

## **Idea2PoC funding**

### **Operational Guidelines of the Scheme Guidelines**

#### **1. Scheme in brief**

The Idea2PoC is a scheme of Dept. of IT, BT and S&T, Govt. of Karnataka. The scheme enables technology innovators and entrepreneurs to pursue a promising technology idea, and validate proof of concept (PoC). It is expected that innovators and entrepreneurs advance an idea closer to commercialization in the form of creation of start-up companies, technology licenses or become venture ready.

#### **2. Support under the scheme**

2.1 The funding support offered by the Department under this scheme is in the form of grant-in-aid.

2.2 The funding level is up to Rs. 50 lakhs.

2.3 The funding is provided over a period of 2 years in installments against agreed milestones.

Proposed project duration cannot exceed 2 years.

2.4 The fund disbursement is milestone based and is released in installments based on achievement of project milestones.

2.5 Under the scheme, Idea2PoC scheme partners shall provide mentoring/ advisory/ referrals support to the grantees. The Department and its Partners arrange periodic events to provide learning, visibility and networking opportunities for grantees. The review, evaluation and monitoring process provides grantees with valuable comments and inputs from the Department and its scheme Partners as well as networks of experts.

2.6 The scheme partners will be selected based on expression of interest floated by the Department. The State Expert Advisory Council (SEAC) will select partners based on following criteria:

2.6.1 Partner should be a reputed organization based in Karnataka (either Govt. or Private-Section 8/ Trust/ Society) having experience in promoting Incubation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

2.6.2 Selection of partner Institution will be done as per following criteria and corresponding weightage:

(a) Prior experience of managing such schemes (e.g., BIG partner, TDB seed fund etc.): 40%

(b) A dedicated team to implement the Program : 20%

(c) Demonstrated linkages, Reach & Network

: 20%

2.6.3 The Partner Institute will be selected for 5 years subject to its performance being satisfactory as per the application review done by SEAC.

### **3. Eligibility Criteria for Start-ups and Individual Applicants**

3.1 In case of Start-ups/ Individual applicant, he/she should be an Indian citizen domiciled in Karnataka.

3.2 The primary applicant should be the Project Leader who meets eligibility requirements mentioned below:

3.3 The applicant need not be physically incubated in an incubator. At the time of application, the applicant needs to minimally identify his/her preferred, if any, incubator and produce a letter from the incubator of having initiated discussions on subscribing to incubation services in the form of Associate or physical incubation.

3.4 If the applicant is formally employed or registered as student with a non-profit academic or research organization, then the applicant has to produce a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the head of the organization clearly indicating that the organization has policies in place to allow the applicant to accept funding support (as an individual) and undertake projects under such schemes.

3.5 The organizations identified in Para 3.4 above must have policies in place to allow its employees to create entrepreneurial ventures while in service or while in sabbatical leave.

3.6 Alternatively, the applicant needs to provide an undertaking that he/she plans to terminate his association with the current employer and take up the project full time in the event of a grant approval. A resignation/ relieving/retirement letter will be needed as supporting document before final approval and release of the grant.

3.7 Alternatively, the applicant needs to apply as Start-up Company/LLP. The definition of start-up/ LLP will be as per the startup policy of the state.

3.8 The Company/LLP must own functional in-house R&D facilities that are adequate to implement the project. If the Company/LLP does not have a functional and adequate laboratory of its own then it should be incubated at an incubator with functional and adequate laboratory facilities.

3.9 The Company/LLP that has already received support under this scheme once is not eligible for receiving funding support once again under this scheme.

3.10 Every proposal must clearly identify a Project Leader who will take responsibility for the technical and managerial aspects of the project execution. The Project Leader must be technically qualified to undertake the project. In the event that the proposal is shortlisted for

presentation in front of the SEAC, then the same Project Leader will be required to present the case for support. In the event that proposal is shortlisted for funding support, then the Project Leader will be required to sign the project agreement.

#### **4. Application and Selection Process**

4.1 GoK will issue a state level call for funding under this scheme at least 2 times each year (1st of January & July of every year). The Call for Proposal is advertised in all leading Newspapers and Scientific Journals.

4.2 The Call for Proposals is typically open for a period of one and a half months.

4.3 The Scheme is implemented through Partners called the Idea2PoC Partners, across the state. The Call will mention the Partners for the particular year.

4.4 The applicant has to select one of the mentioned Partners in their application form. The Partner shall be responsible for initial eligibility checks, screening of applications, due-diligence of shortlisted applicants, meeting, signing of necessary agreements, release of funds and project monitoring besides mentoring the grantees. The applicant is free to choose a Partner as per their convenience.

4.5 Applicants are advised to provide sufficient details in their applications to allow for an informed and fair evaluation/review. Applicants are advised to provide self-contained proposals with essential supporting materials provided as uploads.

4.6 Requests for changes in the proposal once submitted will not be entertained.

4.7 Providing incorrect information intentionally is viewed adversely.

4.8 Partners make a preliminary selection and send the list of successful applicants to SEAC. The selected applicants are called for presentations before SEAC and on the recommendations of SEAC, the applicants are selected.

#### **5. Monitoring**

5.1 A Tripartite Agreement is signed between Grantee, Partner and the Department. Funds are released into the dedicated no lien account created by the grantee for the purpose of the project.

5.2 Once the project gets started, the Partners periodically monitor progress and review the project. Grantees have to submit periodic reports and utilization certificates and statement of expenditures in the prescribed format to the partner.

5.3 Partners shall provide guidance notes and templates to the Grantees on best practices in project operation, management and reporting.