

Co-Creation Hub launches in Rwanda

Nigeria's innovation centre, Co-Creation Hub (CcHUB) has officially expanded to Kigali, Rwanda, with the launch of the CcHUB Design Lab.



CcHUB Design Lab, Rwanda

The new state-of-the-art lab will see CcHUB's multidisciplinary team of product designers and engineers collaborate with scientists and stakeholders globally, to solve Africa's systemic problems in health, education and governance.

[Co-Creation Hub](#) is an unprecedented next step in Africa's growing tech sector, and is set to become a leading creative space dedicated to accelerating the application of social capital and technology for economic prosperity. CcHUB is now looking to partner with both public and private industry bodies from across the continent.

Minister of ICT and Innovation, Rwanda, Paula Ingabire, will launch the new lab with CcHUB's founder and CEO, 'Bosun Tijani. They will be joined by Kampeta Pitchette Sayinzoga, director general, National Industrial Research & Development Agency, Rwanda; Patrick Buchana Nsenga, chief executive officer, AC Group Rwanda; and Jeanine U. Condo, director general, Rwanda Biomedical Center.

Commenting on the official launch, Paula Ingabire said: "CcHUB's expansion into Kigali, marked with the launch of the Design Lab today, is an exciting landmark for Rwanda's burgeoning tech community. Rwanda is keen on collaborating with world-class partners to establish ourselves as a leading destination that nurtures innovation-driven enterprises. We see

technology as an integral gateway and means of developing society - an ethos and mission shared by CcHUB.

"As we strive to become a knowledge-based economy, we will continue to build long-lasting, strategic partnerships that celebrate excellence, forge ahead with progress and that are, essentially, a force for good that will impact thousands of people across the continent."

To coincide with the launch, CcHUB will announce the [Rwanda Biomedical Centre](#) as its first local company to partner, joining the likes of [Go-Ga Lab](#), [Nimcure](#) and [Safe Online](#).

Focus areas

With an unrivalled track record of supporting tech-enabled companies connected with civic society, CcHUB boasts a pre-incubation portfolio of over 60 companies, including digital blood bank, [Lifebank](#); recycling venture, [WeCyclers](#); and [Budgit](#), a web platform that simplifies the Nigerian budget and public data. The Design Lab, which further reinforces CcHUB's commitment to solving Africa's biggest development and social challenges, will be powered by a multidisciplinary design team of designers and engineers. Using design and innovation, the three key sectors of focus are:

1. **Public Health:** Focused on digital epidemiology by collaborating with a cross-sector of stakeholders including scientists, researchers, health professionals and developers to use technology in accelerating the adoption of locally-created solutions for better detection and surveillance of diseases, and improving adherence to treatment.
2. **Education:** Focused on improving students' interests, participation and learning outcomes in STEM education, with attention paid to teaching methods and use of creative content.
3. **Governance:** Focused on the role of technology in helping the government promote participatory governance, transparency and more effective public services for social and economic prosperity.

On the launch of the Design Lab, Tijani, CcHUB's co-founder and CEO comments, "We've been building tech businesses alongside African entrepreneurs for almost a decade and in that time, we've identified a common challenge that businesses face when it comes to sustainable growth - Design and Innovation.

"With the CcHUB Design lab, we will be collaborating with organisations that may not have the capacity to design, build and innovate as quick as leaner startups would. The lab will also build on CcHUB's extensive global and pan-African network of partners, research institutes and governmental organisations to execute practical design projects that will solve some of our social and business challenges at scale."

"Whilst our work from the lab will focus on the entire continent, we chose Rwanda as the country to operate from because of the ease of doing business in the country. Additionally, by collaborating with the Government of Rwanda, whose vision aligns with ours, we hope to find solutions that will enable socio-economic development, productivity and development across Africa."

Since launching in 2011, CcHUB has built a community of over 13,000 technologists, entrepreneurs and thought-leaders, and has incubated and provided support to a portfolio of over 110 early stage ventures providing solutions to social problems with technology. With the expansion, CcHUB plans to invest approximately \$11m in Rwanda.