

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who can apply ?

Any public and deemed institution/university or private UGC recognized institution/University (including deemed universities) certified for doing Research and Development activities by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).

Private universities must be recognized by UGC & DSIR for research and should have contributed significantly in the growth of biological science during past 10 years.

2. When is the call for DBT-SAHAJ announced?

The call for DBT-SAHAJ is announced annually and is advertised on the DBT website.

3. What is the duration of support ?

The **duration of support is for 5 years** subject to reviewing of progress and fulfillment of Terms and Conditions of the grant. Subsequent year grants will be released only after submission of the necessary documents.

In General, **NO extension** will be provided beyond five years though project duration may be extended as follows:

- a) Maximum of one year within the approved budget of the project along with salary component.

OR

- b) Maximum of two years for projects showing exceptionally outstanding performance with additional budget. During extension period, **ONLY** the budget for manpower, consumables and AMC will be provided.

OR

- c) Maximum of 5 years if the project is having extensive user data. Extension will cover the cost of AMC.

4. What is a revenue model and is it mandatory?

In general, a revenue model with clearly defined user charges is mandatory requirement for consideration of project proposals submitted under DBT-SAHAJ Infrastructure especially for Service Facilities or research resources/platforms where providing a service is proposed.

The revenue model may be decided on case to case basis; however, the model must envisage the sustainability of the proposed facility at least after three years of operation.

For establishing a service facility, a **private university** must follow the following revenue model/ Contribution of Funds towards the establishment of facility to meet the total cost of the project –

Year	Percentage of Fund contribution	
	DBT	Private University
I	60	40
II	50	50
III	40	60
IV	30	70
IV	20	80

5. What is “Usage under DBT-SAHAJ portal”?

In consonance with DBT’s vision of “*Open Access*”, all equipment / facility / service platforms supported under DBT-SAHAJ shall be deemed as National Facility and have to be mandatorily listed on the SAHAJ portal of the Department (link to SAHAJ Portal).

- ❖ Each facility supported under DBT-SAHAJ Infrastructure programme shall have to make available its high end equipments and infrastructure to Research Institutes, Universities, colleges, start-ups / entrepreneurs, students and researchers from across India. Preferably at least one third of the time shall be allocated to the external users after a clear mapping has been done of how much time is being dedicated for the host users.
- ❖ Applicants having no government or other funding shall be allowed to put in a request for accessing infrastructure facility with details viz. Scope of the study, Objectives and work plan for using the facility; the cost of which cost shall be met from the Infrastructure Access grant available with each host institute. Since the grant is capped at Rs10.00Lakhs per year per institute, the request shall be considered and supported by the host institute on competitive basis.

- ❖ The infrastructure access grant cost shall be met under the contingent grant sanctioned by DBT. In case the number of requirement considered exceeds Rs10.0Lakh per year, this shall be reimbursed by the Department on actual basis, however, not exceeding Rs10lakhs/year.
- ❖ The request for utilizing the facility shall be screened in a time bound manner by the Director of the host institute and decision conveyed within 4 weeks.

6. What are the criteria for evaluation of a new proposal?

The following criteria (but not limited to) may be considered during evaluation of a new proposal:

- National priorities
- Emerging Areas
- Users (number, shared and scale)
- Lack of access and maximizing open access
- Non-Duplication and integration of facilities
- Research quality and probable impact
- External leveraging and co-investment
- Operational cost
- Need and cost of maintenance
- Technical services

Applicants are encouraged to conduct a baseline survey to assess the need for proposed infrastructure in the region and availability and utilization of similar equipment located in the vicinity.

7. How is a new proposal processed?

DBT-SAHAJ is a highly competitive grant and the Department is fully committed to ensure complete transparency during the process of consideration and short listing of proposals.

- ❖ Upon receipt of a new proposal, the same will be reviewed for ***completeness*** by the Internal Screening Committee. *Incomplete applications and those which do not fulfill eligibility criteria will not be considered further.*
- ❖ Applications that are complete and responsive will be further evaluated for scientific and technical merit by a high-powered Expert Committee / Task Force constituted by DBT.
- ❖ Decision of the Expert Committee/Task Force shall be communicated to the PI along with the feedback from the Expert Committee/reviewer(s), and instructions for submitting the final proposal shall be forwarded to the applicant.

- ❖ Project appraisal process will consist of: screening, submission of final proposal and reviewing, evaluation and approval by Expert Committee/Task Force.
- ❖ Decision of the Expert Committee/Task Force/ Committee constituted for on-site assessment will be final and cannot be disputed. However, Department of Biotechnology reserves the right to support a proposal after accommodating further revision(s) or completion of any documentary requirements or on the basis of sectoral/national priority for a particular financial year.

For discussion or evaluation of proposals, members of committee must declare a conflict of interest if they or close professional associates will or might benefit, directly or indirectly, from any support. The potential Conflict of Interest will be discussed and rated as high, medium or low and the member(s) will be either asked to leave the meeting for the duration of Committee's deliberations regarding the relevant proposal, or to refrain from any discussion and participation in decisions related to the proposal(s).

8. Is there any guidance provided by DBT during the tenure of support?

For any assistance, recipients of the DBT-SAHAJ grant / PIs may contact the Programme Officer: Dr. Garima Gupta, Sc. E, DBT Email: garima.g@nic.in

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