

Funding Agencies	Scheme	Amount & Duration	Eligibility	Processing time	Application Procedure
BIRAC (Identification to Early Stage)	BIG Scheme	50 lakh 18 Months Duration	Individual Company/LLP	2-3 subject experts for online review status will be updated accordingly	Online only January and 1st July. Call for proposals typically remain open for about 45 days.

Objectives:

- Foster generation of ideas with commercialization potential
- Upscale and validate of proof of concept
- Encourage researchers to take technology closer to market through a start up
- Stimulate enterprise formation

As part of this scheme, successful BIG Innovators receive up to INR 50 lakh (USD 70,000 approx) for research projects with commercialization potential with duration of up to 18 months.

Call announcement calendar:

The call for proposal is announced twice a year, i.e. on 1st January and 1st July. Call for proposals typically remain open for about 45 days.

The BIG Scheme is currently managed through 6 BIG Partners across the country who works with the Ignition grantees (BIG Innovators) to provide mentoring, monitoring, networking and other business development related activities.

1. Scheme in brief

The Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) scheme of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Government of India. The scheme enables technology innovators and entrepreneurs to pursue a promising technology idea, and establish and validate proof of concept (POC) for the idea. By funding establishment and validation of POC, BIRAC wishes to help innovators and entrepreneurs advance an idea closer to eventual commercialization/implementation in the form of technology licenses or creation of start-up companies or raising investments for the company. The scheme aims to support high-risk technology ideas with considerable potential for impact.

2. Purpose of the BIG scheme

2.1. To support projects that aim to establish or validate proof of concept for a promising and innovative technology idea.

2.2. To promote the creation of new start-ups based on innovative technology ideas and/or to support early start-ups to establish and validate their technology ideas up to the POC stage.

3. Types of projects supported

- Projects that propose a process/ product innovation with significant potential impact or commercial potential
- Projects with clear technology objectives
- Projects focused on establishing or validating proof-of-concept for a technology idea
- Projects aimed at technology de-risking i.e., reducing uncertainties in the technology
- Projects focused on generating and providing the scientific data needed to demonstrate an idea to potential licensors/ investors etc.

5. Funding & Duration

- The funding support offered by BIRAC under BIG scheme is in the form of grant-in-aid. No royalty will be charged on the disbursed fund.
- The funding level is up to Rs. 50 lakhs
- 18 Months Duration

6. Who can apply? (Eligibility criteria)

- Individual
- Company/LLP

8. Application process

- BIRAC will issue a national call for BIG at least 2 times each year (1st of January & July every year).
- The Call for Proposals is advertised in various leading Newspapers and Scientific Journals
- The Call for Proposals is typically open for a period of one and a half month.
- The BIG Scheme is implemented through our Partners called the BIG Partners
- The Call will mention the BIG Partners for the particular call.
- The applicant needs to submit an online application for funding by registering and logging on to the BIRAC website www.birac.nic.in. Please note that applications are accepted online.

9. Selection process

- As the first step, BIG Partners screen the applications for eligibility and appropriateness under Biotechnology Ignition Grant scheme.
- Eligible proposals are assigned by the partner to 2-3 subject experts for online review.
- Based on the reviews by experts, BIG partners shortlists applicants and shortlisted ones are called for a detailed presentation to Technical Expert Panel (TEP) at BIG partner's location.
- TEP then further shortlists and recommends applications for final presentation in front of Expert Selection Committee (ESC), held at BIRAC, New Delhi.

- ESC at BIRAC takes the final decision and selects proposals for further due diligence and funding under BIG.
- ESC recommended applicants are then subjected to financial and technical due diligence by the BIG Partner. This typically involves visit by the partner to applicant's site. (Details of the due diligence process is provided under Point No. 12)
- Due diligence reports provided by the partner are then examined by BIRAC, subsequent to which proposal is finally approved for funding support under BIG.

To Apply Click on the link below

<http://www.birac.nic.in/>