



BIOTECH URJIT CLUSTER
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH JOINT INDUSTRY TRANSLATIONAL
CLUSTER

A call for proposals under the DBT Industry & Entrepreneurship Development Scheme

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1. About the Call

The National Biotechnology Development Strategy (2015-2020) aims to establish India as a world-class bio-manufacturing hub by creating a technology development and translation network across the country through establishment of clusters, incubators, technology transfer centres etc.

Accordingly, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, is inviting proposals to establish BIOTECH URJIT CLUSTER i.e. "University Research Joint Industry Translational Cluster" in the country to synergize resources between institutions, Universities research laboratories, industries and SMEs for technology & product development and building enterprises.

This call addresses Indian National research laboratories focusing on life sciences in collaboration with universities, medical schools, technical institutes, industries, incubators, SMEs in the life sciences sector with a proven track-record on research, technology and product development.

The applications must be submitted in the prescribed format (<https://dbtpromis.nic.in/pi/frmOpenCallList.aspx>) online no later than **1st Feb, 2021**.

2. Background

DBT in the last three decades has created a vibrant Innovation ecosystem. It is now imperative to strengthen the University, Research laboratory, Industry connect to take forward the Translational research to commercialisation. The cluster approach is seen as a means to institutionalise the connections for steering enterprise creation from high-end scientific research. Four bioclusters have been established by the Department so far.

3. Purpose of the Call

The purpose of Biotech URJIT Cluster scheme is to complement and enhance the translational and commercialization potential of inventions & innovations coming out of academic research activities.

Each Biotech URJIT Cluster will be anchored at a certain geography or region. All partners of the Biotech URJIT Cluster should be in close geographical proximity to allow easy collaborations.

4. Who can apply?

As mentioned under point no. 1, National research laboratories focusing on life sciences in collaboration with universities, medical schools, technical institutes, industries, incubators, SMEs in the life sciences sector with a proven track-record on research, technology and product development are eligible. In addition, it is desirable to have linkages and partnerships with State Governments and investors.

National laboratory (preferably DBT institute), University, incubator, industry/SMEs are mandatory partners.

The institutes should be in proximity in a specified geographic location, including State and Central universities in the cluster is preferable.

5. Grant Guidelines

5.1. Program description

Biotech URJIT Clusters will power the Indian bioeconomy to achieve the larger goal of establishing India as a bio-manufacturing hub. Each cluster should deliberate how through this cluster approach they will serve one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through frontier research coupled to translation.

The proposal for Biotech URJIT Cluster shall be formulated based on the following:

- i. At least one academic research institute, preferably one of the DBT's autonomous institute /any National laboratory which would also be the lead institute/coordinator for the cluster
- ii. University (State/Central) organization (NIPER/IITs/AIIMS/IISER etc)
- iii. Incubator facility and advanced centralized equipment facility
- iv. Start-ups/SMEs/Entrepreneurs
- v. Industry partners or Companies with their R & D set-up within the cluster campus
- vi. A technology Management office to deal with techno-legal activities
- vii. Presence of a strong Mentor network --technical, Business, regulatory etc and Investor connections.

5.2. Criteria to consider the application

DBT will only consider applications which meet the following:

- The application should meet call objectives (see Purpose of call at point no. 3)
- The application must be submitted as per the format on DBT's website only (<https://dbtpromis.nic.in/pi/frnOpenCallList.aspx>).
- All project parties must be legal Indian Organizations
- Project duration - maximum upto 5 years
- Applications must be submitted on or before 1st Feb, 2021 at 5.00pm

5.3. Grant assessment

Scientific merit

- Each cluster should submit a proposal in the format towards achieving any of the priority SDG through cutting-edge life sciences research and its translation

- Joint, priority Research programs identified for cooperation between the cluster partners

Implementation Strategy

- Cluster coordination mechanism/working group formation
- Role/responsibility and contribution of each partnering organization
- Plan for Technology transfer/commercialisation/public deployment mechanisms
- Realistically planned activities with regard to timeline and budget

Cluster Strength (statistics for the last 3 years)

- Patents/publications/tech developed, transferred, commercialized by cluster partner organizations in the specified domain
- Number of Students in life sciences Masters and research programs in the cluster, scientists and academic professors with research track-record
- Credibility and track-record in regard to implementing the project
- Strength of partnering industry/SMEs in terms of R&D, technology/product development
- Incubation facilities in the cluster including start-ups incubated, exited and attracted additional funding
- Investors in the region for life sciences translation- Angel, VCs.
- Track-record for partnership between major partnering institutions

Impact and deliverables

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be served through the effort
- Potential to implement high-end joint research programs with industry
- Potential to create technopreneurs and successful start-ups in the domain

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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