

As directed by NITI Aayog for bringing synergy between various industry supporting organisations for “Commercialization of Indigenously Developed Technologies”, an MoU was signed between Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and Technology Development Board (TDB) on 7th September, 2018 for creating and fostering a global and national ecosystem for Biomedical/Biotechnological Innovations, Translation and Commercialization in a seamless manner. The MoU was signed by Dr. Bindu Dey, Secretary, TDB and Dr. Mohd. Aslam, Managing Director, BIRAC.

The area and scope of co-operation include:

- BIRAC and TDB shall enable joint inter-organizational mechanism for concerted efforts to meet the innovation and commercialization gap.
- Mutually agree upon the Biotechnology projects that can fall within the respective organizational scope for seamless evaluation and funding assistance considerations by establishment of a coactive governance structure.
- The Parties shall create a synergy to benefit from their respective organizational strength to mobilize effective funding and subvert technology readiness gap.
- The projects for cross reference will be decided on mutual understanding with respect to operative period of MoU; financial obligations and extent of cooperation.
- The Parties through this MoU have jointly agreed to share knowledge base, in-house processes and project inputs in furtherance to attainment of the united initiative.



Both BIRAC and TDB defined their Roles and Responsibilities as:

- Both the Parties shall harmoniously work out a seamless flow of projects from one organization to other to meet the innovation and commercialization gap in line with respective organizational mandate.
- Both the Parties agree that when projects are received by them respectively under various funding programs and initiatives, the evaluation and due diligence process will consider the technology readiness gap. Any of the Party can accordingly refer such projects to the other for further consideration.
- The BIRAC supported projects that need late stage funding or funding for scale-up of the technology can be seamlessly referred to TDB on successful completion.
- The projects submitted to TDB that require further Technology readiness and/or need early stage funding can be seamlessly referred to BIRAC.
- Both the Parties shall suitably share their corresponding evaluation, review diligence, expert inputs, site visit reports, earlier milestone assessments and other agnate project documents while cross referring to facilitate processes of funding support.
- A common Science Innovation Fair at the National level should be organized by the Parties annually, where they can showcase their technologies supported in the area of lifescience / biotechnology. Other Technology transfer agencies can also be invited to participate in the event.

The proposed Governance Structure to execute the MoU is:

- Both the Parties shall form a Joint Committee which would be chaired by Secretary, TDB and MD, BIRAC.
- The Joint Committee shall meet every quarter and identify the promising projects in the areas of Lifesciences & Biotechnology that require support from BIRAC or TDB and to review the implementation status of this MoU objectives.
- Further Implementation Frameworks: Any collaborative effort initiated under this MoU will be through mutually agreed process and implementation framework that will be in writing and duly signed by the representatives of both the Parties.
- Both the Parties shall nominate their respective Nodal Officers to coordinate inter-organizational activities under this MoU.
- Periodic meetings between such Nodal Officers or other representatives can be held as per mutual discussion to review and decide the execution strategy and next course of action.
- Projects once taken up by any of the Parties for funding support shall be governed by the respective funding scheme norms and the agreement for funding assistance.
- Publication of the results of these MoU initiatives can be undertaken jointly or severally by the Parties with prior information to each other.