

Applications open for second Google Launchpad Accelerator Africa

 By [Tom Jackson](#)

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Google has opened applications for class two of its Launchpad Accelerator Africa programme, extending it in the process to a further 12 African countries.



[Disrupt Africa reported](#) in March Google announced the 12 startups that would participate in the first [Launchpad Accelerator Africa](#) class, including Nigerian savings platform [Piggybank.ng](#), Kenyan microlending startup [Pezesha](#) and South African livestock buying and selling service [swiftVEE](#).

Those 12 startups graduated from the programme last week, and Google is now calling for [applications](#) from 18 countries across the continent – Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Cameroon, Botswana, Senegal, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast and Algeria in addition to existing eligible countries Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda – for the second edition.



12 startups selected for first African Google Launchpad Accelerator

Tom Jackson 20 Mar 2018



The programme, which runs for three months and will operate out of Lagos, will over the next three years provide African startups with over \$3 million in equity-free support, working space, and access to expert advisers from Google, Silicon Valley, and Africa.

Applications for class two will close on 8 July 2018. To qualify, startups have to be a technology startup, based in sub-Saharan Africa, targeting the African market, and have raised seed funding. Google additionally considers the problem the startup is trying to solve, how it creates value for users, and how it addresses a real challenge for its home city, country or Africa broadly.

Folagbade Olatunji-david, head of startup success and services at Launchpad Accelerator Africa for Google, said the first three-month programme had connected the 12 participating startups with more than 20 teams from Google as well as 40 mentors from nine countries.

“Each has received \$10,000 in an equity-free cash grant, and between them they have raised over \$7 million. The startups have directly created 132 jobs and impacted 4.5 million users,” he said.

“We are humbled to be part of the success stories of these 12 startups, and as individuals, we have learned great lessons from their dedication, focus and drive. The companies will now go on to be part of the global Launchpad Alumni network, joining over 100 companies from 40 countries across five continents.”

ABOUT TOM JACKSON

Co-founder @DisruptAfrica. Tech and business journalist in Africa. Passionate about the vibrant tech startups scene in Africa, Tom can usually be found sniffing out the continent's most exciting new companies and entrepreneurs, funding rounds and any other developments within the growing ecosystem.

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