



School of Innovation in Biodesign (SiB) Inter-institutional Biodesign Centers

A call for proposals under the DBT Biomedical engineering division



Call opens on 5th March, 2020

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1 The Call in Brief

Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, is announcing grant funding to establish biodesign centers in the country to implement projects aimed at producing medical technology innovators and indigenous healthcare technologies.

This call addresses Indian medical schools, technical institutes, research/academic institutes with a proven track record on biomedical research. In addition, it is desirable to have industry linkages, partnerships with State governments/ Health or Rural Missions for deployment of products towards public health and international collaborations for attracting exchange of fellows.

The applications must be submitted online no later than **15th April, 2020**.

2 Background

DBT has established four biodesign centers to promote medical technology innovation in the country.

- **School of international biodesign (SIB) at AIIMS & IIT Delhi, New Delhi** - SIB is a biomedical technology innovation programme initiated as Stanford India Biodesign programme to train next generation of medical technology innovators. It was jointly established at AIIMS, New Delhi and IIT Delhi.
- **Healthcare Technology Innovation Center (HTIC) at IIT Madras Research Park**: HTIC was initiated to design devices and deploy products into public-health and patient care systems by engineers at IIT Madras for the clinical needs identified by clinicians.
- **DBT's 'Bioengineering and Biodesign Initiative' at IISc Bangalore** was established for undertaking R&D in the interdisciplinary domain in collaboration with medical schools.
- **The Center for Biodesign, THSTI, Faridabad** was established as a niche center with the mission to undertake innovation and translational research in medical technologies with bio-design process.

Based on the success in these programs, DBT intends to expand the program through this call.

3 Purpose of the Call

The call seeks to:

- create a pool of potential, successful medical technology entrepreneurs and start-ups
- build robust, indigenous healthcare technology products into public health systems.

This is to be achieved by fostering a mutual collaboration between different organizations- medical schools, technical institutions, academia/research institutes, State governments/Health or Rural Missions.

4 Who can Apply?

- This call addresses collaboration between Indian medical schools and premier technical institutes (IIT/NIT/IITs etc) with or without a research/academic institute with a proven track record on biomedical research.
- In addition, it is desirable to have industry linkages, partnerships with State governments/ Health or Rural Missions for deployment of products towards public health, international collaborations for attracting exchange of fellows.
- All Indian technical, academic, research and clinical institutions may apply for this program as per the funding guidelines of Government of India.

5 Grant Guidelines

5.1 Program description

- SiB to serve as a pre-incubation program wherein fellowship is provided for training medical technology innovators as per the model now in AIIMS, New Delhi.
- The fellows should be identified through competitive process.
- Team of fellows – science, technical and medical graduates should work together in identifying a clinical need through clinical immersion. They should then build products and validate them in a year period.
- Successful technologies may be licensed to the fellows for start-up creation.

- In addition, the products to be developed by the fellows and the groups of leading scientists from the institutions should be deployed into public health systems
- Partnership of the applicant institution with other global academic/research organizations for exchange of fellows is desirable. Similarly, partnerships with Health or Rural Missions and State Governments for deployment of the products into public health is desirable.

The expertise of each project collaborators must be stated clearly with supporting documentary evidence.

5.2 Conditions for us to consider an application

DBT will only consider applications which meet the following:

- The application should meet call objectives (see Purpose of call above)
- The application must be submitted as per the format on DBT's website only (<https://dbtepromis.nic.in/pi/frmOpenCallList.aspx>).
- All project parties must be legal Indian Organizations
- Project duration- maximum 5 years
- Applications must be submitted on or before 15th April, 2020 at 5.00 pm

5.3 Grant assessment

5.3.1 Scientific merit of proposal

- Alignment to call objectives (see Purpose of call above)
- Innovation in product development
- Priority identification, product validation, trials etc.

5.3.2 Approach and methodology

- Management of fellowship
- Techno-legal activities management (sharing of IP, royalty etc)
- Clarity on Technology transfer/commercialisation/public deployment mechanisms
- Realistically planned activities in regard to timeline and budget

5.3.3 Organization and investigator capabilities

- Project collaborators expertise and experience in the chosen domain
- Project collaborators capability and reliability in regard to implementing the project
- Advantages of partnering between selected groups
- Track-record for partnership between major partnering institutions

5.3.4 Impact and deliverables

- Well-articulated implementation plan
- Potential to create medical technology innovators and entrepreneurs and successful start-ups in the domain.
- Attracting talent to India through international exchange of fellows
- Potential to achieve public health outcomes
- Potential to develop high-end imported medical devices indigenously through translating key research outcomes

5.4 How do we assess?

Only those applications meeting the requirements at point 5.2 above will be considered and assessed according to the criteria specified above in competition with each other. Decision will be notified to all applicants.

6 Contact details

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