

Innovations for Defence Excellence

Details (Innovations for Defence Excellence)

Scheme for iDEX-Innovations for Defence Excellence was launched in May' 2021 by Defence Innovation Organization (DIO) under the aegis of the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence (MoD). The iDEX scheme, besides fostering innovation and technology development, is also a path to procurement for the Armed Forces as per the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 which states that procurement through Innovative solutions could be undertaken under following programmes: - (a) Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX).: Projects of Start-ups, MSMEs etc. (b) Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme. ■ iDEX aims at creating an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D; institutes & academia. ■ Objectives:- a) Facilitate rapid development of new, indigenised, and innovative technologies for the Indian Defence and Aerospace sector, to meet their needs in a shorter time span.

Objectives (Innovations for Defence Excellence)

- ■ iDEX is being funded and managed by a 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)' which has been formed under the aegis of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, as a 'not for profit' company as per Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013 for this purpose, by the two founder members i.e. ■ iDEX aims at creating an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D; institutes & academia. ■ Achieving the goal of self-sufficiency for the Indian military will require a means to incorporate innovation rapidly in the weapons procurement process. ■ Objectives:
 - a) Facilitate rapid development of new, indigenised, and innovative technologies for the Indian Defence and Aerospace sector, to meet their needs in a shorter time span.

Important Features (Innovations for Defence Excellence)

- 10 Cr in case of iDEX Prime) to the Start-ups/MSMEs to fund the projects in many technological areas under Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC) and Open Challenge through the Support for Prototype and Research Kick start (SPARK Framework). Projects supported through TDF of DRDO for leveraging the domestic capabilities available with Indian Industries especially MSMEs including Start-ups. It will provide them with grants/fundings and other necessary support to carry out R&D; which has potential for future adoption for Indian Defence and aerospace needs. ■ DIO supports tech-driven firms to create, deploy and commercialize technologies for the Indian Armed Forces, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) & other Govt. Establishments through Defence India Startup Challenges (DISC) and Open Challenges (OC) by providing a SPARK (Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart) grant upto Rs.

Benefits (Innovations for Defence Excellence)

- 1) SPARK (Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart) Grant: iDEX provides grants up to Rs. 1.50 Cr (up to Rs. 10 Cr in case of iDEX Prime) to the start-ups/MSMEs to fund the projects in many technological areas under Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC) and Open Challenge through the Support for Prototype and Research Kick start (SPARK Framework) ■ 2) Partner Incubators Support to iDEX winners:
 - (a) Partner Incubator will provide mentorship to startups/MSMEs selected by iDEX
 - DIO. (b) Partner Incubator will run programs like accelerators, incubation, etc. to strengthen selected startups/MSMEs beneficial for the India defence sector. (c) Partner Incubator will undertake initiatives to reach out, spread awareness and promote innovations for defence among students/ researchers at all levels in academia ■ 3) The major benefits from iDEX Scheme to Indian Defence Innovation Ecosystem are:
 - (a) Facilitate rapid development of new, indigenized, and innovative technologies for the Indian defence and aerospace sector, to meet needs for these sectors in shorter timelines (b) Create a culture of engagement with innovative startups, to encourage co

- creation for defence and aerospace sectors (c) Empower a culture of technology co
- creation and co
- innovation within the defence and aerospace sectors. ■

Eligibility (Innovations for Defence Excellence)

- Eligible Organisations/ Beneficiaries to avail the grants under Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart (SPARK), the eligibility is as follows: i. Startups, as defined and recognized by Department of Industrial Policy Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. ii. Any Indian company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/2013, primarily a Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) as defined in the MSME Act, 2006. iii. Individual innovators are also encouraged to apply (research & academic institutions can use this category to apply), however they are supposed to form a Start
- up before signing the SPARK Grant Agreement. ■

Application Process (Innovations for Defence Excellence)

- Application Link: <https://idex.gov.in/challenge-categories> ■ Application Process: Please follow the website <https://idex.gov.in> for application process stepwise) ■

Documents Required (Innovations for Defence Excellence)

- 1) Company Incorporation Certificate
- AoA and MoA(in case of Pvt. Ltd./ Public limited company) 2) DPIIT registration/valid MSME certificate
- 3) Latest Audited Balance Sheet
- ITR
- P&L; statements of the Company
- if applicable 4) Govt. Issued ID Card of applicant ■

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