



# United States - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund

*Commercializing Technologies for Societal Impact*

Call for Proposals  
**Information Handbook**



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# United States - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund

## ***“Commercializing Technologies for Societal Impact”***

The governments of the United States of America (through the Department of State) and India (through the Department of Science & Technology) have established the **United States-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF)** for the promotion of joint activities that would lead to innovation and technopreneurship through the application of science and technology. The aim of the Fund is to support and foster joint applied R&D to generate public good through the commercialization of technology developed through sustained partnerships between U.S. and Indian researchers and entrepreneurs. The U.S.- India Science and Technology Endowment Fund activities are implemented and administered through the bi-national **Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)**.

## Objectives

Through a competitive grants program, the Fund selects and supports financially promising joint U.S.-India entrepreneurial initiatives that address the theme of *“commercializing technologies for societal impact.”* These initiatives can originate from government, academic, non-governmental or commercial entities, and any combination thereof provided they focus on applied R&D, incorporate a business plan and proof of commercial concept, and have significant sustainable commercial potential.

## Program Areas

- **Healthy Individual:** Supports the development of affordable biomedical devices, diagnostic/preventive/curative measures, or food and nutrition products to improve health. (Drug development and clinical trials are not eligible activities in this category).
- **Empowering Citizens:** Supports efforts to reduce the digital/technology divide. This could include information and communication technologies with societal impact in areas such as water, agriculture, financial inclusion, and education, among other areas.



## Eligibility

- Proposals must include a minimum of one partner from each country. Bi-national teams applying to the Endowment Fund will work together to commercialize technologies for societal impact.
- The bi-national teams can include:
  - (i) Incorporated companies including start-up companies; or
  - (ii) Non-incorporated entities; or
  - (iii) Individuals or consortia from academia, government laboratories, non-government R&D institutions
- Each bi-national team must include at the time of application an entrepreneurial (small-scale as opposed to large-scale) entity that will receive a portion of the grant and take the technology to the market. If partners are planning to form a new venture to commercialize the technology, the proposal should include planned incorporation date and the amount of grants requested for the new entity.
- The teams should be able to accept the terms and conditions of the award (**Annexure-I**) in case the proposal is approved.
- The relationship between the U.S. and Indian partners must be clearly defined, including ownership of intellectual property rights for the technology proposed to be developed and commercialized.
- The applicants must make a credible case that the proposed technology can enter the market within 2-3 years.

## Funding

- Grants of up to Rs. 2.50 crores or approximately \$400,000 (subject to prevailing exchange rate). Proposals outside this range may be considered under exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the U.S.-India Science & Technology Endowment Board (hereafter referred to as the 'Board').
- It may be noted that Endowment Fund is an Indian Rupee Fund and all the grants are denominated in Indian rupees (INR) only. Awards are made in tranches according to project milestones and installment amounts are fixed in Rupees. For U.S. Awardees, the grant is transferred after converting it into USD at the prevailing exchange rate as on the date of disbursement with no adjustment made for foreign exchange rate fluctuations. However, the



applicants are encouraged to consider requesting a provision under the contingency line item of up to ten percent (10%) of the total budget in the event of a devaluation of the rupee against the dollar.

- The Board will give stronger preference to proposals that include a reasonable balance in the distribution of work and the grant between Indian and U.S. partners.
- Grants will be released in a phased manner based on successful completion of milestones (which may include requirements to raise/ invest additional outside funding to support the project).
- All milestones for the grants will be specified at the time of the award.
- The Board reserves the right to limit its award to selected project activities and milestones and in doing so approve partial funding.

## Things to Remember

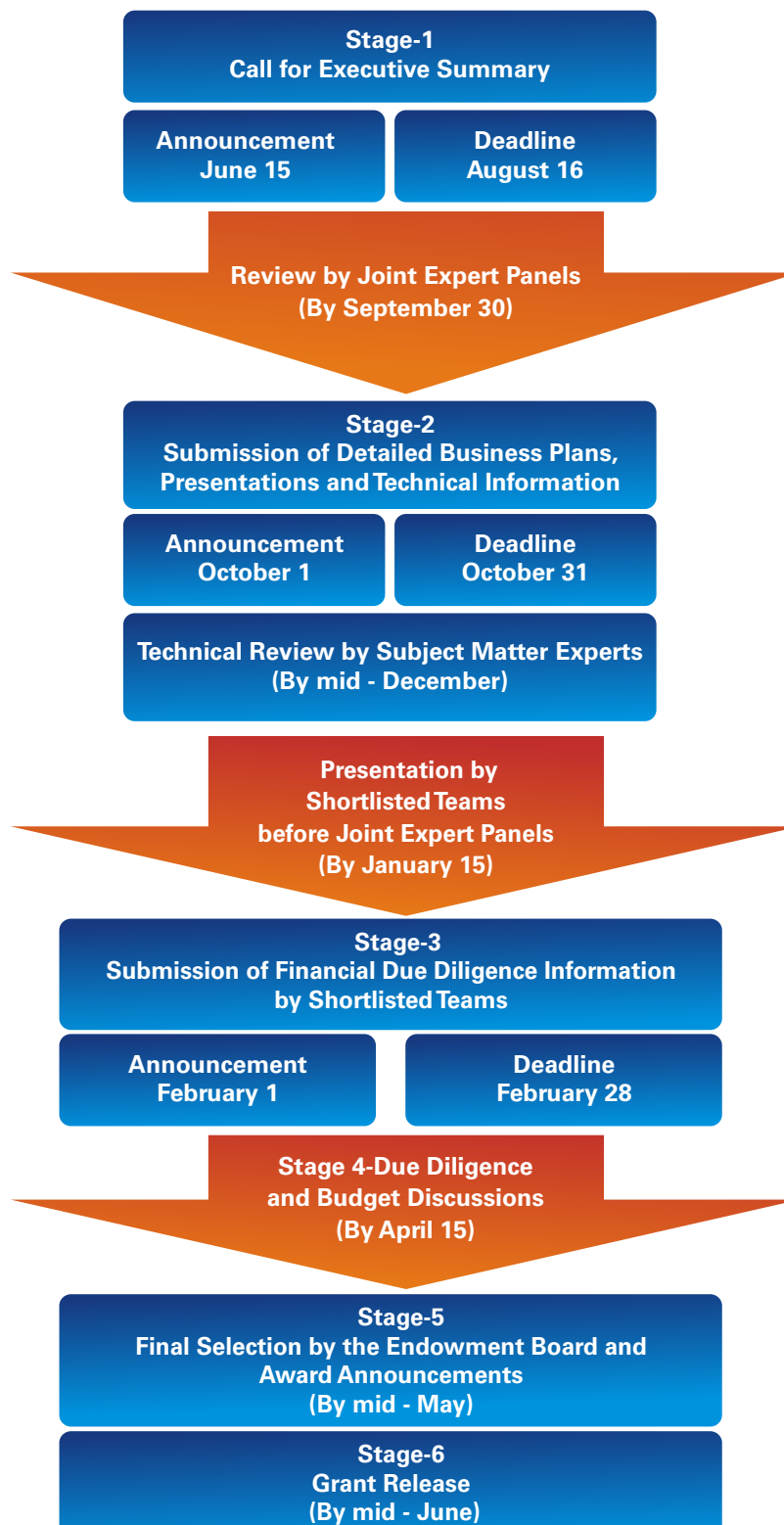
- The applicants should thoroughly review the entire Information Handbook for detailed information and understanding the processing of the U.S. - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund at different stages<sup>1</sup>.
- The evaluation of all the submitted applications will be undertaken by the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board in consultation with external experts and per the need of the application.

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<sup>1</sup>*It may be noted that the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board may change the processes, timeline, formats and Terms and Conditions at any time without specific notice. The decisions of the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board will be final.*



## PROCESS & TIMELINE







# United States - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund

## ***Application Process***

### **Preliminary Information and Declaration**

- Applicants must register online at [www.usistef.org](http://www.usistef.org)

### **Stage – 1: Call for Executive Summary**

**Announcement: June 15**

**Online Submission Deadline: August 16, 11.59 pm Pacific Standard Time**

- Applicants must complete the Preliminary Information and Declaration (**Annexure-II**)
- Applicants must submit an executive summary of their project online [www.usistef.org](http://www.usistef.org)
- For the executive summary format refer to **Annexure III**.
- Applicants must apply under one of the two program areas.
- Applicants will also be required to sign a declaration. For format of this declaration refer to **Annexure IV**.

### Evaluation of Executive Summary

The Endowment Secretariat will check for the completion and eligibility of the Executive Summaries by August 30. Review by Joint Screening expert panels (one in each program area) comprised of subject matter experts, business professionals, entrepreneurs and Board members from both India and the United States by September 30 select a small number of executive summaries based on the evaluation criteria below. These shortlisted teams will be requested to submit a detailed business plan, technical information and make a project presentation (**Stage-2**).

### Evaluation Criteria for Executive Summary

- Problem being addressed
- Market size and target customer
- Societal impact
- Innovativeness of product and technology
- Commercialization strategy and timeline
- Team's strength
- Nature and need of collaboration





## Stage-2: Submission of Business Plan, Presentation and Technical Information

### Announcement: October 1

### Online Submission Deadline: October 31, 11:59 pm, Pacific Daylight Time.

- Shortlisted teams from Stage-1 to submit a business plan, presentation and technical information online in prescribed format (**Annexure V**) at [www.usistef.org](http://www.usistef.org).
- A PowerPoint presentation must be uploaded on the program website. The presentation should be geared for 20 minutes or less.
- The proposed business plan should be achievable and demonstrate strong commercial potential.
- The proposed business plan should specify the role of Indian and US partners and should enhance the bilateral interests of India and the United States.
- The proposed business plan should generate positive return on investments within a reasonable timeframe.
- The proposed business plan should detail the terms pertaining to all of Intellectual Property developed or utilized in the project.
- The proposed business plan should demonstrate a commitment to responsible and ethical business practices.

### Evaluation of Business Plans

The shortlisted teams will be called for presentations by January 15 before Joint Expert Panels. The expert panels will include subject experts, business professionals, entrepreneurs and Board members from India and the United States. Each applicant will be given 20 minutes to present the business plan followed by question and answer session. The Joint Expert Panels will select **finalists**.

### Evaluation Criteria for Business Plan and Presentation

- Problem being addressed
- Market size and target customer
- Societal impact
- Innovativeness of product and technology
- Ownership of intellectual property rights
- Team's strength
- Nature and need of collaboration
- Commercialization strategy and timeline
- Financial projections
- Risks and challenges for deployment and scaling-up



## Stage - 3: Submission of Due Diligence Information by the Finalist Teams

The finalist teams will be required to give written acceptance of the Terms and Conditions (T&C) specified in **Annexure I**. They would submit the Project Budget (**Annexure VI**), Financial Due Diligence information (**Annexure VII**) by email to [endowment@indousstf.org](mailto:endowment@indousstf.org) by February 28. The Due Diligence process would be initiated only after receiving the signed copy of the Terms & Conditions (T&C) from all the partners.

## Stage - 4: Budget Discussions with the Finalist Teams

The Endowment Secretariat will conduct the Due Diligence process of Indian and U.S. partners. This process will complete by April 15, and will include a budget discussion with the Indian and US partners together, and site inspection (if required) for Indian and U.S. partners respectively. The due diligence team will be constituted in each country and will be comprised of financial and technical experts and/ or Board representatives/ nominees.

## Stage-5: Final Selection of Awardees

The Board will make the final decision based on the recommendations of the Joint Expert Panel and due diligence reports. The Board will select awardees. The number of awardees may vary from award to award, depending upon the merit and quality of the proposal and the availability of funds with the Endowment Fund program. The Board reserves the right to adjust elements of the selection process and inform applicants of any adjustments, and to reasonably interpret the language and definitions of this handbook in cases of dispute or confusion. The award announcements will be made by **mid-May**.

## STAGE-6: Grant Release

The Endowment Secretariat will disburse the grant by **mid-June** based on the finalized milestone and grant release. The project shall be implemented strictly in accordance with the Terms & Conditions (T&C) specified in **Annexure-I**. The Awardees will be required to sign and accept the T&C.

## Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Guidelines

All reviewers must sign a non-disclosure and conflict of interest agreement (**Annexure VIII**) with the Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF), Executive Secretariat for the United States–India Science & Technology Endowment Board. All information provided throughout the proposal process will be kept in strict confidence; however, neither the Endowment Board nor IUSSTF will sign non-disclosure agreements with any applicants.



## RESOURCES

The following is only an illustrative and not an inclusive list:

### Business Plan

Sequoia Capital: "Writing a Business Plan"

<http://www.sequoiacap.com/ideas>

Ernst & Young: "Outline for a Business Plan"

[http://techventures.org/resources/docs/Outline\\_for\\_a\\_Business\\_Plan.pdf](http://techventures.org/resources/docs/Outline_for_a_Business_Plan.pdf)

SBA: "Write a Business Plan"

<http://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/starting-managing-business/starting-business>

Entrepreneur Magazine: Plan your Plan

<http://www.entrepreneur.com/startingabusiness/businessplans/article38292-1.html>

National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN)

<http://nenonline.org/>



## ***Annexure I***

# United States - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF) Terms & Conditions of the Grant (T&C)

The U.S.-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund and its executive secretariat (presently the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum) are both hereinafter referred to as "Endowment Fund".

These terms and conditions of the Endowment Fund grant (hereinafter referred as the "Grant") would be an integral part of the letter (hereinafter referred to as "Award Letter"), conveying the approval of the Grant.

The project as per details given in the Award Letter for which the Grant has been made, is hereinafter referred to as "Project".

Recipients of this grant, both in the United States and India as detailed in the Award Letter, are hereinafter referred to as "Grantees"/ "Grantee" collectively/ individually.

The US and Indian entities implementing the project to which the Grantees belong, as detailed in the Award Letter are hereinafter collectively/ individually referred to as the "Companies"/ "Company".

The Grantees would agree and abide by the following terms and conditions of the grant and submit written acceptance thereof, prior to the release of the first tranche of the grant:

### **1. Responsibilities of Grantees**

- i. The Grantees shall:
  - a. Carry out the activities of the Project and conform to the specified mutually agreed objectives, outputs, milestones, and targets as detailed in Award Letter;
  - b. Meet the expenditure on the Project activities to the extent as agreed to, through its own sources;
  - c. Submit a Utilization Certificate and Statement of Accounts duly audited and certified by a Chartered Accountant/ Certified Public Accountant (CPA in US) for the expenditure incurred on the Project and for the fiscal year (ending 31st



March for the Indian grantee and 31st December / as applicable for the US grantee) to Endowment Fund within a month of closure of the accounts for the respective financial year, in the format as provided as by Endowment Fund, the US grantee should inform the Endowment fund the ending date of their fiscal year;

- d. Submit regular progress reports, Utilization Certificates & Statement of Expenditures to Endowment Fund as per the milestones and participate in the meetings organized by Endowment Fund to review the progress of the Project, as and when called for before the disbursement of next tranche of grant;
- e. Permit a member of Endowment Fund or an individual or agency nominated by Endowment Fund access to the premises, with advanced notice and during regular business hours, where the Project is being/shall be carried out and provide all information and produce or make available the concerned records for inspection and monitoring of the Project activity;
- f. Obtain all of the necessary requisite approvals, clearance certificates, permissions, and licenses from the Government/local authorities for conducting its operations in connection with the Project;
- g. Utilize the amounts sanctioned by Endowment Fund for the Project only for the purposes as specified in the Project and shall not entrust the implementation of the Project to another agency (except as noted in Award Letter) or divert the Grant funds;
- h. Ensure that all research involving the use of animals, humans, or plants complies with the relevant laws and regulations of the land;
- i. Ensure that it has in place formal written procedures for managing the process for obtaining any necessary or appropriate ethical approval for the research funded by the Grant, and must accept full responsibility for ensuring that any such ethical approval is in place at all relevant times during the grant;
- j. Repay any such amount of the Grant that is not used in accordance with the Conditions under which the grant is awarded; and
- k. Have no right, power or authority to create any obligation or duty, express or implied, on behalf of the Endowment Fund; and
- l. Duly acknowledge the funding support of the Endowment Fund when publishing or presenting the details of the Project including in all electronic and print media, website materials, presentations, publications, etc.



ii. The Grantees shall warrant that:

- a. They are under no contractual restrictions or legal disqualifications or other obligations which will prohibit the recipients from accepting these Conditions;
- b. They have the requisite skill and expertise to carry out the obligations envisaged herein;
- c. They have the requisite corporate authority to accept these Conditions; and
- d. They agree that the Indian/US Grantee shall be liable for any and all breaches of these Conditions, by Indian/US Grantee or their Companies respectively and that in case of such breach, the Endowment Fund may reconsider its financial support for the project.

iii. The Grantees shall acknowledge and agree that:

- a. The duties, responsibilities, and functions assigned or entrusted to them as specified in the Project documentation shall be deemed to be the duties, responsibilities, and functions assigned and entrusted under these terms and conditions and unless for reasons beyond the control under normal circumstance any undue delay, failure, or default in performance of the duties, responsibilities, and functions as specified in the Project shall be deemed to be a default under these terms and conditions;
- b. They shall, at all times, indemnify and keep indemnified Endowment Fund against any infringement of any Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) while doing its responsibilities/work under the Project or any claims or suits in respect of any losses, damages or compensation payable in consequences of any accident, death or injury sustained by the employees of the Company or by any other third party resulting from or by any act, omission or operation conducted by or on its behalf;
- c. They shall make no change in their status and/or shareholding of the Company, where such change would impact on performance of the obligations under the Project and these terms and conditions without prior approval of Endowment Fund. Endowment Fund shall reserve the right to reconsider further funding assistance in such circumstances of change in control;
- d. There would be no changes in the core management or suitable replacements will be in place at each milestone. If the founders leave the company in presence of whom the Grant has been awarded & these conditions have been accepted, the Grant shall be immediately suspended and recovery procedures of the unused Grant money and any assets created from the said grant shall be initiated by Endowment Fund unless agreed by Endowment Fund otherwise;



- e. Any corporate transaction including sale of company, dilution of shareholding, new arrangements with venture funds, sale of technology, outsourcing of major corporate functions etc., that may affect this Project would be disclosed to the Endowment Fund within 48 hours of receipt of the transaction proposal. Endowment Fund reserves the right to reevaluate continuation of funding assistance of the project following receipt of the transaction proposal;
- f. They shall not use the Grant for any previous expenses, payables or liabilities incurred in the period before the commencement date of the project. The date of releasing the first tranche of the Grant would be treated as the Project commencement date. However, on receiving a joint written request from the Grantees within two weeks of first tranche release, the Endowment Fund may agree for any other date falling in the period from the award announcement date to the first tranche release date; and
- g. They shall immediately provide written notice to Endowment Fund of any claims, investigations or proceedings which could reasonably be expected to result in a material adverse effect on the ability of the party to implement the project or perform any of the other obligations under these conditions. Endowment Fund shall reserve the right to reconsider further funding assistance in such circumstances.

## 2. Administration of the Grant & Financial Arrangements

- i. The approved budget by the Board will be denominated in Indian rupees only. Endowment Fund is not responsible or liable to provide extra funding due to change in foreign currency exchange rates. The 'Contingencies' budget for the Project may however be used to meet the shortfall in other budget heads caused due the change in foreign currency exchange rate;
- ii. Endowment Fund shall release the first tranche of Grant funds after receiving written acceptance from Grantees of the said terms and conditions described in this document and also the receipt of the Intellectual Property Sharing Agreement as mentioned in Clause 7. Subsequent release of funds shall be subject to satisfactory technical and financial progress against the objectives, outputs, milestones, and targets specified in the Project as determined by Endowment Fund and on submission of Utilization Certificates and a Statement of Accounts duly audited and certified by a Chartered Accountant/ Certified Public Accountant for the expenditure incurred on the Project as provided for in Clause 1 (i) (c);
- iii. To facilitate monitoring of the utilization of the funds, it is advised that the Grant would be kept in a separate bank account. However if it is not possible to do so, separate records of cash flow related to the project should be maintained. The grant utilization shall be reconciled with the cash flow statement related to the project.;





- iv. The Grantees must ensure that adequate and appropriate resources are provided to support the activities described in the awarded Project;
- v. Endowment Fund reserves the right to determine whether or not “satisfactory progress” is being made as per the objectives, outputs, milestones, and targets specified in Award Letter. Towards this end, Endowment Fund may seek the assistance of their Project Monitoring Committee as per Clause 3;
- vi. The Indian/ US Company shall ensure that no financial transaction takes place without the authorization by the India/ US Grantee. The Companies and Grantees shall also ensure that the funds released under the Grant are utilized only for the expenditure related to the Project as expressly detailed in the Award Letter. Re-appropriation of funds from one budget head to another shall not be effected without the specific written approval of Endowment Fund. Addition of a new substantial expense line item (more than 5% of the project budget), not reflected in the original approved budget will require written approval of the Endowment Fund with appropriate justifications.
- vii. The Endowment Fund has the right to retain 5% of the total project cost at the time of disbursement of the final tranche. The same shall be released after the successful completion of the final milestone, based on the submission of the final Utilization Certificate, Statement of Accounts and the Project Completion Report.
- viii. Project Completion Report must be submitted jointly by the Grantees within three months after the end of the Project describing in detail the conduct and outcome of the Project in the prescribed format;
- ix. Upon completion of the Project, Grantees shall refund immediately any funds which remain unutilized along with detailed accounts of funds received, utilized, and unutilized;
- x. The Grantees must provide access to accounting and other records relating to the Grant and the activities funded under the Grant for auditors and other personnel from or appointed by the Endowment Fund at any time, if requested by the Endowment Fund. Such access must include the right to inspect any equipment or facilities acquired or funded under the Grant;
- xi. The Endowment Fund has the right to request from the Grantees, at any time, any financial information in respect of the Grant or the activities it funds; and/or to ask for confirmation from the external auditors; and
- xii. The Endowment Fund is not obliged to make any further payments in respect of the Grant once it has settled the accounts based on the Final Utilization Certificate and Statement of Accounts and the Project Completion Report.



### 3. Project Monitoring Committee

- i. A Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) comprising of financial, domain, and scientific experts and Endowment Fund representatives, constituted by Endowment Fund, will monitor the progress of the Project in accordance with the objectives, outputs, milestones, and targets of the Project.
- ii. The functions of the PMC shall be as follows:
  - a. To monitor the progress of the Project in conformity with the mutually agreed objectives, outputs, milestones, targets as specified in the Award Letter.
  - b. Based on the foregoing, to assess and recommend:
    - Release of funds for the next installment or tranche release thereof by Endowment Fund;
    - Revision in the Project implementation schedule and financial disbursements;
    - Measures for effective realization of the objectives of the Project; and
    - Any other function assigned by the Endowment Fund.

### 4. Changes in Project

- i. Endowment Fund must be consulted in the event of any major changes in the research and development proposed under the approved Project, particularly those affecting the achievement of Project's objectives adversely.
- ii. If appropriate, revised proposals may be required to be submitted. The Endowment Fund reserves the right to make a new Grant in place of the existing Grant, or to revise, retain or terminate the existing Grant.

### 5. Employment

- i. The Endowment Fund does not act as an employer with respect to the Grant issued, and therefore in all cases where support is provided on the Project for the employment of staff, the Grantees undertake to issue a contract of employment to such staff that is in compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.
- ii. The provision of the Grant by Endowment Fund does not create any liability, explicit or implicit, on Endowment Fund in respect of the manpower engaged in the Project and Endowment Fund shall be kept indemnified by the award recipients in this regard.



## 6. Equipment

- i. The Grantees must ensure that it has in place clearly defined procedures for the procurement of equipment and that equipment funded by the Grant is acquired by the Grantees in accordance with these procedures;
- ii. Equipment purchased with the Grant in accordance with the agreed budget and commercialization strategy must specifically be used for the purpose of Project awarded and Endowment Fund reserves the right to recover/ take possession of any property/ assets created from the grant at its discretion in the event of any misrepresentation/default on the part of the grantee towards the grant conditions.
- iii. Endowment Fund shall not be liable for any misuse or damage caused by malfunctioning of the equipment that is acquired by the Grantees from the Grant.
- iv. The Grantees must ensure that equipment funded by the Grant is appropriately insured and remains functional throughout the Project period.
- v. Any sale of the equipment purchased or output generated from the project shall be added back to the grant and shall form part of the available funds for the project.

## 7. Intellectual Property

- i. It is the responsibility of the Grantees, and all engaged in the Project, to make every reasonable effort to ensure that the intellectual assets obtained in the course of the research and development carried out in the Project, whether protected by intellectual property rights or not, are used to the benefit of society and the economy. For the purpose of this Grant, new intellectual property refers to intellectual property generated during the conduct of the Project by the Grantees excluding the intellectual property generated by the Grantees before execution of Project under this Award as set out in the Project details in addition to any new intellectual property generated outside the scope of this Award even during the Project duration.
- ii. The basis of collaboration between the Grantees, including ownership of intellectual property and rights to exploitation, is required to be set out in a formal collaboration agreement. It is the responsibility of the Grantees to put such an agreement into place prior to the commencement of research and development. A copy of the signed agreement between the Grantees shall be submitted to Endowment Fund prior to the release of first tranche of Grant. The terms of such collaboration agreements must not conflict with the terms and conditions described herein.
- iii. The Grantees shall inform Endowment Fund a minimum of four weeks prior to assigning or transferring the new IP to any third party directly or indirectly during the term of this Grant.



## 8. Project Duration

- i. The commencement of the Project would be deemed to be from the receipt of the first tranche of the Grant by the Grantees. The Grantees shall complete the Project within the stipulated period as detailed in the Award Letter unless agreed by Endowment Fund otherwise.
- ii. Should either the Grantees or Endowment Fund feel that it is desirable to undertake further developmental work upon the outcome of the Project, which may or may not require additional financial commitment from Endowment Fund and extension of the stipulated Project schedule, the Grantees may submit an extension request with full justification for consideration to Endowment Fund.

## 9. No Joint Venture

Nothing contained in these terms and conditions will be construed as creating a joint venture agency, partnership, or employment relationship between Endowment Fund and the Grantees hereto, nor will any Party have the right, power, or authority to create any obligation or duty, explicit or implied, on behalf of the other Party/ Endowment Fund.

## 10. Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure

- i. During and up to two years after the tenure of the Project, all Grantees undertake to maintain strict confidentiality and refrain from disclosure thereof, of all or any part of the information and data exchanged/generated from the Project for any purpose other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Award. It shall be the responsibility of the Grantees to ensure maintenance of such confidentiality in respect of their behalf and on behalf of their employees, representatives and associates involved in the Project.
- ii. The Grantees shall not have any obligation of confidentiality with respect to any information that:
  - a. Is in the public domain by use and/or publication at the time of its disclosure by the disclosing party; or
  - b. Was already in possession of the recipient prior to receipt from the disclosing party; or
  - c. Is properly obtained by the recipient from a third party with a valid right to disclose such information and such third party is not under confidentiality obligation to the disclosing party; or
  - d. Was disclosed to any third party on a non-confidential basis prior to commencement of the Project; or



- e. Was developed by the Grantees, as disclosed by acceptable written record with him, independently of the disclosure of information by the disclosing party; or
- f. Is required by public authority, by law or decree.

## 11. Effective Date and Tenure of the Award

These terms and conditions of the Grant shall be effective from the date release of first tranche of the Grant and shall be valid until the submission by the Grantees and approval by Endowment Fund of the final utilization certificate and statement of accounts which have been duly audited and certified by a Chartered Accountant/ Certified Public Accountant for the expenditure incurred on the complete Project.

## 12. Force Majeure

- i. The Grantees shall not be held responsible for non-fulfillment of their respective obligations in successful completion of the Project under these Conditions as a result of Acts of God (including fire, flood, earthquake, storm, hurricane or other natural disaster), war, invasion, act of foreign enemies, hostilities (regardless of whether war is declared), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, military or usurped power or confiscation, terrorist activities, government sanction, blockage, embargo, labor dispute or strike beyond the control of the Party claiming force.
- ii. If a Grantee asserts Force Majeure as a justification for failure to perform his/ her obligations and meet specified goals, the Grantee is required to provide evidence that:
  - a. Reasonable steps were taken to minimize delay or damages caused by foreseeable events;
  - b. The party Grantee fulfilled all non-excused obligations;
  - c. All other Grantees were notified within one month of the likelihood or actual occurrence of an event described above.
- iii. This provision is provided on the occurrence and cessation of any such event. If force majeure conditions continue beyond six months, the Grantees and Endowment Fund shall jointly decide about the future course of action on the Project. The validity of the claim of force majeure shall be determined by Endowment Fund after due enquiry and the decision of Endowment Fund in this regard shall be final.

## 13. Foreclosure and Termination

- i. If, during the tenure of the Project, it is found that the Project or any Project component is not likely to lead to successful completion, Endowment Fund may decide to foreclose the Project or the Project component as warranted. The



decision of Endowment Fund shall be final in all respects. The Grantees shall immediately refund any funds unutilized, after deducting the committed expenses to third party vendors on pro-rata basis according to the quantum of Endowment Fund's funding, to Endowment Fund, along with detailed accounts of funds received, utilized and unutilized. The entire outstanding amount as on the date of foreclosure will become due and payable immediately together with recovery of all equipment and assets bought out with grant funds. However, Endowment Fund may by specific written order, prescribe a repayment schedule for the amount outstanding. If the party(s) likes to continue the Project at its own cost, it would be able to do so without restrictions from Endowment Fund after complying with these provisions

- ii. Further if, during the tenure, if the Grantees are found in breach of any term of these conditions, Endowment Fund may terminate this Award by written notice to Grantees. In the event of termination of the award, no further disbursement shall be made by Endowment Fund and the Grantees shall be liable to return immediately the amount of Grant already availed of from Endowment Fund. In case of failure to repay, without prejudice to any other rights under this award, the amount may be recovered by initiating any procedure available in Law.
- iii. If, during the tenure of the Project, the Grantees dissolve their agreed partnership and collaboration, Endowment Fund may decide to foreclose the Project or the Project component as warranted. Further, The Grantees may, before the completion of the Project, terminate the Project by giving three months' notice in writing to Endowment Fund. The decision of Endowment Fund shall be final in all respects. The Grantees shall immediately refund any funds unutilized out of Endowment Fund's disbursements, after deducting the committed expenses to third party vendors on pro-rata basis according to the quantum of Endowment Fund funding, to Endowment Fund, along with detailed accounts of funds received, utilized and unutilized. The entire outstanding amount as on the date of foreclosure will become due and payable immediately. However, Endowment Fund may by specific written order, prescribe a repayment schedule for the amount outstanding. If the Grantees should like to continue the Project at their own cost with other Grantees, it would be able to do so without restrictions from Endowment Fund after complying with these provisions.

## 14. Disclaimer

The Endowment Fund accept no liability, financial or otherwise, except as set out in these terms and conditions, or otherwise agreed in writing, for expenditure or liability arising from:

- a. Any costs incurred or loss or liability suffered by the Grantees or any third party in relation to Endowment Fund or as a result of their own research and/or commercial activities;



- b. Any lost expectation of profits by Grantee or any third party;
- c. Any failure by Grantees or any third party to understand their rights in relation to Intellectual Property; and
- d. Any other benefit the Grantees or any third party may expect to gain by participating in Endowment Fund program.

## 15. Notices

- i. All notices and other communications required to be served on the Grantees/ Companies including for violation of these terms and conditions shall be considered to be duly served if the same shall have been delivered by registered mail to the Companies/ Grantees at their addresses in the Award letter. It shall be the responsibility of the Grantees/ Companies to communicate to Endowment Fund any change in address that may occur during the tenure of the Project.
- ii. Any communication to be sent to the Endowment Fund shall be considered as duly served if the same shall have been delivered with a duly acknowledged receipt of mail by way of courier or any other means at Endowment Fund address as mentioned below and at Endowment Fund email id being [endowment@indousstf.org](mailto:endowment@indousstf.org) :

The Executive Secretary, U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund

C/o Indo US Science & Technology Forum

Fulbright House, 12 Hailey Road, New Delhi-110 001

## 16. Arbitration

- i. In the event of any dispute or difference between the Grantees and Endowment Fund hereto upon or in relation to or in connection with this Grant, such dispute or difference shall be resolved amicably by mutual consultation or through the bi-lateral U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board. The decision taken by the bilateral U.S.- India Science and Technology Endowment Board would be final and binding.
- ii. If such resolution is not possible, then the unresolved dispute or difference shall be referred to arbitration by a sole arbitrator to be nominated by the Executive Secretary, U.S.-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (No.26 of 1996) shall be applicable to the arbitration under this clause. The costs of arbitration shall be on the discretion of the arbitrator. The venue of arbitration shall be in New Delhi and the arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in English Language. The provision of this clause shall not become inoperative notwithstanding the Grant expiring or being terminated or revoked.





## 17. Governing Law & Jurisdiction

- i. This Award shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of India. Disputes, if any, are subject to the jurisdiction in the courts of Delhi only.
- ii. If any provision of these terms and conditions is found by a court or other legitimate body to be illegal, invalid or unreasonable, it will not affect the remaining terms and conditions which will continue in force.

### Acceptance by the Grantees:

I have read and understood the above mentioned terms and conditions and agree to abide by them.

Signature:

Name:

Organization:

Date:

Place:



## Annexure II

### Preliminary Information and Declaration

S. No.	Questions	Yes	No
1	Do you have a partner in US/India?		
2	Is at least one partner a new or small scale commercial/entrepreneurial entity?		
3	Is it realistic to get to market within 36 months?		
4	Are any project partners, to include Indian and U.S. partners, related by marriage or other personal affiliation? If yes, provide details.		
5	If either of the partner is legally controlled by the other? If yes, provide details.		
6	Do you have a working prototype? If yes, provide details.		
7	Is your product ready to be marketed? If yes, provide details.		
8	Do you have a sustainable business model for commercialization? In case, is it entirely dependent on philanthropy, please describe.		
9	Does your product/technology require a regulatory approval process? If yes, provide details.		
10	Have you applied to the U.S.-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund before? If yes, provide details.		



### Declaration:

1. I hereby declare that the information and record(s) submitted as indicated above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. I hereby agree that my candidacy may be rejected in case any of the information/record(s) furnished above are found to be incorrect or false.
3. I will abide by the decision of the U.S. - India Science and Technology Endowment Board.

Accept ☐



## Annexure III

# United States - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF) Executive Summary Format

*Overall Page limit: Not to exceed 3000 words (about 5 pages). Use the following word limits as guidance.*

## 1. Basic Information

- i. Title of the Proposal
- ii. Program Area
- iii. Contact Information
  - a) Lead US Partner
    - Industry/Organization (Name, Address, Country, Zip Code & Website)
    - Contact Person (Name, Designation, Contact Numbers, Email Id)
  - b) Lead Indian Partner  
(Same Details as in iii (a))
  - c) Other Indian /US Partners  
(Same Details as in iii (a))
- iv. Have you applied earlier for funding under USISTEF?  
If yes, please provide reference number, proposal title, and all applicant partner names.
- v. What is the USP of the project?

## 2. Problem you are trying to solve

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| a) Describe the problem and proposed solution   | 200 Words |
| b) What are the existing alternate solutions that people are using and cost of those solutions. | 200 Words |
| c) Is the proposal has significance for the societal impact?                                    | 200 Words |

## 3. Market size and customer definition

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| a) Describe your target customer                     | 100 Words |
| b) Describe market size                              | 100 Words |
| c) Describe competition and respective market shares | 100 Words |
| d) Describe competitive advantage                    | 100 Words |



#### 4. Description of Innovative Product and Technology

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| a) What is the current status of the technological development and its validation? Please clarify, if the current status of the proposed product/technology is at the Idea stage/ ready with the Prototype/ Proof of Concept developed. | 150 Words |
| b) What is new/innovative in the technology/service which is not offered by other companies, that would make societal impact.   | 150 Words |
| c) What is the proprietary nature of the technology/service?  | 100 Words |
| d) What are the key challenges and milestones (3-4) for bringing the product to market?   | 100 Words |
| e) Regulatory Compliances/ Environmental clearances/any other Government approvals required for prior to commercialization of the product/process and expected time required for such approvals.  | 200 Words |

#### 5. Describe Commercialization Strategy 200 Words

#### 6. Teams Strength

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| a) US Team   | 150 Words |
| b) Indian Team   | 150 Words |
| c) Other Partners (Give details about the mentors/ consultants etc., if any) | 150 Words |

#### 7. Nature and need of Collaboration

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| a) Describe the US Partners role and value added in the partnership     | 150 Words |
| b) Describe the Indian Partners role and value added in the partnership | 150 Words |
| c) Describe the role and value addition by the other Partners (If any)  | 150 Words |
| d) Describe agreement/MoU between the partners (if any)                 | 100 Words |
| e) How well the partners know each other and since how long?            | 150 Words |

#### 8. Project Details

- A. Project Period (in Months):
- B. Project milestones for monitoring (Not more than 3 milestone):

Stage	Milestone Details	Period (in months)	Role of Indian Partner, activities to be performed and progress indicators	Role of US Partner, activities to be performed and progress indicators
1				
2				
3				



## C. Milestone-wise breakup of project budget (In INR) :

Milestone	Indian Partner (in INR)	US Partner (in INR)	(in USD)*	Total Cost (in INR)
Milestone 1				
Milestone 2				
Milestone 3				
<b>Total</b>				

**\*Exchange Rate: - 1 U.S. Dollar (\$) = Rs. 60 for notional purpose only.**

- Note:
- All figures mentioned in the above table should be in Indian Rupee (INR) only. No additional funds will be released for any exchange rate variations, this may be provided for in the contingencies head.
  - No institutional overheads/ indirect costs are permitted.
  - The Endowment Fund does not provide for any fluctuations in dollar exchange rates or funding items and activities in the total budget. However, provisions for this may be kept in the Contingencies budget (upto ten percent (10%) of the total budget).

## D. Total Budget of the Project (in Indian Rupees INR):

S. No.	Particulars	Total Cost (in INR)
1	Overall cost of the project	
2	Expected from the U.S.- India Science and Technology Endowment Fund	
3	Funding from other sources (Please specify in detail, separately) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Grants received from Federal/ non-federal government agencies by the company</li> <li>b. Grants received from Venture Capital (VC)</li> <li>c. Grants received from Angels Network investors</li> </ul>	
4	Any other details	

## 9. Any other relevant information

100 Words



## ***Annexure IV***

### Declaration from Applicants

1. All information submitted in this online application is true and to the best of my knowledge.
2. I understand and agree to the fact that the evaluation of all applications will be undertaken by U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board in consultation with external experts and per the need of the application.
3. Originality: I declare that all Intellectual Property, if any, belongs to me or if it is the property of, a third party, the originator of the idea has agreed in writing to permit me to use the Intellectual Property.
4. Eligibility: I declare that to the best of my knowledge, I am eligible to make an application for the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund.
5. I understand that the decisions of the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board will be final. No communication will be entered into with any person in relation to any decision of the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board.
6. No liability: I understand that the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board, Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship and members of Evaluation Panel or any employee or agent of U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board will NOT be liable for: (a) any costs incurred or loss or liability suffered by the participants or any third party in relation to U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment or as a result of their own research and/or commercial activities; (b) any lost expectation of profits by participant or any third party (c) any failure by participant or any third party to understand their rights in relation to Intellectual Property or (d) any other benefit the applicant or any third party may expect to gain by participating in U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment program.
7. I understand that U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board may change the Terms and Conditions of application at any time without specific notice. The amended Terms and Conditions of Entry will be effective immediately upon being posted on the Website. Important changes to the Terms and Conditions may be highlighted on the





Website for my convenience; however, I acknowledge that it is my sole responsibility to regularly visit the Website to read any changes to the Terms and Conditions of Application.

8. Termination: I understand that U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board may at any time and for any reason: (a) disqualify an applicant if the evaluation panel in their absolute discretion, determines that such disqualification is warranted; or (b) discontinue U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment program by posting a notice to that effect on the Website.
9. I understand that prior to the award being made; all partners have to submit to the Secretariat a signed copy of a mutually agreed upon IPR sharing agreement based on the principles of the Indo-U.S. S&T Agreement (2005) as attached on the Application Guidelines Page.
10. Disputes, if any, are subject to the jurisdiction in the courts of Delhi only.

☐ I accept all the above terms and conditions



## Annexure V

# United States - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF) Business Plan Format

*Overall Page limit: Not to exceed 20 pages. Use the following word limits as guidance.*

### PART A- PROJECT TEAM

#### 1. Basic Information

- i. Title of the Proposal
- ii. Program Area
- iii. Contact Information
  - a) Lead US Partner
    - Industry/Organization (Name, Address, Country, Zip Code & Website)
    - Contact Person (Name, Designation, Contact Numbers, Email Id)
  - b) Lead Indian Partner  
(Same Details as in iii (a))
  - c) Other Indian /US Partners  
(Same Details as in iii (a))
- iv. Have you applied earlier for funding under USISTEF?  
If yes, please provide reference number, proposal title, and all applicant partner names.
- v. What is the USP of the project? 20 Words

#### 2. Management and Personnel

- a) Brief Biographies of key team members including related experience and accomplishments
- b) Other partners, mentors or strategic relationships
- c) Promoters (name, qualifications, number of years in same business).
- d) Are the partners associated with the project related by marriage?
- e) If either of the partner is legally controlled by the other? If yes, provide details.



### 3. Nature and need of Collaboration

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| a) Describe the US Partners' role and value added in the partnership     | 150 Words |
| b) Describe the Indian Partners' role and value added in the partnership | 150 Words |
| c) Describe the role and value addition by the other Partners (If any)   | 150 Words |
| d) Describe agreement/MoU between the partners (if any)                  | 100 Words |
| e) How well the partners know each other and since how long?             | 150 Words |

## **PART B- TECHNICAL**

### 1. Problem you are trying to solve

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| a) Describe the problem and proposed solution?  | 200 Words |
| b) What are the existing alternate solutions that people are using and cost of those solutions? | 200 Words |

### 2. Description of Innovative Product and Technology

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| a) What is new/ innovative in the product or technology, which is not offered by other companies that would make social impact?  | 150 Words |
| b) What is the current status of the technological development and its validation? Please clarify if the proposed product/technology is at the Idea stage/ ready with the Prototype/ Proof of Concept developed/ Pilot/ Beta/ Lab Stage/ Ready for market. | 150 Words |
| c) What are the critical technologies needed for implementation?   | 150 Words |
| d) What is the proprietary nature of the product or technology?  | 100 Words |
| e) What are the risks associated with developing this product or technology? How quickly does the technology change? How easily others could copy it?  | 150 Words |

### 3. Project Timeline

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| a) What is the current status of the product/service?   | 150 Words |
| b) What are the key milestones (3-4) and related timelines for product development and commercialization? Please provide Gantt chart. |           |

## **PART C- FINANCIAL**

### 1. Cost Structure, Profitability and Sustainability

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| a) What are the costs of development?                | 50 Words  |
| b) Price of the product/services at commercial scale | 50 Words  |
| c) How will you sustain the business?                | 150 Words |



## 2. Historical and Projected Growth Rates

- a) Profit and Loss Statement/Projection
- b) Cash Flow Statement/Projection
- c) Sources & Use of funds
- d) Assumptions for above projections

## 3. Future Funding Strategy

- a) Describe any additional funding required for the project over the next 3 years.
- b) Describe any current fund raising activities and planned in the near future.

### **PART D- BUSINESS STRATEGY**

## 1. Market size and customer definition

- a) Describe your target customer;100 Words
- b) Describe market size; 100 Words
- c) Describe competition and respective market share 200 Words

## 2. Commercialization Strategy

- a) Is there a commercial entity, which has been set up? Yes/No
- b) If yes, details -Location, date of incorporation, registration number, etc? 50 Words
- c) If no, likely place and date of incorporation. 50 Words

## 3. Sales & Marketing Strategy

- a) Describe channels to be used for sales/marketing 150 Words
- b) Partnerships - mention existing & expected separately 150 Words

## 4. Risks & Challenges for scaling up

- a) Manufacturing Challenges (If any) 150 Words
- b) Customer 100 Words
- c) Service 100 Words
- d) HR 100 Words
- e) Regulatory Compliances/ Environmental clearances/any other Government approvals required for prior to commercialisation of the product/process and expected time required for such approvals. 200 Words

## 5. Any other relevant information

200 Words



## Annexure VI

# United States - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF) Financials / Budget Summary Format

Project Period (in Months) :

A. Milestone of the Project :

Milestone (in details)	Period (in months)	Role of Indian Partners (Activities to be performed)	Role of US Partners (Activities to be performed)
Milestone 1		1. 2.	1. 2.
Milestone 2		1. 2.	1. 2.
Milestone 3		1. 2.	1. 2.

B. Budget Details for the Project:

Table I: Budget Break-up for various milestones (in INR)

Milestone	Indian Partners	US Partners	Total
Milestone 1			
Milestone 2			
Milestone 3			
Total			



Table – II: Total Budget:

S. No.	Expenditure Heads	Indian Partner	US Partner		Total Cost
		(in INR)	(in INR)	(in USD)*	(in INR)
1.	Manpower				
2.	Consultancy from external agencies				
3.	Equipment				
4.	Consumables				
5.	Field Trials				
6.	Domestic Travel				
7.	International Travel				
8.	Contingencies				
9.	Any other expense (Please specify each head separately)				
<b>Grand Total</b>					

**\*Exchange Rate: - 1 U.S. Dollar (\$) = Rs. 60 for notional purpose only.**

- Note:
- All figures mentioned in the above table should be in Indian Rupee (INR) only. No additional funds will be released for any exchange rate variations, this may be provided for in the contingencies head.
  - No institutional overheads/ indirect costs are permitted.
  - The Endowment Fund does not provide for any fluctuations in dollar exchange rates or funding items and activities in the total budget. However, provisions for this may be kept in the Contingencies budget (upto ten percent (10%) of the total budget).



Table III: Budget Break-up for Indian Partner for various milestones in Indian Rupees (INR):

S. No.	Expenditure Heads	Milestone 1	Milestone 2	Milestone 3	Total Cost (in INR)
1.	Manpower				
2.	Consultancy from external agencies				
3.	Equipment				
4.	Consumables				
5.	Field Trials				
6.	Domestic Travel				
7.	International Travel				
8.	Contingencies				
9.	Any other expense (Please specify each head separately)				
<b>Grand Total</b>					

Table – IV: Budget Break-up for U.S. Partner for various milestones in Indian Rupees (INR):

S. No.	Expenditure Heads	Milestone 1	Milestone 2	Milestone 3	Total Cost (in INR)
1.	Manpower				
2.	Consultancy from external agencies				
3.	Equipment				
4.	Consumables				
5.	Field Trials				
6.	Domestic Travel				
7.	International Travel				
8.	Contingencies				
9.	Any other expense (Please specify each head separately)				
<b>Grand Total</b>					





C. Justification on the Manpower, Equipments and Consumables details *(to be provided by both the partners)*

1) Manpower/Consultancy:

Name (s)	Designation/ Position	Annual Salary Package	Time allocated for project (%)	Man-month(s) work in the project	Salary allocated in the project	Role in the project and Justification

2) Equipment details:

S. No.	Particulars of equipment	Quantity	Cost per unit	Total cost (in INR)	Justification

3) Consumables:

S. No.	Particulars	Amount (INR)	Justification

D. Total Budget of the Project including other funding, in Indian Rupees (INR) :

S. No.	Particulars	Total Cost (in INR)
1	Overall cost of the project	
2	Expected from the U.S. India Science and Technology Endowment Fund	
3	Funding from other sources (Please specify in detail, separately)	
a	Grants received from Federal/non-federal agencies	
b	Grants received from Venture Capital (VC)	
c	Grants received from Angels Network investors	
4	Any other details	



## Annexure VII

# United States - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF)

## Financial - Due Diligence Checklist\*

*\*(Individually to be submitted by all the partners in the format given below)*

### I. Basic Information

- Reference No.
- Title of the Proposal
- Contact Information
  - a) Lead U.S. Partner
    - Industry/Organization (Name, Address, Country, Zip Code & Website)
    - Contact Person (Name, Designation, Contact Numbers, Email Id)
  - b) Lead Indian Partner
    - (Same Details as in (a))
  - c) Other Indian /U.S. Partners
    - (Same Details as in (a))

### II. General Financial Information

- A. Annual information for the past three years *(if applicable)*

*(Information to be provided for the years completed, in case the entity/ company is in existence for less than 3 years)*

  - i) Income statements, balance sheets, cash flows, and footnotes
  - ii) Management financial reports
- B. Financial Projections
  - i) Financial projections for the next three fiscal years
  - ii) Major growth drivers and prospects
  - iii) Risks attendant
  - iv) Economic assumptions underlying projections (different scenarios based on price and market fluctuations)



C. Capital Structure

- i) Broad shareholding pattern (existing and proposed)
- ii) Summary of all debt instruments/bank lines with key terms and conditions

D. Other financial information

- i) Summary of current federal, state and foreign tax positions, including net operating loss carry-forwards.
- ii) Is the company regular in payment of statutory dues/taxes/Bank dues. In case of delays please give details.

### III. Legal and Related Matters

- i) Pending lawsuits against the Company
- ii) Pending lawsuits initiated by Company
- iii) Description of environmental/ safety/ ethical issues involved and their consequences
- iv) List of patents, copyrights, licenses, and trademarks (issued and pending)
- v) Summary of insurance coverage/any material exposures

### IV. Other details

- i) Date of incorporation of the Company/ under which act the organization has been registered along with the copy of the Incorporation Certificate
- ii) Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company
- iii) Any venture capital funding received in India/ U.S. for same project or any other related project
- iv) Any current debt/liabilities of the company
- v) Any other grants received from Federal/non-federal agencies/Venture Capital/ Angel Networks Investors or any other sources by the company



## Annexure VIII

# United States - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF)

## Pre-Review Certification form regarding Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure of Information for Reviewers

- A. Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure:** I fully understand the confidential nature of the review process and agree: (1) to destroy or return all materials related to the evaluation; (2) not to disclose or discuss the materials associated with the review, my evaluation, or the review meeting outside of that meeting or with any other individual except as authorized by the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF); (3) not to disclose procurement information prior to the award of a contract and (4) to refer all inquiries concerning the review to IUSSTF.
- B. Conflict of Interest for All Reviewers:** This is to certify that in the review identified above, I did not participate in an evaluation of any application or proposal; (1) from any applicant institution or offer or where I am a full – or part-time salaried employee or where I am negotiating for such employment; (2) from any applicant institution or offer or where I have received or could receive a direct financial benefit in relation to the application on proposal under review or have received or could receive a financial benefit from the applicant institution or offer or principal investigator that is unrelated to the application or proposal under review; (3) submitted by a close personal relative, a member of my household, or professional associate, or if such person receives financial benefits from or provides financial benefits to an applicant or offer or. If there was an appearance or real conflict of interest, or (4) any application submitted by my former (within the past year) employer I recused myself from the review of the application/proposal or was granted an appropriate waiver.
- C. Conflict of Interest for Government reviewers:** This is to certify that in the review identified above, I did not participate in an evaluation from (1) any applicant institution where I have an outside activity; (2) any applicant institution where I serve as an officer, director, trustee or partner; (3) any applicant institution where I am seeking employment; (4) any applicant institution in which I, my spouse, and my minor child holds stock/ share; (5) any applicant institution where my spouse is employed; (6) any application submitted by a close personal relative, a member of my household, a colleague with whom I have a business or other contractual



relationship, the employer of my spouse, parent, or child, or (7) any application submitted by my former (within the past year) non-Government employer. If there was an appearance or actual conflict of interest, I recused myself from the review of the application/proposal or was granted an appropriate waiver.

### **CERTIFICATION**

Under penalty of perjury, I fully understand the confidential nature of the review process and agree to confidentiality and non-disclosure (Paragraph A) and certify that in the review above I did not participate in an evaluation of any application or proposal with which I knowingly had a conflict of interest (Paragraph B or C)

Printed Name :

Signature



## Annexure IX

# United States - India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF)

(Format for Technical Assessment of the proposal by Expert Reviewer)

### Basic Project Details (to be filled in by the Secretariat) :

- Reference No.
- Title of the Proposal
- Program Area
- Contact Information
  - a) Lead U.S. Partner
    - Industry/Organization (Name, Address, Country, Zip Code & Website)
    - Contact Person (Name, Designation, Contact Numbers, Email Id)
  - b) Lead Indian Partner
    - (Same Details as in (a))
  - c) Other Indian /U.S. Partners
    - (Same Details as in (a))

### Reviewer's assessment:

1. Is the value proposition clear? Does the proposal provide a promising approach in order to solve the problem being addressed?
2. Does the proposal demonstrate the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?
3. Does the proposal demonstrate that the proposed product/service is beyond the stage of basic research?
4. Does the team has the skills, abilities, and knowledge needed to execute the plan?
5. Are there any regulatory clearances required for the execution of this project?
6. Any legal, ethical, environmental concerns which need to be addressed?
7. Any other additional parameters which you feel are critical for the project execution?
8. Status of the technology development:
  - a. Prototype development
  - b. Production processes
  - c. Technology beta testing process and status

## Contact us

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