

GRAND CHALLENGES EXPLORATIONS INDIA

innovating for global health

Program Overview

FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS, MAY 2016

*A BIRAC INITIATIVE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
& IKP KNOWLEDGE PARK*

**TO IDENTIFY, NURTURE AND EMPOWER REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS
THAT ADDRESS GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES**

Funding Partners



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

Implementation Partner:



Introduction

Grand Challenges Explorations India (GCE-India) is an initiative to encourage and nurture innovation in areas that impact global health. This is the *first call for proposals* with the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India (DBT), the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as funding partners, and IKP Knowledge Park (IKP), as an implementation partner.

GCE-India is about you, your idea, and empowering you with the tools, network, and funds, to help you take your idea to the next stage of realization. Our network of highly qualified individuals will walk with you for the first two years, help refine your business strategy, provide technical consulting, and help you overcome other hurdles in the early stage of technology development.

The GCE-India initiative mirrors the Grand Challenges Explorations program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to address challenges specific to the Indian healthcare ecosystem. A pilot for the GCE-India program was run as the IKP-GCE program from 2011 to 2015. We are looking for life changing ideas from talented and motivated professionals, and aim to encourage entrepreneurship in India. Our ultimate goal is the quest for new medical technology devices, drug delivery systems, diagnostics, and technology enabled service models that can potentially be made available to people from all socio-economic strata.

In 2014, about 6% of India's GDP was spent on healthcare, a large portion of the expenses incurred by the top tiers of population. About 80% of the spending happens in the private sector, a skewed pattern compared to China or Thailand where the Government covers 75% of the expenses. The healthcare industry stands at USD 17 Billion and is growing at the rate of 13%/year. GCE-India is where *science meets purpose*, at a time when emerging economies such as India are poised to compete with larger economies. We expect that Healthcare innovation from within our nation will address the needs of our nation better; GCE-India is a search to identify healthcare innovations that will enable the goal of equitable healthcare. For more information on the winners please click the [following link](#).

Grand Challenges Explorations - India

GCE-India (www.gce-india.org) is an opportunity to put yourself on the same platform as Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) awardees from all over the world, while also leveraging the mentorship, resources and network that all the partner's offer. If selected, you will be eligible for an **award of INR 50 Lakh for 18 months**, and a **prize of INR 10 Lakh** for successful completion of milestones. Successful projects will also have the opportunity to apply for a follow-on funds from BIRAC through the BIPP, SBIRI and/or the GCE Phase II program of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India (DBT), the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) & Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Apart from the funding, BIRAC and IKP Knowledge Park will closely work with the chosen candidates; provide them technical and business strategy advice, as also access to synergistic networks within the nation and outside; factors that would be critical to making an innovation a medical and commercial success.

Scope of GCE-India: Call 1, May 2016

We are seeking ideas to create medical devices, diagnostics, devices and technology enabled delivery systems that will address the health challenges listed below:

1. Develop Novel Platforms to Accelerate Contraceptive Drug Discovery

For more information: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenge/develop-novel-platforms-accelerate-contraceptive-drug-discovery-round-17>

2. Accelerate Development of New Therapies for Childhood Cryptosporidium Infection

For more information: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenge/accelerate-development-new-therapies-childhood-cryptosporidium-infection-round-17>

3. Novel Approaches to Characterizing and Tracking the Global Burden of Antimicrobial Resistance

For more information: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenge/novel-approaches-characterizing-and-tracking-global-burden-antimicrobial-resistance-0>

4. Develop methods for simple preparation and preservation of stool samples for room-temperature transport and remote-analysis

For more information: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenge/explore-new-solutions-global-health-priority-areas-round-17#bm1>

5. Develop Point-of-care nucleic acid diagnostics to below \$2 per test

For more information: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenge/explore-new-solutions-global-health-priority-areas-round-17#bm4>

6. Enable self-testing for cervical cancer

For more information: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenge/explore-new-solutions-global-health-priority-areas-round-17#bm5>

7. Develop malaria diagnostics to accelerate toward eradication

For more information: <http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/challenge/explore-new-solutions-global-health-priority-areas-round-17#bm6>

GCE-India will NOT fund:

- Ideas that do not address one of the key challenges listed above in Call 1;

- Ideas or solutions not aligned with the Global Health priority areas of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India (DBT), the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;
- Ideas without a clearly-articulated and testable hypothesis;
- Ideas not directly relevant to developing countries;
- Ideas for which a relevant indicator of success cannot be demonstrated within the scope of the GCE-India award of INR 50 Lakh;
- Approaches that represent incremental improvements to conventional solutions (e.g., research of current methods for vaccine discovery, development and delivery intended to expand, improve or integrate existing technologies or tools)
- Basic research without clear relevance to the goals of this topic;
- Solely behavioral change/educational initiatives (e.g., training programs, scholarships, education programs);
- Solely infrastructure or capacity-building initiatives;
- Approaches that present unacceptable downstream safety risks (e.g., as a barrier to product development);

Application Process and Selection Criteria

This Call for Proposals is open to *anyone* from any discipline from India - from researchers and faculty in colleges/ universities/government laboratories/ institutions to startups and SMEs as well as non-profit organizations. We are open to receiving your proposals until 11:59 PM, **June 30, 2016 (IST)**.

Eligibility: Indian Nationals can apply. Indian companies applying for the award should have Registration under Companies Act 1956, and must have 51% equity or shareholding by Indian Nationals only including NRIs. More than 49 % investments by OCI/PIO or any foreign entities will lead to ineligibility. NGOs/ Foundations/ Not-for –Profit Organizations/ Community bodies involved in social innovation or S&T activities must have active participation in India. They need to submit an illustration of their active programs in the country as well as their accomplishment when requested. The statutory recognition through Society Act or SIRO will add credentials when provided.

Proposals will be selected based on the following criteria

We seek proposals that clearly demonstrate the attributes below:

1. Novelty in innovation
2. Potential Societal Impact
3. Access and Affordability to end users
4. Sustainability
5. Alignment with goals of DBT, BIRAC, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and IKP
6. 18 Month Plan and Execution Capability

Please fill out the form, on our program website at www.gce-india.org.

Additionally, you will have to submit a two-page description that describes your innovation - the working concept, stage of development, IP ownership issues, a short term strategy (for the next 18 months) and long term direction.

****Please keep the 2 page proposal anonymous with no reference to your names or organization.***

An expert panel with representation from academia and industry will evaluate the proposals for novelty and feasibility and shortlist 20-30 proposals. Shortlisted teams will be asked to make a presentation to a jury. Candidates will be visited at their site for further technical and financial due diligence. We expect to make 5 awards in the first call.

For clarifications please email us at gce-india@ikpknowledgepark.com.

Terms and Conditions:

GCE-India is structured similar to the Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and is managed by the IKP Knowledge Park, in partnership with the DBT, BIRAC, and the Gates Foundation, and will adhere to the same Policy standards as the GCE program, and that of BIRAC.

Links to the Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions are as below:

<http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/privacy-policy-and-terms-use>

[http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/sites/default/files/additional-materials/GCE Rules and Guidelines Round17.pdf](http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/sites/default/files/additional-materials/GCE%20Rules%20and%20Guidelines%20Round17.pdf)

About the Organizers:

Department of Biotechnology, Government of India (www.dbtindia.nic.in)

National Biotechnology Board was upgraded to a full-fledged Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in February, 1986 with much needed impetus to biotechnology and the Department conceived programmes and formulated integrated programmes in line with its allocation of business rules. Identification of priority areas is done on the basis of need assessment arrived at from deliberations in brain storming sessions with participation of all stakeholders. The Department works in collaboration with other government agencies, R&D institutions and university system and has promoted establishing of linkages between industries and R&D institutions through continued interaction and catalytic financial support. The Department's approach since beginning has been participatory decisions following an inclusive approach with emphasis on extra-mural funding as compared to intra-mural funding.

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) (www.birac.nic.in)

BIRAC is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as an Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs. BIRAC is a new industry-academia interface and implements its mandate through a wide range of **impact initiatives**, be it providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology



transfer, IP management and handholding schemes that help bring **innovation excellence** to the biotech firms and make them globally competitive.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA (www.gatesfoundation.org)

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

IKP Knowledge Park, Genome Valley, Hyderabad, India (www.ikpknowledgepark.com)

The mission of IKP Knowledge Park (IKP) is to create a world-class ecosystem for fostering leading-edge innovation in India. The Hyderabad campus was set up as a not-for-profit research park in 1999. IKP's hardware incubator and makerspace, IKP-EDEN has been operational since September 2015. Hitherto, IKP has supported over 200 R&D based companies from six countries, through provision of shared space and facilities, incubation, mentorship and funding.

For clarifications please email us at gceindia@ikpknowledgepark.com or call +91 97316 87587

FAQs

1. Who can apply?

Indian Nationals can apply. Indian companies applying should have Registration under Companies Act 1956, and must have 51% equity or shareholding by Indian Nationals only including NRIs. More than 49 % investments by OCI/PIO or any foreign entities will lead to ineligibility. NGOs/ Foundations/ Not-for –Profit Organizations/ Community bodies involved in social innovation or S&T activities must have active participation in India. They need to submit an illustration of their active programs in the country as well as their accomplishment when requested. The statutory recognition through Society Act or SIRO will add credentials when provided. However we require that the award money for R&D be utilized predominantly (80%) in India.

2. What is the award for - Open ended or close-to-market research?

The focus is on innovations that will have great societal impact eventually, like cell phones for example. We would like to cap the capital expenditure to 25% of the award amount. Consumables do not form part of the capital expenditure.

3. When is the application Deadline?

11:59 PM (IST) on June 30, 2016

4. What is expected by the application deadline?

A 2 page proposal to be uploaded on www.gce-india.org. You can create a user account on www.gce-india.org by clicking the signup button. Email submissions will not be accepted.

5. Can I submit more than one proposal?

Yes, you can. You will have to create separate user accounts on our website (with 2 different email ids) for each project proposal.

6. What are the criterion for judging?

Novelty, Societal impact, alignment with the goals of the partners, affordability to end user, sustainability, execution capability.

7. What should the 2 page proposal contain?

We request to address the following - Description of innovation, working concept, stage of development, short term strategy, and long term direction.

8. How is long term direction different from short term direction?

Please ensure that your long term direction involves reaching to all layers of the socioeconomic population. Your short term strategy must ensure that you use the INR 50 Lakh effectively (and according to plan) so that you are eligible for follow on funding from the partners and other funding agencies after 18 months.

9. Who owns the invention / intellectual property?

All Intellectual Property resides with the inventor. The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India (DBT), the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) & Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation can access the IP as part of their Global Access Strategy Program to make invention(s) available to people below the poverty line. While the inventor is free to monetize the invention on populations above the poverty line, gates foundation will try to economize the production and distribution of the invention/service/drug/vaccine/device/diagnostic so that it benefits everyone, especially those below poverty line.

10. What is the Global Access Strategy?

To meet the Global Access objectives, as a condition of the award you agree to conduct and manage project research, project technologies, and information in a manner that enables (a) the knowledge gained during the project to be promptly and broadly disseminated, and (b) the intended product(s) to be made available and accessible at reasonable cost to either (i) people most in need within developing countries or (ii) the U.S. and Indian educational system and public libraries, as applicable to your proposed project.

For the terms used in the agreement, please refer to Page 8 of [http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/sites/default/files/additional-materials/GCE Rules and Guidelines Round17.pdf](http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/sites/default/files/additional-materials/GCE_Rules_and_Guidelines_Round17.pdf)

11. If I do not win, does the Gates Foundation still have access to my IP for the Global Access Strategy program?

If you are not chosen as a GCE awardee, your IP is not available to the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India (DBT), the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) or Gates Foundation.

12. How can IKP Knowledge Park help with mentoring?

IKP Knowledge Park has supported over 200 companies and innovators so far, including 136 startups, the largest being Laurus Laboratories with over 1500 employees and over Rs. 1200 cr revenue. IKP has an extensive network of global experts in India for review, monitoring and mentoring awardees. The shared life sciences facilities offered by IKP is in Hyderabad while its hardware facility is in Bangalore. IKP also offers support in patent search and IP filing.

13. How is the proposal review process structured?

Applicants will submit their short 2 page proposal by 11:59 PM on June 30th, 2016 (IST). An expert panel with representation from academia and industry will evaluate the proposals for novelty and feasibility and shortlist 20-30 proposals. Shortlisted teams will be asked to make a presentation to a jury. Candidates will be visited at their site for further technical and financial due diligence. We expect to make 5 awards in the first call. The expected timeline for release of funds will be October 1, 2016.