Ref. No: CSVTU-FORTE/i-TBI/2026/ 196A Dates**: 20/01/2026**

Guidelines for Ignition Grant

1. **Selection of innovators / start-ups:**
   The i-TBI invites the proposal from innovators / start-ups through open call for selecting the innovators / start-ups for providing ignition grant.
2. I-TBI's will constitute the **Screening Committee** to select the innovators / start-ups on the basis of certain parameters at their centre. This committee will ensure the smooth implementation of the program including the selection of innovators for ignition grant and monitoring their progress. This monitoring committee may comprise of the members/representatives of STEP/TBI, technical expert, domain experts, financial expert, entrepreneur, DST etc. and may be chaired by Head of the Host Institute.
3. i-TBI will provide **Ignition Grant (grants-in-aid)**, a funding support to innovators / start-ups to convert their ideas into prototype/products that have potential for commercialization. The maximum funding support to an innovator/start-up will be up to **Rs. 10 Lakhs;** however the final amount is subject to the approval of the **Screening Committee**.

Following General and Eligibility criteria may be followed for selecting the innovators / start-ups for ignition grant:

3.1 General Criteria:

- Ignition grant shall be for development of prototype/products.
- The ideas and innovations should be based on technology and science.
- The product prototype has to be a physical product.
- Idea or innovations should have a roadmap towards commercialization.
- Prototype must be capable of being completed within **12 to 14 months**.
- The ignition grant support can be provided – **minimum Rs. 2.00 Lakhs to maximum up to Rs. 10 lakhs** to the innovator/start-up as per guidelines of DST.
- Applicants can be individual innovators or early-stage startups.
- The IP generated, if any, should vest with the innovator or the start-up.
- Applicants will have ownership of the project know-how or IP of the proposed product or right to use know-how or IP if it is owned by a third party.
- Innovators should have technical skills or background.

3.2 Eligibility Criteria:

In case of an applicant being an individual innovator applying for grant (innovator without having a startup)

- Applicant has to be an Indian citizen with a government proof of nationality such as a valid passport, voter's ID etc. at the time of application.

In case of an applicant being a co-founder of a startup applying for grant:

- Proof of nationality such as a valid passport, voter's ID etc.
- Startup should be registered in India at the time of application.
- Startup should be owned by Indian citizens holding controlling equity.
- Startup should not have annual turnover exceeding limits prescribed by DPIIT for any of the financial years since its inception.

3.3 Not withstanding the above, the following will not be considered:

- Projects related to pure software development, e-commerce, service solutions, app-based solutions.
- Funding research or student internship in academic institutions or R&D organizations.
- Proposals for products having crossed the prototype level are not eligible for support under ignition grant.

3.4 Guideline for Usage of Funds:

- Outsourcing charges for R&D or Design Engineering or Consultancy or Testing or Expert cost.
- Raw material or consumables or spares.
- Fabrication or synthesis charges of working model or process.
- Business travel and event participation fees (**ceiling 10% of approved project cost**).
- Patent filing cost (PCT – **ceiling 10% of approved project cost**).
- Contingency (**ceiling 10% of approved project cost**).

Guidelines for usage of Ignition Grant Fund can be further amended as per instructions from Funding agency.

3.5 Ignition Grant will not be used:

- To pay the grantee or their relatives.
- To repay pre-existing loans or other commitments of the innovator.
- To pay rents, creation of infrastructure facility like shed, creation of movable property, creation of permanent facilities etc.



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