AISESA
African Institute for Sustainable Energy and Systems Analysis

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Research Fellow: Energy Finance and Technology

African Institute for Sustainable Energy and Systems Analysis (AISESA)

About AISESA

The African Institute for Sustainable Energy and Systems Analysis (AISESA) is a pan-African institute that brings together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to generate knowledge, strengthen capacity, and support decision-making on Africa's energy, climate, and development priorities. Grounded in the belief that Africa's energy transformations must be African-led and aligned with the continent's development goals, AISESA works to strengthen connections between research, policy, finance, and implementation.

AISESA operates through five interconnected clusters covering clean energy pathways, implementation, policy and governance, finance and technology, and institutional capacity. Together, these clusters advance integrated research and engagement on themes such as powering livelihoods, inclusive industrialisation, and urban transformation.

About Cluster 4: Energy Finance and Technology

The Energy Finance and Technology Cluster examines how financial systems, investment decisions, technologies, and enabling environments interact to shape energy outcomes in Africa. The cluster is founded on the recognition that technological solutions alone do not drive transformation; their adoption and scale depend on the availability of finance, the structure of markets, policy and regulatory conditions, institutional capabilities, and broader economic realities.

The cluster seeks to understand how investments are mobilised, how risks are assessed and allocated, why certain technologies attract capital while others struggle to secure financing, and what conditions are required to support sustainable deployment and scale. Particular attention is given to developing financially grounded and context-responsive approaches that align investment, technology, and development priorities.

The cluster aims to generate practical insights that support governments, financiers, developers, and other stakeholders in designing financing approaches that accelerate energy access, productive use, renewable energy deployment, and broader development objectives.

About the Fellowship

AISESA is seeking an Energy Finance and Technology Fellow to contribute to the research, analytical, and engagement activities of Cluster 4.

The Fellow will support AISESA's efforts to understand and shape the financial and technological dimensions of energy transformations in Africa. This includes analysing investment patterns, financing mechanisms, risk allocation, and technology characteristics and deployment pathways, while identifying opportunities to improve the mobilisation and effectiveness of capital across different contexts.

The role requires the ability to engage with both financial and technical dimensions of energy systems. The Fellow will contribute to the development of evidence, frameworks, and practical approaches that connect investment decisions with technology deployment, policy objectives, and development outcomes.

The Fellow will work closely with AISESA's existing Finance and Technology Research Fellow, contributing complementary expertise and perspectives as part of a collaborative research effort. The two positions are designed to bring together different but complementary capabilities, combining technical, analytical, and contextual perspectives to advance AISESA's work. The successful candidate will also work closely with other AISESA clusters to strengthen connections between research and policy.

Key Responsibilities

Research and Analysis

- Conduct research on energy finance, investment ecosystems, technology deployment, and financing mechanisms relevant to African contexts.
- Analyse the effectiveness of financial instruments, investment structures, risk allocation approaches, and capital mobilisation strategies.
- Examine barriers and opportunities affecting domestic and international investment flows into energy technologies .
- Assess the financial viability and deployment pathways of different energy technologies and business models.
- Contribute to comparative and country-level analyses of energy finance and investment systems.

Finance and Investment Engagement

- Engage with financial institutions, investors, development finance institutions, governments, project developers, and other stakeholders.
- Contribute to the design and facilitation of dialogues on energy finance, investment mobilisation, and technology deployment.
- Support the development of investment-oriented knowledge products and analytical tools.
- Translate research findings into practical recommendations for policymakers, financiers, and practitioners.

Cross-Cluster Collaboration

- Collaborate with other AISESA clusters to integrate financial perspectives into work on energy planning, governance, and institutional development.
- Support interdisciplinary research linking finance, technology, policy, and implementation.
- Contribute to thematic work on powering livelihoods, inclusive industrialisation, urban transformation, and related areas.
- Participate in collaborative research and knowledge-generation activities across the Institute.

Publications and Outputs

- Produce high-quality academic and policy-relevant outputs, including peer-reviewed journal articles, working papers, policy briefs, reports, and other knowledge products.
- Present findings through conferences, policy forums, investor dialogues, and stakeholder engagements.
- Support the preparation of flagship AISESA publications and cross-cluster synthesis outputs.

Profile and Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have:

- A PhD completed within the last five years in finance, economics, energy systems, engineering, public policy, development studies, or related field.

- Demonstrated experience in energy finance, infrastructure finance, investment analysis, development finance, project finance, or related fields.
- Strong understanding of financial instruments, risk assessment, capital structuring, and investment decision-making processes. Familiarity with energy technologies and their deployment challenges in African contexts.
- Experience conducting applied and policy-relevant research.
- Track record of relevant publications in reputable journals.
- Experience working with financial institutions, investment firms, development finance institutions, governments, project developers, or related organisations.
- Strong analytical, writing, and communication skills in English. For this post, fluency in English is required. Knowledge of French is highly desirable.

Skills and Competencies

- Excellent analytical and critical thinking skills.
- Strong quantitative and qualitative research capabilities.
- Expertise in financial modelling of renewable energy is a plus but not mandatory.
- Ability to connect financial, technical, policy, and development considerations.
- Strong stakeholder engagement and communication skills.
- Ability to translate complex financial concepts into practical and actionable insights. Ability to work independently and collaboratively within interdisciplinary teams.

Terms of Appointment

- Full-time consultancy contract.
- Fellowship duration of two years.
- Remote working arrangements.
- Opportunities for travel may arise through country engagement activities, collaborative research, conferences, workshops, and policy dialogues.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit the following documents as a single PDF:

- A cover letter (max two pages) outlining their interest in the fellowship and how their experience aligns with AISESA's work.
- A detailed CV (max four pages).
- A list of relevant publications, analytical outputs, or investment-related work.

Applications should be sent to: recruitment_aisesa@akademiya2063.org
Subject line: Finance and Technology – Cluster 4
Application deadline: July 3, 2026.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.