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Please try again later.OkIt seems you have already initiated your application earlier.To know more please visit CancelApply NowCheck EligibilityMinistry Of Science And TechnologyBiotechnology Ignition Grant SchemeBIGBiotechnologyBIRACEntrepreneurIgnition GrantStart-upDetailsThe â€œBiotechnology Ignition Grant Scheme (BIG)â€ is a flagship scheme of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), (a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India), which recognizes and invests in innovative ideas in the biotech sector. The ideas should have clear potential to translate into commercial products/technologies. BIG supports individual entrepreneurs/ start-ups from ideation to Proof of Concept (PoC).Purpose of the BIG scheme:Supports ideation to Proof of ConceptNurtures entrepreneurship to enable translation of ideas into commercially viable products/ technologies to address unmet needEnables Biotech Startup Ecosystem in the country to become globally competitiveTypes of projects supported:BIG scheme supports innovation under Healthcare, Lifesciences, Diagnostics, Medical Devices, Drugs, Vaccines, Drug Formulations and delivery systems, Industrial Biotechnology, Agriculture, Secondary agriculture, Waste Management, Sanitation, Clean Energy, and related areas.The project proposals can be submitted in any of the following seven categories:Devices & DiagnosticsDrugs including drug deliveryIndustrial Biotechnology including Secondary AgricultureAgricultureBiosimilars & Stem CellsVaccinesBioinformatics & facilitiesBIRAC encourages proposals involving integration of Biotech with applied sciences that may include Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Sensors, Big Data Analytics, Cloud Computing, Machine Learning, Automation, Robotics, and related disciplines to potentially facilitate transforming healthcare, life sciences, agriculture, secondary agriculture, and other bio-based industry/ markets.Types of projects not supported:Basic/exploratory research projectsProjects having a low element of noveltyProjects involving systematic clinical trials, field trials or late-stage validation/certification of the technology.Note: BIG grant is not a research fellowship and cannot be used to support PhD or any other academic research.Project Duration:The funding is provided for a period of up to 18 months. The project is implemented in a milestone-based manner.BenefitsSupport provided to grantees under the scheme:1. Under the BIG scheme, BIRAC provides a grant-in-aid of up to INR 50 lakhs (approx. USD 75,000) for a period of 18 months.2. BIG Partners and BIRAC provide continuous mentoring support to the grantees, including but not limited to the following:â€¢ Technical Mentoring (Connect with Technical Experts)â€¢ IP Supportâ€¢ Legal Supportâ€¢ Networking and Outreachâ€¢ Trainingsâ€¢ Regulatory Adviceâ€¢ Business Mentoringâ€¢ Connect with Investorsâ€¢ Any other assistance on a case basisEligibilityEligibility criteria for an Individual:1. The individual applicant should be an Indian citizen.2. The primary applicant should be the Project Leader.3. The applicant has to be incubated in an incubator (Incubator could be located anywhere in the country and may/may not be supported by BIRAC). At the time of application, the applicant is expected to have identified a preferred incubator. LoI/MoU with the incubator is required for final approval.4. If the applicant is formally employed (or registered as a student) with an academic or research organization, thenâ€¢ the applicant has to produce a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the competent authority of the organization indicating that the organization has policies in place to allow the applicant while in service/ on sabbatical/on Extraordinary Leave:â€¢ accept funding support (if successful) as an individual,â€¢ manage the funds through a separate no-lien account in individual capacityâ€¢ undertake the BIG project in an incubatorâ€¢ to create an enterprise.â€¢ Alternatively, the applicant needs to provide an undertaking that he/she plans to terminate his/her association with the current employer and take up the project full-time in the event of grant approval. A resignation/ relieving/ retirement letter will be needed as a supporting document before final approval and release of the grant.5. If the applicant is formally employed with a for-profit company/LLP,â€¢ the applicant needs to provide an undertaking that he/she plans to terminate his/her association with the current employer and take up the project full-time in the event of grant approval (A resignation/ relieving/retirement letter will be needed as supporting document before final approval and release of the grant.), or,â€¢ Alternatively, the application should be submitted under the Company/LLP category.6. An individual who is a promoter shareholder of a Biotech company or one of the partners in a Biotech LLP will not be allowed to apply as an individual, irrespective of the percentage of shareholding of the applicant in the company. (In such a case, the application can be submitted through the company/LLP route, in case the company/LLP meets the required eligibility criteria as detailed below).Eligibility criteria for Company/ LLP:The Company/LLP should be registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956/2013.The incorporation date of the Company/LLP should not be earlier than 5 years from the date of closing of a particular BIG call.A company is considered as 'owned'â€™ by resident Indian citizen(s) if minimum 51% of the capital is beneficially owned by resident Indian citizen(s) and/or Indian companies, which are ultimately owned and controlled by resident Indian citizens.Company/LLPâ€™s application should be represented by a Project Leader.The Company/LLP must have its own in-house R&D facility that is functional and adequate to execute the project. If the Company/LLP does not have a functional and adequate laboratory of its own then it should be incubated at an incubator (This shall be verified and confirmed by BIG Partner).If an applicant company, in which any promoter holding more than or equal to 20% of the shares, is a co-promoter of another ineligible company or a partner in another ineligible LLP, then the applicant will not be eligible. The only exception to this shall be a situation wherein the latter ineligible company/LLP is operating in a non-biotech domain. In case the applicant is an LLP: An applicant LLP, in which any of the partners is also a partner in another ineligible LLP or is a co-promoter in another ineligible company, then the applicant will not be eligible. The only exception to this shall be a situation wherein the latter ineligible LLP/company is operating in a non-biotech domain.Note 01: Every proposal must clearly identify a Project Leader who will take responsibility for the technical and managerial aspects of the project execution.Note 02: The Project Leader must be technically qualified to undertake the project. The Project Leader must have completed basic undergraduate training in any discipline.Note 03: In the event that the proposal is shortlisted for presentation in front of the Selection Committee(s), the Project Leader will be required to present the case for support. In the event that a proposal is shortlisted for funding support, the Project Leader will be required to sign the project agreement.Note 04: The project Leader must be a shareholder in the applicant company.Note 05: The proposed objectives and deliverables should not have received funding support from any other agency.Note 06: BIG support can be provided only once to any individual/startup.Note 07: Biotech Start-ups and Individual Entrepreneurs with innovative ideas having potential for commercialization are eligible to apply.Note 08: Scientists, Faculty, Research Scholars, and Graduates in any discipline incubating/ intend to incubate at a Bio Incubator.Application ProcessOnlineApplication process:Step 01: BIRAC issues a national call inviting applications under BIG at least twice a year (1st of January & 1st of July). The Call for Proposals is advertised through one or more means that may include the BIRAC website, newspapers, journals, and magazines. The Call for Proposals is typically open for a period of up to one and a half months.Step 02: Application for BIG needs to be submitted online ONLY through the BIRAC website www.birac.nic.in.Step 03: For proposal submission, the applicant can register on the BIRAC website under â€œBIG Userâ€. Step 04: The eligible applicants can fill up and submit their applications by visiting the official website.Note 01: The BIG Scheme is implemented across the country through BIRACâ€™s BIG Partners. The Call will mention the names of BIG Partners for the particular call. Names of the BIG Partners and their responsibilities are mentioned in Annexure 2.Note 02: Applicants are advised to provide sufficient details in their applications to allow

for an informed and fair evaluation/review. Note 03: Requests for changes in a proposal once submitted will not be entertained. Note 04: Providing incorrect information intentionally is viewed adversely and may lead to disqualification. Selection process: BIG selection is a multi-tier process involving the following steps: Step 01: Eligibility Check: BIG Partners screen the applications for eligibility requirements as laid out in the scheme document and appropriateness under the BIG scheme. Step 02: Examination by Preliminary Selection Committee (PSC): The PSC examines all eligible proposals on the following contours: Scheme fit, Availability of adequate technical details which are minimally required for online review, Plagiarism. Step 03: Online review by subject matter experts: Proposals recommended by PSC are reviewed online by 3 or more subject matter experts. Step 04: Presentation before Thematic Technical Expert Panel (TEP): Based on expert reviews, shortlisted applications are called for a Face-to-face presentation before the Technical Expert Panel (TEP). The TEPs are conducted in a thematic manner where all proposals of a particular theme are evaluated together by a common committee. All proposals are scored by individual TEP Experts and the Geometric Mean of Individual Scores is used to arrive at the final score for a particular proposal. Proposals with score ≥ 60 are considered at the next step (ESC). Proposals with score < 60 are not considered further. Step 05: Scoring Cut-off decision by the Expert Selection Committee (ESC): ESC takes the final decision with regard to the cut-off score for final selection. Proposals above the decided cut-off will be considered for further due diligence. ESC may choose to have either the same or differential scoring cut off across the themes. Step 06: ESC-recommended applications are then subjected to final financial and technical due diligence by the BIG Partner. This may require a visit by BIG partner representative(s) to the applicant's site and involves the following steps: Reconfirming eligibility by verification of original documents, Legal, technical, and financial due diligence, Confirming applicant's claimed resources: Space, equipment, manpower, advisors, incubation services, samples, etc., Confirming compliance strategy with regard to safety, ethics, waste disposal, etc., Confirming for any special guidance by ESC, Justification of budget (usually by verifying quotations); meeting budget caps and other requirements, Finalization of milestones, budget, and payment schedule; defining clear measurable milestones. Indicative evaluation criteria: BIG Proposals are reviewed on the following parameters during online review and TEP Stage: 1. Unmet Need (max 20) 2. Value Proposition/Differentiation (max 20) 3. Technical Viability (max 30) 4. Team Strength/Passion (max 15) 5. Business Perspective (max 15) Potential Clarity/Team's view Commercialization Potential (Yes/No) Registration guidelines for BIG Scheme (Company/Individual) Documents Required Documentary evidence for verification by BIG Partners: Before the Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Letter of commitment from Scientific Advisors/ Mentors to serve as honorary advisors Letter of intent of key members of the technical team Letter of interest/intent from the incubator Evidence of access to the unique facility(ies) needed to execute a project Evidence of access to key samples needed to execute the project (eg: bio-fluids) Any other relevant document Post Expert Selection Panel (ESC): Letter of acceptance or MoU with incubator Formal agreements/ MoUs with other key facility(ies) providers/ suppliers Any other due diligence documents requested on a case-to-case basis by BIG Partners (e.g. technology in licensing; IP rights clarification; NoC from Institute etc.) Undertaking by the applicant that the project with the same objectives and deliverables has not received funding from any other agency. Any other relevant document

Frequently Asked Questions

What is BIG scheme and its salient features? Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) Scheme is grant-in-aid funding to support individuals and startups in the field of Biotechnology. The BIG scheme invests in ideas that have clear potential to translate into commercial products/technologies. The scheme provides funding, mentorship, access to incubation, and other support for ideation to proof of concept. Funding will be in the form of Grant-in-Aid up to ₹50 Lakhs. So, if you have an idea, a strong rationale supporting it, addressing an unmet need, you can apply for BIG funding to progress from ideation to Proof-of-concept.

What are the Biotechnology areas supported under BIG? Healthcare, Life sciences including Drugs, Biologics, Delivery systems, Medical Devices, Diagnostics, Biomaterials, others; Industrial Biotechnology including enzymes, biofertilizers, bioprocesses, waste treatment, others; Agriculture and allied areas such as Nutrition, Fisheries, Poultry, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Aquaponics, others; Waste to value; Sanitation; Biofuels, Clean Energy; Bioservices and Bioanalytics including Big Data, Artificial intelligence, Machine Learning, Internet of Things, Automation integrated in Biotech applications

What all is supported under the upto ₹50 Lakhs grant? The BIG award provides funding support for buying equipment, reagents, and components, hiring skilled manpower for team building, travel, incubation charges, rentals, engaging services, etc. in the 18 months period of the BIG grant. During the BIG tenure, BIRAC extends several networking opportunities to connect with experts, mentors, industry, investors, peer-to-peer learning, specialized training & workshops, and exposure to various platforms on a merit basis. These opportunities are made available through BIRAC's ecosystem-supporting partners including BIG partners, BioNEST clusters, and a huge network of extended partners.

Who all can apply? Individual Entrepreneur, a registered Startup including LLP. I am a person of Indian origin but hold a foreign passport can I apply? No, only Indians with Indian passports are eligible to apply for this scheme. OCIs are not eligible to apply. Can I apply as an undergraduate student? No, the Project leader must have completed basic graduation at the time of application submission. Can I apply as a faculty/scientist/research scholar/PG student? Yes, if you are pursuing translational research leading to the formation of a startup. As a procedural requirement, you are required to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from your institute/employer. Faculty members who are not willing to create a Startup within the BIG term of 18 months are encouraged to apply under other schemes of BIRAC for Faculty. I am employed with a company; can I apply for this scheme? Yes, you can apply as an individual but need to provide an undertaking that you will terminate your association with the current employer and take up the project full time, if selected. Or, your application should be submitted under the Company/LLP category with the employer company being the applicant company. What age of startup is considered as eligible age to apply? The date of incorporation of the Company/LLP should not be earlier than 5 years from the date of BIG Call launch. Does Project Leader have to be a shareholder in the Company/LLP? Yes, the Project Leader must be a shareholder in the applicant company. What minimum percentage of shares does a PI must own to be eligible for the BIG? There is no such criterion of minimum percentage. Can proprietorship firm apply for BIG scheme? No, the legal entity should be a company registered under the Companies Act. Can Institute apply for BIG scheme? No, Institutes/Universities are not eligible to apply for this scheme. Students may be eligible to apply. Our firm is registered under Society's act, are we eligible to apply for BIG scheme? No, the legal entity should be a company registered under the Companies Act. Is DSIR recognition needed to apply for this scheme? No, DSIR certification is not needed to apply for this scheme. Where to apply? Only online applications are accepted. To apply under BIG Scheme, applicant needs to register on BIRAC website at https://www.birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=327&under=New User and submit the application. I have registered for BIPP, CRS and want to register using the same user name, e-mail ID for BIG. Please use a different user name and email id for submitting BIG proposal. What are the evaluation criteria for selection of BIG Grantees? The indicative criteria for evaluation of an application include Unmet need, Value proposition/differentiation, Technical viability, Team strength. Proposed product/ technology must have Commercialization Potential. What is the process of selection? It is 4 tier selection process. All eligible applications go through following steps: a. Preliminary Selection Committee (PSC) screens the proposals for scheme fit, adequacy of details, and plagiarism b. The PSC-recommended proposals are then reviewed Online by subject experts c. The recommended applicants are then called for F2F presentations before the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP). The proposal will be scored on a scale of 100. d. Expert Selection Committee (ESC) will decide the final cutoff of marks and recommend the proposals for BIG funding. When can I get to know the final decision

made by ESC? It typically takes 4 months for the final announcement of BIG results from closing of the call. You will be updated at each stage by BIG Partners about your application status.

What is the duration of the BIG project? The project must complete within 18 months.

Is there any limit on number of projects to be submitted? No, but only ONE will be eventually funded. It is encouraged to submit the best one proposal (the most prioritized) by the applicant. Submitting more than one project reflects poorly on the applicant's ability to prioritize options.

Should we have a guide/mentor? A Guide or Mentor is mostly preferable but not mandatory. What do Incubator and Incubatee mean? An Incubator is defined as a facility designed for housing R&D-driven start-up companies or individual incubatees. It typically provides the incubation space, access to equipment, mentoring, and other required services to start-up companies/individuals for their initial growth. An Incubatee is defined as an individual or a company located in an Incubator and availing its services after formally associating with the incubator.

Is it necessary to be incubated at the time of application? No. Only a Letter of Intent for incubation from an incubator shall suffice. It is applicant's discretion to choose any of the 50 BIRAC's BioNEST incubators / BIRAC's BIG partner incubators / any other incubator present in the country.

Where to obtain Letter of Intent? Write to the incubator where you intend to incubate.

What is an Incubator and BIG Partner and their relationship? Incubator is a center that has the required lab infrastructure, required network to support your proposed BIG work. Certain BioNEST incubators have been officially recognized as BIRAC's BIG Partners. These incubators are mandated to implement the BIG Scheme (Facilitate and mentor the aspirant applicants and BIG grantees). BIG Partners are responsible for initial screening of the proposal, technical due diligence, financial due diligence, project monitoring, fund disbursement, arranging for workshops etc.

Can my institute be my Incubator? The Incubators should have a legal status i.e. should be either a registered society or a registered trust or a registered company. Can my BIG Partner be my incubator? Yes, but it is NOT mandatory. You may choose to incubate at the incubator of your choice. This may include BIG partner or any other incubator offering facilities and services required for the execution of your project.

a) BIRAC supported BioNEST Bio Incubators list can be viewed here: In case of Individual applicants, who will receive the funds? The applicant will receive the fund in a separate dedicated, auditable no-lien account. The fund disbursement is linked with milestones through BIRAC's BIG Partners.

Do I have to pay royalty? BIG grantees on successful progression to commercialization are required to pay 5% royalty on net sales of the product/technology developed through BIRAC support till the time such royalty payment becomes equivalent to the grant-in aid assistance disbursed by BIRAC for the Project.

Is the information provided by me kept Confidential? Confidentiality is maintained for all the proposals that are received under different schemes. All the external reviewers sign a non-disclosure agreement and no conflict agreement before viewing the proposals.

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Purpose of the BIG scheme: Supports ideation to Proof of Concept Nurtures entrepreneurship to enable translation of ideas into commercially viable products/ technologies to address unmet need Enables Biotech Startup Ecosystem in the country to become globally competitive

Types of projects supported: BIG scheme supports innovation under Healthcare, Lifesciences, Diagnostics, Medical Devices, Drugs, Vaccines, Drug Formulations and delivery systems, Industrial Biotechnology, Agriculture, Secondary agriculture, Waste Management, Sanitation, Clean Energy, and related areas. The project proposals can be submitted in any of the following seven categories: Devices & Diagnostics Drugs including drug delivery Industrial Biotechnology including Secondary Agriculture Agriculture Biosimilars & Stem Cells Vaccines Bioinformatics & facilities BIRAC encourages proposals involving integration of Biotech with applied sciences that may include Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Sensors, Big Data Analytics, Cloud Computing, Machine Learning, Automation, Robotics, and related disciplines to potentially facilitate transforming healthcare, life sciences, agriculture, secondary agriculture, and other bio-based industry/ markets.

Types of projects not supported: Basic/exploratory research projects Projects having a low element of novelty Projects involving systematic clinical trials, field trials or late-stage validation/certification of the technology.

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Project Duration: The funding is provided for a period of up to 18 months. The project is implemented in a milestone-based manner.

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