Proposal for Engagement with IBITF

IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF)
(A Category 'A' Hub under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)

IBITF is one of India's leading Technology Innovation Hubs under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). Our mission is to bring together students, researchers, professionals, and industry experts to co-create impactful technologies, accelerate lab-to-market transitions, and build startups that solve real national challenges.

Introduction:

The IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF) is a Section-8 not-for-profit company, established under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. IBITF focuses on the development and deployment of projects in the Fintech domain, focusing on identifying impactful solutions leveraging emerging technologies like Blockchain, IoT, AI/ML, and e-payments, with a primary emphasis on applying these technologies to other sectors like Agriculture and HealthTech. IBITF has been recognised as a Category-A Hub based on its performance and outcomes since its inception. IBITF provides a vibrant ecosystem that connects startups, researchers, academia, industry, and government stakeholders. Through funding support, incubation facilities, expert mentorship, and market access, IBITF empowers innovators to transform ideas into scalable, impactful solutions that address real-world challenges and contribute to India's growth as a global innovation leader. The Foundation plays a pivotal role in translating deep-tech research into market-ready products and solutions, and in nurturing startups, particularly from Tier II/III cities and rural areas.

Objective:

The objective of this initiative is to build a dynamic ecosystem where graduate students, working professionals, industry mentors, academicians and researchers come together to co-create impactful technologies for India's future. The CFP is designed to support the rapid productization, deployment, and commercialization of technology-driven solutions in the core thematic areas of IBITF, namely Fintech applications, Agritech, and HealthTech. IBITF aims to harness the creativity of students, the practical wisdom of professionals, the strategic guidance of

industry experts, and the deep technical expertise of researchers to deliver breakthrough solutions addressing national priorities and real-world challenges. This engagement framework is designed to drive innovation-led growth, technology translation from lab-to-market, and entrepreneurship development, thereby contributing directly to India's journey towards Atmanirbhar Bharat, Digital India, and global leadership in innovation.

Why Join IBITF Initiative?

- **Work on Nationally-Relevant Challenges** – Solve curated problem statements from industry, startups, and national missions.

- **Access a Thriving Innovation Ecosystem** – Collaborate with top researchers, innovators, and policymakers.

- **Accelerate Your Career & Network** – Learn from industry mentors, explore startup pathways, and enhance your portfolio.

- **Be Part of India's Growth Story** – Contribute directly to Atmanirbhar Bharat, Digital India, Smart Manufacturing, and Healthcare Innovation.

- **Opportunity for Recognition & Impact** – Contribute to patents, publications, technology transfer, and new ventures.

Engagement Methodology

1. **Problem Identification**

   - IBITF curates problem statements from industry, startups, and national missions.

   - Participants may also propose their own aligned problem statements.

2. **Mapping with Contributors**

   - Graduate students for internship/fellowship opportunities

   - Working professionals for part-time contributions

   - Industry mentors for strategic guidance and commercialization

   - Researchers (M.Tech/PhD) for deep technical problem-solving

3. **Solution Development**

   - Multidisciplinary collaboration between participants, startups, and IBITF researchers.

   - Focus on proof-of-concept, prototype development, and deployable technologies.

4. **Technology Translation & National Impact**

   - Market readiness analysis, technology transfer, startup creation.

   - Alignment with national missions like Digital India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Healthcare Innovation, Smart Manufacturing.

Categories of Engagement (Schemes)

- Internship/Fellowship (Graduate Students/M.Tech/PhD/Postdoctoral)

   1.1 Engagement for Graduate students at IBITF

   Graduate students can join **internships during their vacation** and gain valuable hands-on exposure to innovation-driven projects. They also have the option to apply for **IBITF's Fellowship programs**

(https://www.ibitf.co.in/call-for-proposals), designed to support deeper research engagement.

Eligibility & Requirements:

- The student must be mentored by a faculty member of their institution or IIT Bhilai.

- The project plan should be prepared in consultation with the mentor or students can choose to work on an ongoing project within IBITF.

- The proposed project should be related to IBITF's thematic areas or other allied areas of innovation and technology development.

Opportunities include:

- Work on cutting-edge projects addressing real-world challenges.

- Build prototypes, research solutions, and co-create innovation.

- Collaborate on advanced research problems in interdisciplinary domains.

- Engage with mentors, startups, and industry experts for holistic learning.

1.2 Engagement for Postgraduate Students at IBITF

Full-time postgraduate students from Engineering Institutions or B-Schools can apply for engagement opportunities at IBITF under the guidance of their faculty mentors.

Eligibility & Requirements:

- The student must be mentored by a faculty member of their parent institution or IIT Bhilai.

- The project plan should be prepared in consultation with the assigned mentor and must fall within IBITF's thematic areas of focus, or students can choose to work

on an ongoing project within IBITF.

- If selected, the applicant cannot avail any other fellowship concurrently during the engagement period at IBITF.

1.3 Engagement for PhD Students at IBITF

Full-time PhD students from Engineering Institutions or B-Schools can engage with IBITF through structured fellowship opportunities under the guidance of their faculty mentors.

Eligibility & Requirements:

- The student must be mentored by a faculty member of their parent institution or IIT Bhilai, and the project plan should be prepared in consultation with the mentor.

- The proposed project must align with IBITF's thematic areas of focus.

- Students must demonstrate excellent ideas, research aptitude, and exposure relevant to IBITF's innovation ecosystem.

- Preference will be given to students who have already availed IBITF's fellowship, shown excellent progress, and are continuing their PhD work.

1.4 Engagement for Postdoctoral Scholars at IBITF

IBITF offers postdoctoral fellows the opportunity to pursue high-impact research and innovation projects in collaboration with academia and industry.

Eligibility & Requirements:

- Applicants must hold a Ph.D. degree, possess relevant research/working experience, and propose an idea or project aligned with IBITF's thematic areas (including the Fintech,Healthtech and Agritech domain).

- The applicant must have a valid postdoctoral offer from the host institution or IIT Bhilai.

- A faculty mentor from the host institution is required, and the project plan should be prepared in consultation with the mentor.

- If selected, the applicant cannot concurrently avail any other fellowship during the engagement with IBITF.

- **Mentorship (Academia & Industry Experts)**
  Mentorship plays a pivotal role in accelerating innovation and guiding teams towards impactful outcomes. At IBITF, mentors from academia, industry, and research organizations are invited to support projects that address nationally relevant challenges.

  Mentors can contribute in the following ways:

  1. **Technical Guidance**
     Provide domain (Fintech, Healthtech, Agritech) expertise in emerging technologies(AI/ML,IoT,Blockchain,E-Payment), research methodologies, and problem-solving approaches.

  2. **Strategic Direction**
     Guide startups, students, and researchers in aligning their projects with market needs, scalability, and national missions.

  3. **Commercialization Support**
     Advise on intellectual property (IP) creation, technology transfer, business models, and industry linkages.

  4. **Skill Development**
     Train young innovators on best practices, professional ethics, project management, and future skills.

  5. **Mode of Engagement:**
     - ❖ **Online Mentorship** – Participate in project reviews, knowledge sessions, and one-on-one guidance through digital platforms, making it possible to contribute irrespective of geographical boundaries.

     - ❖ **Offline Mentorship** – Visit the IBITF campus at IIT Bhilai for hands-on workshops, mentoring clinics, hackathons, or project evaluations, enabling deeper engagement with teams.

- **Chair Professor / Professor of Practice**

  IBITF invites highly accomplished academicians and industry leaders to contribute as Chair Professors or Professors of Practice, fostering innovation and academic-industry collaboration.

  1. **Eligibility & Requirements:**
     a. The position is open to **industry experts** or **distinguished faculty** with:

        i. An established record of teaching and academic leadership.

        ii. An exceptional record of published research in reputed journals.

        iii. Experience in guiding Ph.D. students.

        iv. Demonstrated ability to attract significant research funding.

        v. Proven ability to lead multidisciplinary project teams.

     b. Applicants may include:

        i. Outstanding **industry professionals of repute** with rich practical experience.

        ii. Researchers holding a **Doctoral degree or equivalent** in basic sciences or engineering relevant to IBITF's thematic verticals.

     c. A consistent **first-class academic record** throughout is essential.

  2. **Engagement Time Commitment**

     The Chair Professor will engage with IBITF through a combination of on-campus presence, virtual interactions, and project-specific visits.

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    i.   Exact schedule and mode of engagement will be mutually agreed upon, ensuring effective participation without conflicting with other academic or professional commitments.

3. Evaluation & Reporting

    i.   Provide periodic reports on research progress, mentorship activities, and collaborative initiatives.

    ii.   Participate in IBITF review meetings to assess project outcomes and propose future directions.

- **Project Staff (Full-Time)**

Project staff at IBITF (IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation) can actively contribute to and benefit from the Foundation's initiatives in multiple ways:

1. **Research & Development Support**

   ○ Assist in ongoing research projects across various domains of technology and innovation.

   ○ Contribute to experimental design, data collection, analysis, and prototype development.

2. **Project Implementation & Management**

   ○ Support project planning, execution, and monitoring.

   ○ Help maintain project documentation, track progress, and report outcomes.

3. **Collaboration & Networking**

○ Engage with students, researchers, and industry experts for joint projects.

○ Participate in workshops, seminars, and innovation challenges organized by IBITF.

4. **Innovation & Entrepreneurship Support**

○ Contribute ideas for new projects or startups incubated by IBITF.

○ Assist in feasibility studies, market research, and technical validation of innovative concepts.

5. **Capacity Building & Skill Development**

○ Mentor interns, students, or junior researchers involved in IBITF projects.

○ Facilitate training sessions or knowledge-sharing workshops within the Foundation.

6. **Administrative & Operational Support**

○ Support non-technical tasks such as organizing events, managing communications, and maintaining project records.

7. **Engagement Duration & Terms**
   ○ The tenure of engagement will be defined based on project timelines and requirements.

   ○ Renewal or extension of engagement may be considered depending on performance and project needs.

8. **Project Staff rules of IBITF**
   ○ Project Staff are appointed for specific projects funded/managed by IBITF.
   ○ Their appointment is purely temporary and co-terminus with the project.
   ○ All appointments shall be made strictly as per project requirements and IBITF guidelines.
   ○ Project Staff positions may include Research Assistants, Project Associates, Technical Staff, or other designated roles.

- ○ Selection will be based on qualification, relevant experience, and project needs.
- ○ Staff may be appointed on a full-time or basis.
- ○ No right of permanency or claim for absorption in IBITF/IIT Bhilai shall accrue.
- **Management / Legal/ Medical/ Pharmacy/ Other (preferably Full time)**

  - ○ Contribute to strategy, operations and execution for commercial viability.
  - ○ Support technology development and translation activities in delivery.
  - ○ Integrate research and technology with real world business solutions.
  - ○ Build prototypes, co-create innovation, execute PoC, support GTM

Kindly show your interest in any or many of the above categories. Adequate compensation based on the category chosen will be awarded.

Highlights

- Collaboration across academia, industry, and startups.
- Contribution to national-level problem statements.
- Building a skilled workforce for India's innovation ecosystem.
- Technology translation from lab-to-market.
- Opportunity to talent for alignment with transitional research based commercial solutions

Call to Action

This is more than a program – it's a **movement to shape India's innovation future**.

Whether you are a **student, researcher, professional, mentor, or academic leader**, IBITF offers you the platform to create meaningful impact.

The assignment is temporary and is only in contractual nature. Remuneration is as per applicable policy.

How to Apply

Interested participants can join IBITF's engagement initiatives through the following:

Form Link: https://tihiitbhilai.accubate.app/ext/form/10292/1/apply

Website: https://www.ibitf.co.in/

Email: tih@iitbhilai.ac.in

Office: LDC Building Level-4, IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF), IIT Bhilai Campus, Kutelabhata, Durg, Chhattisgarh – 491001