

Re-Build Entrepreneurs in Residence Program - The Forge Explainer

A practical residency for individuals building hardware solutions

About Re-Build

Re-Build Inc designs and builds hardware systems for African contexts across five pillars: water, agriculture, health, energy, and materials.

We focus on physical infrastructure problems that require design, engineering, building, and deployment.

Our work is grounded in local realities such as cost, environment, supply chains, and maintenance constraints. We build systems, production capability, and talent. We are not an NGO, a training program, or a software incubator.

“We exist to help serious builders move from ideas to working hardware that can be produced locally and scaled responsibly.”

Why the Entrepreneurs in Residence Program Exists

Many innovators understand real problems but struggle to move from concept to working hardware. Others have early prototypes but lack the structure, support, or manufacturing access needed to iterate properly.

The Forge exists to close that gap. It is designed for builders who want to execute. The program prioritizes making, testing, and learning through actual constraints rather than lectures, pitches, or theory. This is a residency for people who want to build things that work in the real world.

What The Forge Is and Is Not

What the Forge Is

- A time bound residency focused on execution
- A structured environment for building and testing hardware
- Access to Re-Build manufacturing capability and systems
- Guidance grounded in feasibility and real world use
- A pathway toward funding, pilots, or production where appropriate

What the Forge Is Not

- Not a classroom or academic fellowship
- Not a pitch deck accelerator
- Not a guarantee of funding or manufacturing
- Not a co-founder arrangement
- Not a stipend based program

The program is intentionally selective and hands on. Builders are expected to take ownership of their work.

Who Should Apply

This program is best suited for people who:

- Are working on hardware-based solutions
- Care about building for African contexts
- Are ready to test and iterate in the real world
- Can commit sustained time and effort to execution
- Are open to feedback, constraints, and redesign

You do not need a finished product to apply. ***You do however need a clear problem and a willingness to build.***

What You Get as an Entrepreneur in Residence (Re-Builder)

Infrastructure

- Access to Re-Build manufacturing, research and development facilities and tools
- Support for prototyping, testing, and iteration

Guidance and Systems

- Clear milestones and execution structure
- Technical and strategic feedback
- Support in identifying relevant funding or pilot opportunities

Network/Access

- Peer learning within a small cohort
- Exposure to expert builders, partners, funders, and deployment opportunities when relevant

Re-Build supports execution. Builders remain responsible for their ideas and progress.

Program Overview

The residency runs for up to nine months and is structured in two phases.

Phase One: Rapid prototyping and iteration, User testing and learning & Manufacturing feasibility review - Months 1 to 3

Phase Two: Clarifying viable pathways toward funding, pilots, or production, funding application review and support - Months 4 to 9

Not every resident will follow the same path. The program adapts based on progress and outcomes.

Ownership, Revenue, and Boundaries

Intellectual Property

Re-Builders retain full ownership of their ideas and products. Re-Build does not take equity through the program. Any equity proposal will be discussed separately.

How Re-Build Makes Revenue

Re-Build earns revenue through:

- Opportunity matching fees when funding or pilots are secured
- Manufacturing contracts when products move into production

We provide support by sourcing and matching residents to opportunities as well as reviewing and advising them in applying. We do not write grant applications for residents but may suggest heavy changes to application drafts.

Boundaries

- Funding is not guaranteed
- Manufacturing is not guaranteed
- Participation does not create exclusivity unless agreed later in writing

Any future partnership is discussed transparently and separately.

What Success Looks Like

Success means:

- A working prototype tested with real users
- Clear learning from iteration and constraints
- A viable pathway to funding, pilots, or production
- In some cases, a transition into a long term manufacturing relationship with Re-Build

What Happens Next

This document is intended to help you decide whether the program is right for you. If it resonates, we encourage you to apply. If it does not, that clarity is also a success.

Re-Build is building systems. We are looking for people ready to build with us.

The goal is to build solutions that last.