

Grindstone Accelerator — Scale-Up Programme for Revenue-Stage South African SMEs

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Quality score: 76/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Knife Capital and Thinkroom's year-long Grindstone Accelerator works only with revenue-generating South African SMEs. Independent reporting shows cohorts growing revenue 36-88% and creating dozens of jobs; the 2022/23 intake was 64% black-owned.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	2/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[Knife Capital and Thinkroom Consulting](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[Grindstone — official programme site](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[Knife Capital — Grindstone Accelerator timeline](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[ITWeb — Grindstone Accelerator participants see 36% growth](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[Ventureburn — fifth cohort growth figures](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[TechCabal — Grindstone announces 2022/23 cohorts](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

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