecosystems.

The discussion was moderated by **Dr. Calvin Bonds** and featured three distinguished panelists: **Professor Aloysius-Michaels Nnabugwu Okolie**, **Dr. Philipp Köhn**, and **Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa**.

- **Dr. Calvin Bonds** is an International Educator who is also a Global Leadership Training Coach and Master Storyteller who have helped advance organizations in India, China, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Mexico and many other countries. He is an executive producer, television and movie actor, a runway model/coach, international opera singer, and Hollywood Publicist. He used his extensive background experience along with being a published researcher and presenter with a qualitative academic focus in adult learning theory, neuroscience and storytelling to participate in the 2025 Omniverse Research Exchange.



# Digital Transformation Room



L-R: Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie, Vice Chancellor of Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa, Director at NITHub, University of Lagos, Dr. Philipp Köhn, Postdoctoral Researcher from the University of Siegen

- **Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie**, Vice Chancellor of Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), highlighted the critical role academia plays in driving innovation and research commercialisation. His discussion emphasised the importance of translating academic work into practical solutions that benefit society. Through his leadership at ESUT, Professor Okolie continues to champion a culture of creativity, innovation, and problem-solving among students and faculty.
- **Dr. Philipp Köhn**, Postdoctoral Researcher from the University of Siegen, Germany, provided a reflective and German perspective on the topic. He emphasised that translating ideas. He emphasised that translating ideas from the lab to practical, real-world innovations, is crucial for making meaningful societal impact. His contribution underscored the importance of bridging innovation with tangible outcomes.
- **Dr. Victor Odumuyiwa**, Director at NITHub, University of Lagos, and a co-organiser of the Research Exchange, offered a structured framework for understanding, offered a structured framework for understanding research-based innovation. He asserted that for innovations to truly make a difference, they must be:

- **Scientific** – grounded in empirical research and evidence.
- **Strategic** – aimed at addressing pressing real-world challenges.
- **Sustainable** – developed with long-term viability in mind.
- **Scalable** – capable of adapting to diverse contexts and expanding reach.
- **Smart** – leveraging modern technologies and data insights, particularly with AI readiness.

Collectively, the panelists agreed on the urgent need for stronger collaboration between academia, industry, and policy actors. They called for institutional reforms that prioritise commercialisation and create enabling environments for researchers to translate their findings into innovative products and services. The session set a powerful tone for the rest of the event, reinforcing the role of research as a catalyst for development.



Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie, Vice Chancellor of Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT)



Dr. Philipp Köhn, Postdoctoral Researcher from the University of Siegen





## 5.2 Panel Discussion II Student-Based Innovation – The Next Generation of Innovators

The second panel session, titled “Student-Based Innovation – The Next Generation of Innovators,” focused on how student- and youth-driven innovation are shaping Africa’s future. The objective of the panel was to explore practical strategies for fostering creativity, entrepreneurship, and problem-solving capabilities among young innovators.

The session was moderated by **Dr. Adewunmi Yinka**, who skilfully guided the conversation to ensure a rich and insightful exchange of perspectives. Panelists included:



- **Dr. Peter Bamkole**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) at Pan-Atlantic University (PAU), emphasised the pivotal role of academia in nurturing the next generation of leaders and innovators. He highlighted the need for educational institutions to create environments that encourage experimentation and collaboration.
- **Dr. Helen Emore**, Managing Director of Scientia Partners and faculty at PAU, spoke to the importance of innovation hubs and ecosystems in supporting youth-driven innovation. She called for stronger collaboration between academia, industry, and government to establish sustainable support systems for young innovators.
- **Mr. Makinde Joseph**, Founder of Swipe, shared the entrepreneurial perspective by offering practical insights on how young innovators can leverage technology to create impactful solutions. He stressed the importance of resilience and adaptability in the entrepreneurial journey.

Together, the panelists shared profound insights on empowering students to transform their ideas into real-world solutions that address Africa's unique challenges. The discussion sparked meaningful conversations on how to build enabling ecosystems that support youth innovation. Emphasis was placed on the importance of collaboration across sectors; academia, industry, and government - to provide the necessary resources, mentorship, and platforms that enable young innovators to thrive.



Dr. Peter Bamkole, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) at Pan-Atlantic University (PAU)



Mr. Makinde Joseph, Founder of Swipe



Dr. Adewunmi Yinka, Senior Lecturer, University of Lagos



Dr. Helen Emore, Managing Director of Scientia Partners

# Overview of The Research Synergy Roundtable

The Research Synergy Roundtable brought together researchers, funders, development finance institutions (DFIs), innovation enablers, and industry stakeholders to explore synergies across five critical themes: Research Commercialization (facilitated by Ms. Tolulope Aina – Innov8 Hub), Intellectual Property (IP) Management (facilitated by Dr. Folake Adewumi – UNILAG), Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs) and Research Intersections (facilitated by Kehinde Ayeni – LEAP Africa), Funding Opportunities (Mr Oluwaseyi Ogidiolu), and Technology Adoption and Transfer (facilitated by Mr Olubanjo Adetunji – Survey Plus). Structured as an 80-minute interactive exchange, the session highlighted current research activities of participants, institutional capacities, and collaboration gaps while co-creating pathways for applied research impact. It provided a platform for participants to articulate their research agendas, map ecosystem resources, identify common challenges, and generate actionable insights for future partnership development.

The session was structured into five parts: Rapid Research Snapshot, Connecting the Dots, Stakeholder Mapping and Thematic Discussions, Showcasing & Bringing It Together. What follows is a narrative account of each segment, beginning with insights from the Rapid Research Snapshot.

# 6.0



## 6.1 Rapid Research Snapshot

The Rapid Research Snapshot session is designed as an interactive segment to enhance participant engagement, strengthen visibility of ongoing research, and foster a culture of collaboration across institutions and sectors. The session guided both participants to share responses to four reflective questions: “Who am I? What am I working on? What do I need? How can I help others?”

These brief introductions offered insights into individual research pursuits, institutional affiliations, and areas where support or collaboration was needed or could be provided. Below is a synthesis of some of the participant submissions.

Participant Profile	Participant Activities	Participant Needs	Participant Offerings
Academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subject-specific Research across different sectors e.g. Agric processing, cold storage.</li><li>• - Education technology enhancement and integration</li><li>• - Transportation technology</li><li>• - Financial literacy</li><li>• - Entrepreneurship research</li><li>• - Education system reforms.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding (local and international)</li><li>• Collaboration; internship opportunities</li><li>• Policy support</li><li>• Knowledge exchange.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academic research expertise</li><li>• Mentorship</li><li>• Training for students</li><li>• Solutions for socio-economic development using research outcomes.</li></ul>
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Science research &amp; innovation</li><li>• Support for innovation ecosystems</li><li>• ICT development</li><li>• Chemical technology research</li><li>• Public-private partnerships.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Global and national exposure</li><li>• Stronger academia-government-private collaboration</li><li>• Innovation acceleration frameworks.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy support</li><li>• R&amp;D funding mechanisms</li><li>• Infrastructure for innovation</li><li>• Regulatory facilitation</li><li>• National visibility for research translation.</li></ul>
Innovation Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AI research</li><li>• Machine learning</li><li>• Education technology platforms</li><li>• Innovation capacity building</li><li>• Support for tech entrepreneurs</li><li>• Digital innovation support</li><li>• Reducing distractions in online learning platforms.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaboration with startups, academia, and funders</li><li>• Innovation infrastructure</li><li>• Exposure to advanced R&amp;D.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incubation support; mentorship</li><li>• Platform for research commercialisation</li><li>• Training and technical support for innovators.</li></ul>
Local Implementation Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fintech platforms</li><li>• Business expansion through digital tools.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding</li><li>• Partnership opportunities</li><li>• Wider market access.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business scaling support</li><li>• Technical implementation support for research outcomes</li><li>• Innovation deployment platforms.</li></ul>
NYSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth mobilisation</li><li>• Internship opportunities</li><li>• Capacity building for national service members.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Platforms for youth engagement in research</li><li>• Training</li><li>• Career pathways.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to youth workforce</li><li>• Platform for pilot programs</li><li>• National coverage for applied research programs.</li></ul>
Policy Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy advisory in innovation, entrepreneurship, education, youth engagement</li><li>• Establishment of Trade and vocational centers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaboration with government and private sector</li><li>• Technical expertise</li><li>• Access to research data for policy development.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy development expertise and implementation support</li><li>• Advocacy platforms</li><li>• Stakeholder mobilization.</li></ul>

Potential Funder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding opportunities for innovation, startups, education technology, research commercialisation, healthcare solutions, and financial inclusion.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to viable, investable research projects</li><li>• Innovative business models</li><li>• Measurable impact metrics.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Financial investment; grant opportunities</li><li>• Institutional support for innovation ecosystems</li><li>• Mentorship on fundraising.</li></ul>
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diverse business models: fintech, edtech, healthcare, product design, insurance, retail, real estate, agriculture, media, manufacturing (e.g. plastic-to-building material conversion), digital platforms.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patronage</li><li>• Funding</li><li>• Market expansion</li><li>• Capacity development</li><li>• Partnerships.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Market platforms; entrepreneurship training</li><li>• Business networks</li><li>• Practical implementation of research outcomes</li><li>• Industry mentorship.</li></ul>
Research Collaborator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health information systems</li><li>• AI</li><li>• Data management</li><li>• Intellectual property</li><li>• Entrepreneurship</li><li>• Digital health</li><li>• Transportation systems research</li><li>• Renewable energy</li><li>• Education innovation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaboration</li><li>• Technical partnerships</li><li>• Joint research</li><li>• Access to funding and implementation partners</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-research partnerships</li><li>• Data sharing</li><li>• Technical expertise</li><li>• Sectoral knowledge</li><li>• Mentorship</li><li>• Interdisciplinary collaboration.</li></ul>
Research Commercialisation Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Converting research outputs into market-ready products</li><li>• Scaling up startups</li><li>• Developing commercialisation models</li><li>• Offering IP advisory services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical support</li><li>• Funding for prototype and market entry</li><li>• Policy alignment</li><li>• Industry partnerships</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commercialisation expertise</li><li>• Market access facilitation</li><li>• Incubation support</li><li>• IP management</li><li>• Investment readiness training.</li></ul>





## 6.2 Connecting the Dots

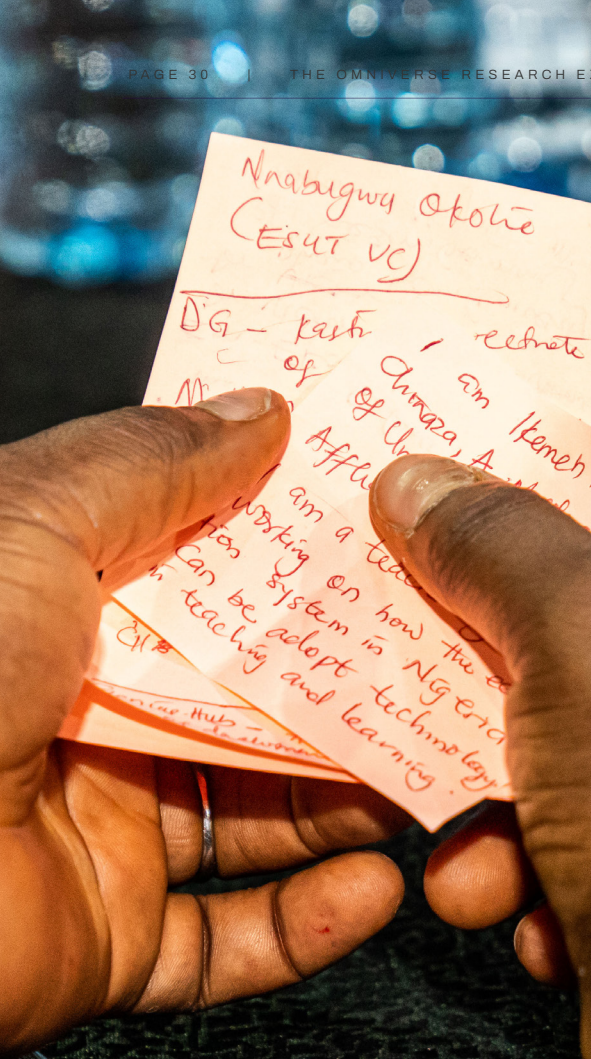
Connecting the Dots was a ten-minute interactive session designed to map participants’ research needs, which were identified during the Rapid Research Snapshot session, to available expertise and resources, thereby fostering a more connected innovation ecosystem.

Using a collaborative approach, participants each identified one major challenge and one opportunity within their research or innovation journey. These were submitted on sticky-note pads. Facilitators then clustered the inputs thematically, helping to reveal systemic gaps and areas of alignment across the ecosystem.

Challenges	Opportunities	Available Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Poor linkage between research institutes and the private sector</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formation of cross-sectoral innovation networks.</li><li>• Job creation through innovation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Innovation Facilitators</li><li>• Academia / Researchers</li><li>• Private Sector</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of incentives for researchers to commercialise their findings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provision of R&amp;D funding to support commercialisation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government</li><li>• Funding Bodies</li><li>• Private Sector / Corporate Funding</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research systems that prioritise publication over real-world impact</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy frameworks that foster enabling environments</li><li>• Development of innovation hubs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government</li><li>• Academia / Researchers</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supply-driven rather than demand-driven research</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic growth from market-relevant research outcomes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private Sector</li><li>• Academia / Researchers</li><li>• Innovation Facilitators</li></ul>

By connecting challenges to resources and opportunities, this session laid a foundation for mutual understanding and collaborative action. It emphasised the importance of cross-sectoral dialogue and the role of intermediaries in closing the gap between research and real-world impact.





## 6.3 Stakeholder Mapping & Thematic Discussions

During the Stakeholder Mapping & Thematic Discussions, participants engaged in discussions around the five themes, identifying challenges, opportunities, and key stakeholders to drive solutions. The five themes and the facilitators included:

- a. Research Commercialisation**  
Theme Facilitator: **Ms. Tolulope Aina (Innov8 Hub)**
  - b. Intellectual Property (IP) Management**  
Theme facilitator: **Dr. Folake Adewumi (UNILAG)**
  - c. Entrepreneur Support Organisations (ESOs), Innovation & Research Intersections**  
Theme Facilitator: **Kehinde Ayeni (LEAP Africa),**
  - d. Funding Opportunities**  
Theme Facilitator: **Oluwaseyi Ogidiolu (GIZ/DTC)**
  - e. Technology Adoption and Transfer**  
Theme Facilitator: **Dr Olubanjo Adetunji (Survey Plus)**
- Moderators: **Dr Itoro Emembolu (TechQuest STEM Academy)** and **Dr Calvin Bonds (Global Leadership Training Coach)**

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities	Key Stakeholders
Research Commercialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inconsistent and poorly implemented local content policies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Public-private partnerships.</li><li>Capacity-building initiatives to enhance translational research</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government Agencies (e.g., Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, NOTAP, NASENI, LASRIC)</li><li>Private Sector Actors (Entrepreneurs, tech innovators, angel investors)</li><li>Civil Society &amp; Development Actors (NGOs, MDOs)</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Endemic corruption impeding transparency in funding and partnerships</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scaling startup and research funding mechanisms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Financial Institutions (e.g., Zenith Bank Plc, Commercial and Microfinance banks)</li><li>Government Agencies</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inadequate funding and underdeveloped infrastructure for commercialisation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establishment of Technology Transfer Offices</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academia/Research Institutions (Universities, Polytechnics)</li><li>Financial Institutions, Government Agencies</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of engagement between Faculty and Industry</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Applied Industry Research Collaboration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academia/Research Institutions</li><li>Private Sector Actors</li><li>Ministry of Agriculture</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of awareness about commercialisation pathways</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Contribution &amp; Promotion of SMEs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academia/Research Institutions, Innovation Facilitators</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Persistent disconnect between youths and the innovation system</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Job creation through commercialisation</li><li>Growing interest in startups</li><li>Potential for increased IGR</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academia/Research Institutions</li><li>Ministry of Agriculture</li><li>Civil Society Actors</li></ul>



Intellectual Property (IP) Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IP theft: Research-based IP are taken over by multinationals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government role in enforcement and setting procedures</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government</li><li>Industry Actors</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Legal inadequacy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Involve lawyers at all levels</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lawyers and legal professionals</li><li>Government</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of awareness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increase IP awareness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academia</li><li>Local Communities</li><li>NGOs</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of industry involvement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Businesses are able to scale up</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Industry Actors</li><li>Government</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Weak or absent mechanisms for IP enforcement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government role in enforcement and setting procedures</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government</li><li>Lawyers</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nonchalance of youths in IP governance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Youth development (grassroots &amp; tech)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Youth Networks</li><li>Civil Society</li><li>Local Communities</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of private sector involvement in implementation of IP security</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Businesses are able to scale up</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Private Sector Actors</li><li>Government</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cybersecurity risks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reduce workload</li><li>Reduce cost</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tech innovators</li><li>Legal professionals</li><li>Government</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IP Abuse</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improve traditional innovations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NGOs</li><li>Local Communities</li><li>Academia</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Poor Critical thinking</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Youth development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academia</li><li>Youth Networks</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inadequate structures and frameworks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improve traditional innovations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government</li><li>Civil Society</li></ul>
Entrepreneur Support Organisations (ESOs), Innovation & Research Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No awareness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Promote creativity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ESOs</li><li>Innovation Hubs</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of finance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wealth generation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Financial Institutions</li><li>Private Sector</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of research</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Indigenous-based research</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academia</li><li>ESOs</li><li>NGOs</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of inclusivity for Gen Z</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Freshness of Gen Z (harness potential)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Youth-led organizations</li><li>NGOs</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of robust framework for ecosystem</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regeneration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Innovation Facilitators</li><li>Civil Society</li><li>Company Owners</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of access to quality business development services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Healthier environment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Company Owners</li><li>ESOs</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of long-term funding and services</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>TETFUND</li><li>National Research Fund</li><li>AFDB</li><li>World Bank</li><li>NSERC</li><li>Mastercard Foundation</li><li>UNESCO</li></ul>



Funding Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Political interests behind fund allocation / bureaucracy</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>TETFUND</li><li>National Research Fund</li><li>AFDB</li><li>World BankNSERC</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complex application processes</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>UNESCO</li><li>TETFUND</li><li>Mastercard</li><li>NSERC</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Delay in disbursement</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>AFDB</li><li>World Bank</li><li>TETFUND</li><li>National Research Fund</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Biased selection process</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>National Research Fund</li><li>UNESCO</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of private investment</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mastercard</li><li>Private Investors</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No clear research problem</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Research Institutions</li><li>NSERC</li><li>Academia</li></ul>
Technology Adoption and Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>General acceptance and resistance to change</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collaboration between thinkers that drive innovation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Academia</li><li>Tech Startups</li><li>Innovation Facilitators</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lack of technical expertise in education and other fields</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Data analytics</li><li>Automation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Universities</li><li>Polytechnics</li><li>Innovation Hubs</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Infrastructure issues</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Growing digital economy and youth population</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Government, Telecom Providers</li><li>Youth Networks</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Slow user adoption</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remote work</li><li>E-commerce expansion</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tech Startups</li><li>-Digital Service Providers</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maintenance complexity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Targeted startup development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Private Sector Actors</li><li>Engineering Institutions</li></ul>





## 6.4 Showcasing & Bringing It Together

In this session, each thematic facilitator synthesised the insights from their respective sessions during the Stakeholder Mapping & Thematic Discussions into an interactive presentation. Over the course of 15 minutes, facilitators from the five thematic areas; **Research Commercialisation** (Ms. Tolulope Aina), **Intellectual Property Management** (Dr. Folake Adewumi), **ESOs, Innovation & Research Intersections** (Mrs. Kehinde Ayeni), **Funding Opportunities** (Mr. Oluseyi Ogidiolu), and **Technology Adoption and Transfer** (Dr Olubanjo Adetunji); collectively highlighted actionable pathways that emerged from participant discussions. Their presentations underscored the interlinkages between stakeholder engagement, institutional support, policy alignment, and knowledge exchange as critical enablers for advancing a cohesive innovation ecosystem

The discussions were not only reflective but also forward-looking, offering practical suggestions for improving cross-sector collaboration. Facilitators emphasised the importance of sustained dialogue, co-creation mechanisms, and the need for institutional structures that support implementation, such as

Technology Transfer Offices and inclusive funding frameworks. This segment served as a bridge between ideation and execution, encouraging participants to commit to roles within the ecosystem that would strengthen research relevance, commercialisation, and policy-to-practice feedback loops across Nigeria's innovation landscape.

To close out the research synergy roundtable, Dr. Ito provided a reflective overview of the Synergy Roundtable, emphasising the critical need for collaboration among stakeholders to bridge existing gaps between research and application. She stressed the importance of increased funding support as a catalyst for research commercialisation, noting that without intentional investment and partnership across academia, government, and industry, valuable research outputs risk remaining underutilised. Her summary called for actionable steps toward building a sustainable ecosystem where research is not only generated but effectively translated into market-ready solutions.





# Rapidfire Research Showcase

The Rapidfire Research Showcase provided a platform for researchers across Africa to present ongoing and impactful work within a five-minute timeslot. This fast-paced session highlighted innovative approaches to pressing societal and development challenges and emphasised the practical application of research in real-world contexts. The following are some of the research highlights from the session:



Dr. Omolola Salako, Senior Lecturer, UNILAG,  
CEO pearl Oncology Specialist Hospital



# INTEROPERABLE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE (IHE) IN SENEGAL



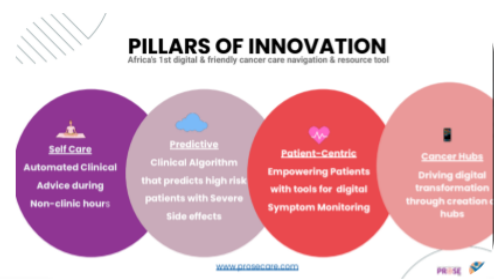
Name: **Mr. Mamadou Djigo**

Organisation: **KaiKai SAS**

Mr. Mamadou Djigo (Kakai SAS) presented his work on the implementation of Interoperable Health Information Exchange in Senegal. His project aims to demonstrate to the Senegalese Government and Ministry of Health that the national electronic medical record (EMR) project can be delivered through an interoperable framework that leverages existing digital health solutions and the capabilities of the local private IT sector

Country: Senegal

# SYMPTOM MONITORING TO ENHANCE CANCER CARE IN LOW-RESOURCE SETTINGS



Name: **Dr. Omolola Salako**

Organisation: **UNILAG**

Dr. Omolola Salako (UNILAG) presented findings from her ongoing research on improving cancer care delivery through symptom monitoring in African. She highlighted the multiple challenges facing cancer control, including prevention, where up to 40% of cancers are preventable; diagnosis, with 70% of patients presenting at late stages.

Country: Nigeria



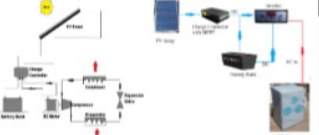


## INNOVATIVE LOW-COST ENERGY SYSTEMS FOR VACCINE STORAGE

### Our Proposed Solution

Considering the solar insolation potentials in Nigeria, we propose an innovative energy-efficient solar refrigeration systems that can withstand any environmental conditions. It comes with

- Improved performance through the incorporation of super/dielectric capacitor.
- Efficient and reliable system under various environmental conditions.
- Quick operation, extremely low noise and low energy consumption
- Capable of freezing down to -4°F making it a great choice for storing a variety of vaccines.



Name: Dr. Gbeminiyi M. Sobamowo

Organisation: UNILAG

Dr. Gbeminiyi Sobamowo (UNILAG) introduced a project dedicated to developing efficient and low-cost energy systems tailored for developing countries, particularly in the healthcare sector. His presentation addressed critical issues in vaccine preservation, noting the challenges of maintaining cold chain systems in regions with unreliable power supply and harsh environmental conditions.

Country: Nigeria

## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR SARGASSUM RESEARCH (CESAR)



Name: Prof. Benjamin Aribisala

Organisation: LASU/LASRIC

Prof. Benjamin Aribisala (LASU/LASRIC), presented a compelling case for transforming the environmental nuisance posed by Sargassum seaweed into a valuable economic and ecological resource. Found extensively along the shorelines of Lagos State, Sargassum has disrupted local agricultural and water-based activities.

Country: Nigeria



# Closing Remarks

Mr. Oluwaseyi Ogidiolu, Technical Advisor, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria (DTC Nigeria), expressed sincere appreciation to all keynote speakers, panelists, facilitators, presenters, and attendees whose active participation contributed to the success of the event. He acknowledged the immense value of the ideas shared throughout the sessions, from the rich panel discussions to the insightful roundtable engagements and the dynamic research showcases.

Mr. Oluwaseyi spoke about the urgent need for sustained collaboration among stakeholders in academia, government, industry, and civil society to unlock the full potential of research-based innovation across Africa. His remarks served as both a reflection and a call to action, encouraging attendees to take the insights gained from the Exchange and translate them into concrete partnerships and impactful solutions for societal development.

8.0



# Conclusion

The Omniverse Research Exchange successfully convened a diverse array of stakeholders; including researchers, academics, policymakers, funders, and innovation leaders; to foster meaningful collaboration, enhance the visibility of African-led research, and promote the commercialisation of research outputs.

Through dynamic sessions such as keynote addresses, panel discussions, rapidfire research showcases, and thematic roundtable discussions, the event highlighted critical challenges and opportunities within the research ecosystem, particularly around innovation translation, student-led initiatives, and intellectual property management.

The hybrid format enabled wide participation and crosscontinental engagement, reinforcing the event's core vision of unifying researchers through shared purpose and strategic collaboration for sustainable impact across Africa

# 9.0

# Recommendations

Several pertinent recommendations were gleaned from participant discussions and responses during the Research Exchange activities. Some key ones include:

## 1. Need to Establish Regional Technology Transfer and Commercialisation Hubs:

In order to address the disconnect between research outputs and market needs, regional hubs should be set up within universities /research institutions and in collaboration with Entrepreneur support organisations. These hubs would:

- Facilitate industry-academia partnerships,
- Offer support in translational research
- Provide training on commercialisation pathways, and
- Act as liaison offices for startups and SMEs seeking to adopt research-based innovations. To enhance participants' preparedness and prior to event activities, curated reading lists should be provided in alignment with indicated thematic areas of preference to ensure better informed contributions.

## 2. Need to Launch a Cross-Continental Research Finance Platform:

Given funding delays, bureaucracy, and the scarcity of private investment in research, there is also a need to:

- Develop a digital matchmaking platform for African researchers and global funders (public and private),
- Integrate transparent peer-review funding mechanisms, and
- Offer grant writing clinics and application support services to simplify complex funding processes.

Other recommendations include increased promotion of indigenous, community-based innovation aligned with local challenges, including younger (Gen-Z) and youth-led organizations to bridge generational gaps in the research space, improving collaboration between startups and research institutions for pilot deployments of technologies, and creating accessible IP registration and advisory services at innovation hubs.













# THE OMNIVERSE

## RESEARCH EXCHANGE

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