


Please complete this nomination form accurately, completely but succinctly.

1. Contact details				
Nominator (Person)	Nominating Organisation	Signature	Date	e-mail address
Dr Pierre Grobler	Synapp		2026/02/16	pierre@synapp.co.za
Nominated Person	Nominated Organisation	Sub-sector one of the following: Private Sector or Academia or Public Sector or Non-Profit	Cell phone number	e-mail address
Dr Le Roux Viljoen	The Surgical Assistant	Private Sector & NPO	0745893464	leroux@the surgicalassistant.co.za

1. Short description

+100 word description of what the innovation / solution is and who needs to be recognised for which parts of the solution.

(e.g. new service /product /solution /regulation /infrastructure /institutional capacity)

The Surgical Assistant (TSA) is a health-tech platform founded by Dr Le Roux Viljoen that connects private-sector surgeons with qualified doctors to assist in theatre. Through its scheduling platform SurgiFlow, TSA provides on-demand surgical staffing which solves a real gap where surgeons struggled to find assistants and unemployed doctors couldn't access work. TSA has grown to 2,000+ registered assistants, 200+ surgeons, and has facilitated over 2,860 surgical cases, generating more than R4.75 million in income for doctors. Le Roux should be recognised as founder and driving force behind this innovation, including the TSA Academy (CPD-accredited training) and its NPO arm supporting state-sector volunteer doctors.

1. Detailed description

Please answer all the questions (a) to (j) below, and place answers in the prescribed place as indicated in the table below (to construct a results chain):

- a. What is the target business group/s that this innovation serves and improves?
- b. How many of these target businesses have already utilised this new solution?
- c. How did these businesses access and receive the new solution?
- d. What did this new solution help these businesses become better at?
- e. How did this help to improve their business performance? *Increased sales, lower costs, increased investment, increased employment, increased exports?*
- f. What exactly is this new innovative solution?
- g. What makes it new, compared what existed before? (Novelty in the WC economy)
- h. What makes it better than what existed before?
- i. How is/was the new solution made available to the target market / business group?
- j. What will ensure that the financial viability / sustainability of providing the innovative solution and the beneficial consequences remain intact over this period? *E.g. profitable business with enduring competitive advantage in the market. What is the expected longevity of this this solution? E.g. 5yrs, 10 yrs, 10+ years*

Output: A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	Outcome: Improved business environment (for the target business group)	Impact: Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	Longevity: Duration of benefits
<p>f. A three-pillar healthcare platform: (1) SurgiFlow: a digital scheduling and matching system connecting surgeons with vetted assistants in real time, with smart matching, availability tracking, and streamlined payments. (2) TSA Academy: a CPD-accredited online learning platform offering exam prep (CMSA), surgical upskilling courses, and mentorship for doctors. (3) TSA NPO: a non-profit arm that funds and mentors unemployed doctors volunteering in state hospitals, supported by Section 18A tax-deductible donations.</p> <p>g. Before TSA, there was no structured system. Surgeons relied on personal contacts and word-of-mouth to find assistants: often failing at short notice. Unemployed doctors had no centralised way to access theatre opportunities. TSA created South Africa's first digital surgical staffing marketplace. Nothing like it existed in the Western Cape or nationally. It combines staffing, training, and social impact (NPO) into one ecosystem: which is entirely novel in the local healthcare economy.</p> <p>h. 24/7 availability vs. ad-hoc phone calls. Vetted, hospital-group-compliant assistants vs. unknown quantities. Centralised invoicing and</p>	<p>i. Started organically: Le Roux personally matched surgeons with assistants from his own network in Cape Town. Grew through word-of-mouth, surgeon referrals, and WhatsApp. Now operates nationally via SurgiFlow.io. Featured in Daily Maverick (Dec 2024) which drove significant awareness. Partnerships with PPS, PSG Wealth, Specialist Billing Collective, and hospital groups further expanded reach. TSA employs four full-time staff and has active sales operations in Cape Town and Johannesburg.</p> <p>c. Surgeons and doctors register on SurgiFlow.io (TSA's digital platform). TSA vets all assistants in line with major hospital group requirements: certified ID, HPCSA registration, degree verification, references, and surgical experience. Cases are matched based on availability, proximity, experience, and surgeon preferences. Initially via WhatsApp broadcasts, now transitioning fully to the SurgiFlow scheduling platform.</p>	<p>a. Private-sector specialist surgeons who need theatre assistants, and unemployed or underemployed GPs and medical officers (MOs) seeking paid surgical work and experience. Secondary target: private hospital groups needing compliant, vetted locum staff for their theatres.</p> <p>b. 200+ surgeons actively use the platform. 2,000+ doctors are registered as assistants. TSA operates across Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Durban. The platform currently assists with approximately 200 surgeries per month.</p> <p>d. For surgeons: reliable, fast access to vetted assistants, reducing cancelled or delayed cases when their regular assistant is unavailable. Eliminates endless phone calls and admin. For doctors: structured access to paid surgical work, hands-on experience in their discipline of choice, logbook building toward specialisation, and mentorship from senior surgeons.</p> <p>e. Surgeons experience fewer theatre delays and cancellations, meaning more procedures completed per slate — directly increasing revenue and patient throughput. Assistants earn income they otherwise wouldn't have (over R4.75 million generated</p>	<p>j. TSA operates on a 15% finder's commission per case, directly tied to surgical billing codes, making revenue scalable with volume. The platform is self-sustaining and reinvests revenue into growth. With less than 5% market penetration currently, there is massive room to scale. The TSA Academy adds a second revenue stream through online courses. The NPO arm attracts donor and corporate funding via Section 18A status. Expected longevity: 10+ years, the underlying problem (doctor unemployment, surgical staffing gaps) is structural in SA healthcare and unlikely to resolve soon.</p>

<p>payment tracking vs. surgeons chasing individual payments. Indemnity insurance included for assistants from day one. A built-in training academy that didn't exist at all before. Doctors who previously worked for free in state hospitals can now earn while building experience toward specialisation.</p>		<p>collectively). TSA handles all invoicing, payment tracking, and indemnity insurance: reducing admin burden for both parties. The single-payment model to TSA Pty (Ltd) simplifies accounting for surgeons who previously had to manage individual payments to each assistant.</p>	
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After completing the table, read from left to right. Check for coherence and improve if needed.

1. Declaration of Evidence to verify results chain

What supporting evidence can you provide to verify the results stated above are as stated?

	Output:	Outcome:	Impact:	Longevity:
	A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	Improved business environment (for the target business group)	Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	Duration of benefits
<p>What evidence can be provided?</p> <p>e.g. Records, reports, peer reviews, and so forth</p>	<p>SurgiFlow.io platform (live), TSA Academy website (academy.thesurgicassistant.co.za), company registration 2022/613528/07</p>	<p>2,000+ registered assistants, 200+ surgeons on database, ~200 surgeries/month</p>	<p>R4.75M+ income generated for assistants, 2,860+ cases, Daily Maverick feature article (Dec 2024), surgeon testimonials on website</p>	<p>Self-sustaining commission model, <5% market penetration, four full-time employees, active national expansion</p>

1. Select the best category of award for this innovation

Sector	Award	Mark with "X"
Public Sector	6 x Catalytic innovations that contribute to growth.	
Public Sector	1 x Provincial- or National-government systemic innovation most impactful on economic growth	
Public Sector	1 x Municipal (LM+DM) innovation that is impactful on growth of their local economy	
Public Sector	1 x Public-sector innovation, enhancing good governance.	
Safety & Security	1 x Innovation enhancing precinct safety & security.	
Labour Market	1 x Labour market efficacy award Reducing impediments to increased employment.	X
Academia	1 x Research most impactful on competitiveness of Industry	
Academia	1 x Tertiary education best aligned to Industry / market needs	
Academia	1 x Most successful start-up / spin out	
Academia	1 x Entrepreneurship development in higher education	
Industry Sector Bodies	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their Industry.	
Organised Business	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their business precincts.	

1. Check that you completed all that is necessary.

1. **Submit this documented and/or video recorded to innovation@capechamber.co.za.**

Thank you for helping us discover and celebrate the champions shaping a better WC economy!