



BIRAC-Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) Scheme *For Igniting New Ideas*

I. Key features of the scheme are as follows:

The **Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG)** scheme is for potential entrepreneurs from Academia, start-ups or an Incubatee (Researchers, PhDs, Medical degree holders, Biomedical Engg. Graduates) who have an exciting idea which may be in the nascent and planning stage and there is an unmet need for mentorship and initial funding. The Biotechnology Ignition Grant would help to support and nurture these high risk early starters and their concepts.

A. The main aim of BIG Scheme is:

- a. To establish and validate proof of concept
- b. To enable creation of spin-offs.

B. Eligibility of Applicant:

Company

- Any start up company registered under Indian Companies Act, 1956/2013 can apply subject to the fact that it should not be more than a three year old company from the date of the launch of the BIG call
- A Company is defined as one which is registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and in which more than 51 % of the ownership is held by Indian Citizens* (including NRIs). Overseas Citizen of India and People of Indian Origin (OCIs & PIOs) are not eligible to apply under the BIG Scheme
- If the registered company does not have a functional Laboratory of its own, then it should be incubated in an Incubator which has a functional laboratory. The functional laboratory refers to a laboratory where facilities available are sufficient enough to carry out the project work.
- A Director/Promoter of a Company is not eligible to apply under the “Individual Category”, if he/she holds stake in the company.
- Founder/Owner of a Company is required to apply under Company Category only.



- Applicant who is a mere share holder in Company(ies) but not Promoter /Director will be eligible to apply for BIG under Individual Category. Here the promoter and the director are the ones who has a functional/managerial or executive role in the company and thus are not eligible to apply under BIG
- A Founder/Owner/Promoter of a company proposing to start a new company will not be eligible if applying under “Individual” Category. The new start up company would be eligible if it is within in 3 years of Incorporation. This is subjected to the condition that the new start up company would be working in different line of biotech business.
- Any Individual working in a private company can apply for a BIG Grant if he/she is willing to quit the job. This is subject to submission of resignation or relieving letter from the company.

Individual:

- Applicant applying as an individual must be incubating in an incubator** along with his team
- The Individual applicant must be Researchers, PhDs, Medical degree holders, Biomedical Engg. Graduates etc.
- Students, Academician and Scientists (Research Institute/University/Public, Not for profit Organization, Private funded) with an exciting idea which may be in the nascent and planning stage can apply under this scheme.
- If the individual is faculty from a university or a research institute, an NOC from the university/institute authorizing the scientist to undertake the TBI (Technology Business Incubator) project should be furnished. The applicant would not draw salary from two places i.e from the institute/university where he is working and from the BIG project. The applicant has to incubate in an incubator. The applicant who is a faculty in the university/institute can not incubate in the institute’s or university’s laboratory.

C. Additional points to be noted by applicants:

- a. The lead PI is required to present the proposal to the committee at BIRAC upon selection.



- b. The Scientific Advisor needs to give a written undertaking stating his role in the project
- c. The Scientific Advisor cannot draw a salary or any kind of remuneration from the BIG funds

*If the applicant has a project/proposal but has not yet incubated in an Incubator**, then it is suggested that the applicant should initiate discussion with the Incubator of their choice before applying for the scheme. The formal MOU/agreement with the Incubator may be signed after their selection under BIG Scheme.*

* **Indian:** As per Article 9 of the Constitution of India 1949, Person voluntarily acquiring citizenship of a foreign State not to be citizens No person shall be a citizen of India by virtue of Article 5, or be deemed to be a citizen of India by virtue of Article 6 or Article 8, if he has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of any foreign State.

An **Incubator is defined as facility designed for housing R&D driven start-up companies or individual incubatees*** active in Life sciences. It will provide the incubation space, equipments, mentoring and other required services to start-up companies/individuals for their initial growth.

***An **Incubatee** is defined as:

- An Individual Incubating at a regular / notified TBI / S&T Park / I & E Cell
- A Company registered as per the Indian Companies Act 1956 availing services of the Incubator.

D. Scope & Support

- i. BIG supports projects only in the area of Biomedical Devices, Biotechnology including but not limited to Agriculture, Energy, Green Technology, Healthcare, Diagnostics, Biomaterials, Nanoscience, Computational Biology etc
- ii. The Proposed project should not be a basic research project but should have some commercial prospect.
- iii. Ignition Grant is for high level of innovation.



- iv. BIG scheme supports only up-to Proof-of-Concept stage.
- v. Grant-in-Aid up-to Rs 50 lakh
- vi. Grant period is 18 months.
- vii. Mentoring support and Project Monitoring by BIG Partner
- viii. The funding to the BIG Innovator by the BIG Partner will always be in the form of Grant-in-Aid.
- ix. No royalty will be charged on the disbursed fund to the BIG Innovator by the BIG Partner.
- x. Funding may be used for conducting limited market research, patenting costs, working capital during the period, travel, salary etc.
- xi. This grant is not a research fellowship.

II. Modalities of Implementation:

1. Overview of Application Process:

- a) BIRAC will issue a national call for BIG at least 2 times each year (1st January & 1st July of every year).
- b) The Call for Proposal is advertised in all leading Newspapers and Scientific Journals.
- c) The BIG Scheme is implemented through our Partners called the **BIG Partners**, across the country. The Call will mention the BIG Partners for the particular year.
- d) The applicant needs to submit an online application for funding by registering and logging-on the BIRAC website www.birac.nic.in
- e) The applicant has to select one of the mentioned BIG Partners in their online application form. The applicant Incubatee need not necessarily be incubated with any of these BIG Partners. They may be incubated in any other Incubator. Please refer to the list of bio-incubators-**Annexure-1**

2. Overview of Selection Process

- a) The BIG Partner will screen the application for eligibility and appropriateness under Biotechnology Ignition Grant.
- b) Eligible applications will be sent for Technical Review by Subject Experts.
- c) Based on the recommendations of the Technical Review the BIG partner will recommend the applications to BIRAC for further scrutiny.
- d) The shortlisted applicants would be then asked to make a detailed presentation to BIRAC's Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP).



- e) The Committee would recommend the proposal based on the presentation to Expert Selection Committee (ESC) for the final selection.
- f) The BIG partner would then conduct a Financial & Technical Due Diligence of the recommended applicants and would provide their final recommendation to BIRAC
- g) The final selection of the BIG applicants will be done by the BIRAC.

3. The **current BIG Partners** are:

- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), Bangalore;
- Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), New Delhi;
- IKP Knowledge Park, Hyderabad
- KIIT Technology Business Incubator, Bhubaneswar
- Venture Centre (Entrepreneurship Development Centre), Pune

4. The **responsibilities of the BIG Partners:**

- a. To screen the BIG application for Eligibility.
- b. To conduct the technical review of the shortlisted project. The technical review only be done by the experts from the concerned field of science
- c. Recommend project to BIRAC for presentation to BIRAC's Technical Expert Panel (TEP).
- d. To conduct technical & financial due diligence of the shortlisted applicant.
- b. To monitor the targeted milestones and disburse the funds accordingly to the selected BIG Innovator.
- e. To provide mentorship and handholding for activities related to IP management, legal and contract, mobilizing resources and other business development related activities to all recipients of Biotechnology ignition grant (BIG innovators).
- f. To organize workshops/seminars/mentoring sessions for the BIG Innovators.
- g. To provide a platform for interaction with Senior Experts and other academic Partners.
- h. To organize a one time mentoring session or pre graduation ceremony just before the completion of the selected projects.

5. An Annual workshop/meet would be organized by BIRAC, which would be attended by all the recipients of the Ignition Grant (BIG Innovators).

6. The BIRAC-IP Cell can assist the BIG Innovators with IP related services.



7. The BIRAC Legal Cell can provide necessary support for specific contracts and other related activities.
8. The BIG Partners would be authorized to sign an Agreement with the BIG Innovators on behalf of BIRAC. For the management of the Ignition grant, BIRAC will sign an agreement with each BIG Partner for fulfilling the roles and responsibilities.
9. The applicant will receive the fund in a separate auditable account. The selected applicants will have to open a separate bank account in a scheduled bank. The fund disbursed will be milestone based by the BIG Partners.

10. **Fund Disbursement Pattern**

The fund disbursement is milestone based and is released in **4-5 instalments**:

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|---|---|-----|
| ○ 1st Instalment on signing of Contract | - | 30% |
| ○ 2nd Instalment on completion of 1st Milestone | - | 20% |
| ○ 3rd Instalment on completion of 2nd Milestone | - | 20% |
| ○ 4th Instalment on completion of 3rd Milestone | - | 20% |
| ○ 5th Instalment on Submission of Report | - | 10% |

Allowable Cost Caps

The allowable cost caps for the BIG proposals under the scheme include the following unless a specific exemption is sanctioned for waiver there from:

The following Financial Cap on each of the Budget heads is mentioned below:

- a. Maximum of 30% of project cost can be considered for non- recurrent Equipment. Specific exemptions can be considered on case to case basis.
- b. Maximum of 30% of project cost can be considered for Manpower/ Salary. Specific exemptions can be considered on case to case basis.
- c. Outsourcing cost should not exceed more than 40% of the project cost.
- d. Travel, Rent & Operational Cost is flexible.
- e. Mentors/ Scientific Advisors to the BIG Innovator will not be able to draw any salary from the BIG Grant.

11. **Change of status of Applicant**

Any request for the change of status of applicant from individual to company or company to individual in the application form after the submission of application would not be entertained.



Any selected individual applicant if registers as a company during the project duration he/she should report the change of status to BIRAC through BIG partner.

12. Agreement between BIG Partner & Innovator

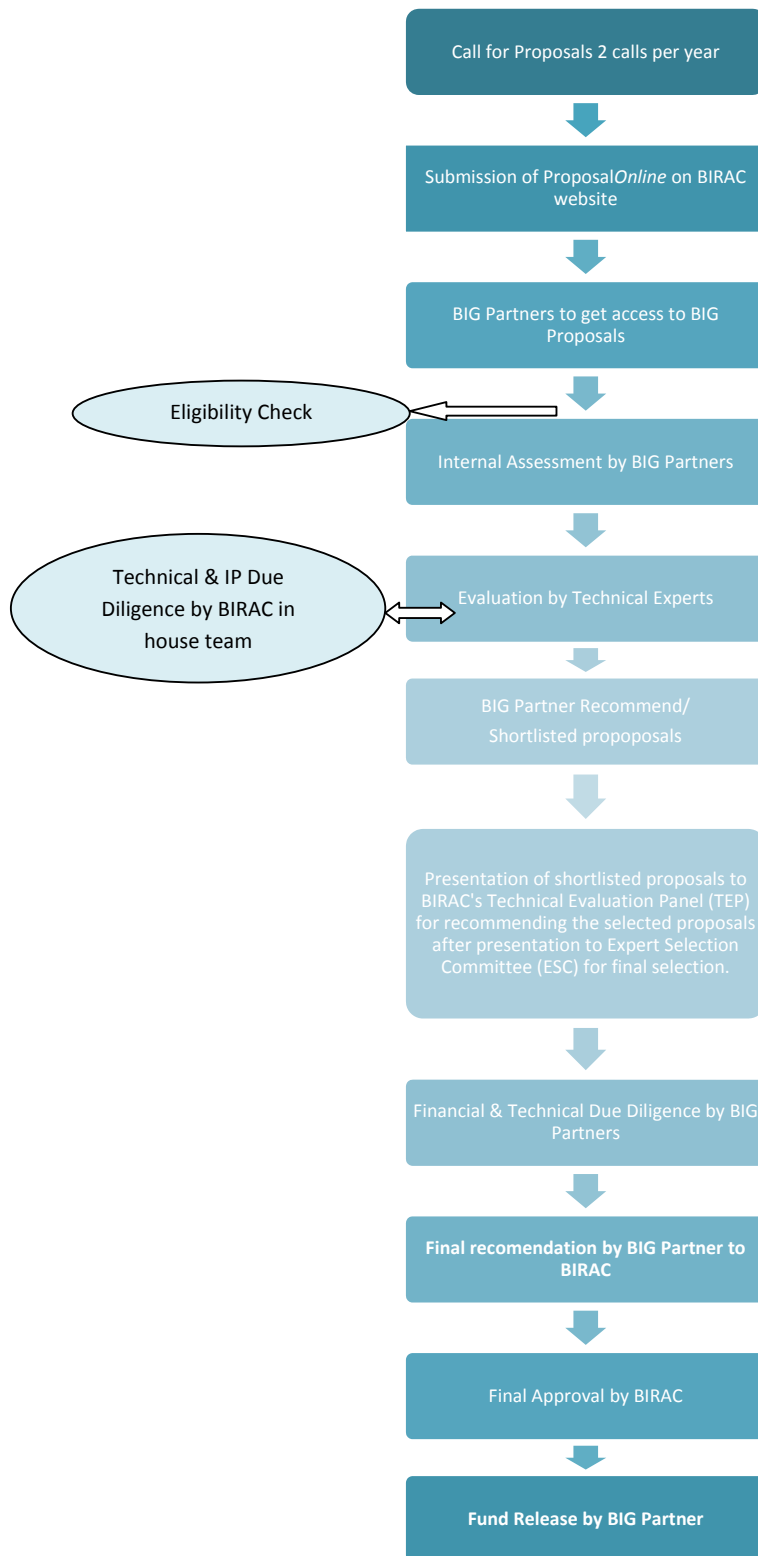
The terms and conditions in the agreement between the BIG partner and innovator should clearly mention the rental status & charges for the services, area offered and soft support offered to the incubatee.

13. Limit on the number of projects to be submitted.

Applicant can apply for more than one proposal. However, more than 1 proposal may not be selected for funding.



14. BIG Operational Mechanism





BIRAC Funded Bio-Incubators

1. Entrepreneurship Development Center (trademark: Venture Center), NCL, Pune.
2. B.V. Patel Pharmaceutical Education & Research Development (PERD) Centre, Gujarat.
3. Zonal Technology Management - Business Planning and Development Unit" - ZTM-BPD, IARI, New Delhi.
4. IKP Knowledge Park, Hyderabad
5. Gujarat State Biotech Park, Savli (GSBTM)
6. Science & Technology, Park, Pune, (Growth Lab)
7. IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai
8. KIIT-Technology Business Incubator, Bhubaneshwar
9. FITT, IIT, Delhi
10. SIDBI, IIT Kanpur
11. C-CAMP, Bangalore
12. Society for Biotechnology Incubation Centre (SBTIC), Alexandria biotech Park, Hyderabad
13. RCB, Bio-Cluster, Faridabad

Other Bio-incubators or Incubators available across India

1. TICEL Bio Park, Chennai
2. Lucknow Biotech Park, Lucknow
3. Agri Science Park, Hyderabad
4. International Biotech Park, Pune
5. KINFRA Biotech Park, Thiruvananthapuram
6. Bangalore Helix, Bangalore
7. MITCON Biotech Park, Pune
8. Golden Jubilee Biotech Park for Women Society, Kanchipuram
9. Gujarat AkruTi TCG Biotech Park (Gujarat AkruTi biotech park)
10. Amity Technology Incubator, Noida
11. Technology based Incubator Society (TBIS), University of Delhi , South Campus, Delhi
12. Shriram Institute for Industrial Research , Shriram Scientific and Industrial Research



13. E health-TBI, PES School of Engg . Tech Park, Bangalore
14. Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship(SINE), IIT Bombay
15. Villgro, IIT Madras
16. Technology Business Incubator, Centre for Biotechnology, Anna University
17. Technology Incubation and Entrepreneurship Society (TIETS), IIT Kharagpur
18. Technology Business Incubator, BITS Pilani
19. TREC STEP, NIT Trichy
20. Technology Business Incubator, VIT, Vellore
21. Malviya Centre for Innovation Incubation & Entrepreneurship, IIT BHU
22. Punjab Biotech Park, Mohali
23. BioTech Park at Sitapura, Jaipur
24. BioTech Park at Boranada, Jodhpur
25. Bio Tech Park at Bhiwadi
