

Call for proposal: Empowering Tech Startups Ready for Commercialization

The Indian government has recognized the crucial role startups play in driving innovation, creating jobs, and strengthening the nation's economy. With initiatives such as *Startup India* and the Atal Innovation Mission, the government is committed to fostering an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and technological advancement. The goal is to make India the third-largest startup ecosystem globally by 2025, as outlined in the Economic Survey 2023. TDB has supported startups in agriculture, space, defence, medical and chemical sectors for projects cost over \$58 million.

Startups are not only pivotal to advancing technological capabilities but are also key drivers of employment across sectors, particularly in emerging areas. According to the NITI Aayog report, India's startup ecosystem is expected to generate over 3.2 million jobs by 2025. By supporting the growth of these startups, the government envisions the creation of millions of new jobs, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, thus contributing to inclusive economic growth and reducing regional disparities.

The current landscape of global and Indian startup funding affects early-stage startups that are not profitable or scaled-up yet. As the technology ecosystem faces these financial headwinds, it is essential to bridge the commercialization gap, enabling startups to transition from proof of concept to sustainable business models. This call for proposals aims to identify and support startups that are ready to scale, assisting them in overcoming the financial challenges that hinder their growth and long-term success.

This growth will lead to the development of a robust innovation ecosystem, attracting further investment and talent. In line with these goals, this initiative seeks to address the financial viability gap faced by startups at the critical commercialization stage. By providing targeted support to help them scale, the government aims to accelerate their journey to market readiness, ensuring that India's startups can contribute effectively to the nation's economic transformation, technological leadership, and job creation in the years to come.

Objective:

This proposal is envisaged to:

- i. Bridge financial viability gaps for startups with high capex investment requirements.
- ii. Provide funding to startups scale-up, by commercializing innovative products.
- iii. Foster innovation and technology adoption to contribute in India's growth as a global startup hub.

Eligibility Criteria:

- i. A Company intending to commercialize the technology, incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956/2013
- ii. DPIIT recognition certificate.

Please refer to the website for more details: <<<PLEASE INSERT THE WEBPAGE ADDRESS HERE>>>

The last date for submission of online proposals is 31st March 2025.

Proposal:

In line with the government's vision to foster innovation and entrepreneurship, it is proposed that a 'Call for Proposal' be issued inviting applications from Indian startups, specifically those at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) > 6, ready for commercialization.

The call will target startups with innovative solutions at ready-to-commercialize stage. The eligibility criteria and financial assistance will be in accordance with TDB's guidelines (link given below), designed to bridge the financial viability gap and accelerate the commercialization of these technologies.

- Startups looking for funding with Project Cost up to ₹ 5.00 Crore, may be funded up to 70% of the total project cost (₹ 3.5 Crore)
- For funding of project cost above ₹ 5.00 Crore, matching contribution has to be brought by the startup company, hence in such cases, TDB's funding will be limited to 50% of the total project cost
- TDB Guidelines can be found here << https://tdb.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-12/funding_guidelines_march_23_revised.pdf >>
- The complete form template can be downloaded from the link << <https://tdb.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-12/loan-application-format-form-a.pdf> >>> , this will enable applicants to keep information and document/submission ready while filling the application form.

(The above highlighted text would form 1st paragraph for the CFP's page, followed by rest of the paras)