



CSVTU-FOUNDATION FOR RURAL TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



IGNITION GRANT UNDER NIDHI i-TBI, CSVTU BHILAI

About NIDHI i-TBI, CSVTU Bhilai

National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) is an umbrella program conceived and developed by National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, for nurturing knowledge-based and technology-driven ideas and innovations into successful startups. ***NIDHI Inclusive-Technology Business Incubator (i-TBI) at CSVTU Bhilai is an initiative supported by the DST-NIDHI to foster innovation and entrepreneurship culture among the students, faculties, innovators, entrepreneurs and nearby communities through incubation.***

It is expected that students, innovators and entrepreneurs will take up innovative ideas/projects and with mentoring support from CSVTU and startup ecosystem, try to build a startup around the innovative idea/project. The outcome of the i-TBI shall be converting ideas into startups. i-TBI would also create a culture of innovation & entrepreneurship in CSVTU and nearby geographies. i-TBI will be equipped with grants-in-aid funding support to innovators to convert ideas to prototype and prototype to startups.

Objectives of the i-TBI, CSVTU Bhilai

- To motivate and encourage institutions primarily from the technical domain to create a culture of innovation driven entrepreneurship among academia including students and faculties.
- To build a vibrant innovation ecosystem that leads to the creation of a startup culture in the nearby regions.
- To enable and build a network between academia, investors, mentors, industries and other institutions to promote startups.
- To provide grants-in-aid funding support to innovative ideas and convert them into Prototypes and further to startups.

Ignition Grant under i-TBI, CSVTU Bhilai

i-TBI CSVTU Bhilai 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-ups under this scheme will be up to Rs. 10 lakhs**, however the final amount is subject to the approval of the selection committee. As an expected outcome, around 30 startups would be nurtured and supported by i-TBI in a span of three years of its operation.

Guideline for Usage of funds: –

The following are permissible expenditures under the Ignition Grant:

- Outsourcing Charges for R & D or Design Engg. 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)

Ignition grant will not be used for:-

- 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.
- As a stop gap arrangement to support any other professional pursuits.

Selection of innovators/ start-ups

The i-TBI shall invite the proposal from Innovators / start-ups through open call for providing ignition grant. **i-TBI CSVTU Bhilai will constitute a Screening and Monitoring committee to select the innovators / start-ups on the basis of certain parameters.** This committee will ensure the smooth implementation of the program including the selection of innovators for ignition grant and monitoring their progress. The i-TBI would evolve a transparent system for selection of incubatees. The incubatees will be admitted fulfilling the required criteria. i-TBI will execute appropriate agreements with the incubatees.

Following **General and Eligibility Criteria** may be follow for selecting the Innovators / start-ups for ignition grant:-

General Criteria: –

- The 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 – min Rs. 2.00 lakhs to max. up to Rs. 10 lakhs to the innovator/startup
- 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 knowhow or IP of the proposed products or right to use knowhow or IP if it is owned by a third party.
- Innovators should have technical skills or background.

Eligibility Criteria: –

- An individual innovator without having a startup or founder of a startup can apply for ignition grant.

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

- The applicant has to be an Indian Citizen with a government approved proof of nationality such as a valid passport, voter's id etc.
- The applicant should be minimum 18 years of age, as on the date of application.

(B) In case of an applicant being **a co-founder of a Startup** applying for grant:

- The applicant has to be an Indian citizen with a government approved proof of nationality such as a valid passport, voter's id etc.
- The applicant should be minimum 18 years of age, as on the date of application.
- The startup should be incorporated in India with a minimum 51% of its equity held by Indian citizens.
- The startup should not be more than 2 years of existence.

Not with-standing the above, the followings 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 the products having crossed the prototype level are not eligible for support under ignition grant.

Implementation of i-TBI at CSVTU Bhilai

The **CSVTU Foundation for Rural Technology and Entrepreneurship (CSVTU-FORTE)** is a Section-8 Company under the aegis of CSVTU Bhilai. Its mission is to incubate start-ups and support entrepreneurs aspiring to evolve social inclusive business models leveraging grass-root level Technologies and Innovations. CSVTU-FORTE will serve as a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to implement the i-TBI at the university. CSVTU has leased a dedicated space of 20,000 square feet to CSVTU-FORTE for incubation which will be housing the common facilities, Fab lab, Prototyping laboratory, meeting rooms, video

conferencing facility, computer lab and server room, co-working space with high bandwidth net/WIFI, recreational facilities, etc. as per the guidelines of NIDHI i-TBI.

The i-TBI, CSVTU Bhilai would have a dedicated staff including a Head/CEO & an incubation manager with domain knowledge and required expertise, working full time for i-TBI. In order to ensure the smooth functioning of the i-TBI, a Governing Body has been formed. The Governing Body will be chaired by Head of the Institute (Vice Chancellor, CSVTU Bhilai). The Governing Body of the i-TBI, CSVTU Bhilai would meet at least every quarter to review progress of the i-TBI and provide policy guidelines for the operations of i-TBI to attain projected milestones. The Governing Body would provide adequate autonomy and flexibility to the Head/CEO of the i-TBI for making speedy & transparent decisions.
