



# Innovation Clean Technologies- Scale Up

## Funding Guidelines

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## 1) **Introduction**

The need for developing and scaling up technologies for treatment of Waste (solid, liquid, gas) to biogas/energy/electricity/valuables is the need of the country today.

## 2) **Background**

In the year 2019, Department of Biotechnology was working on 100 days Agenda which involved Scale up/implementation of promising technologies in collaboration with Municipal Corporations/Local Bodies. Few potential technologies supported by DBT/BIRAC were identified and the implementation of these technologies was done in association with Municipal Corporations/Urban local bodies (ULBs) identified by the companies.

## 3) **Objectives**

The current call aims to support technologies for scale up and demonstration (in actual environment) for conversion of waste (solid, liquid, gas) to biogas/energy/electricity/valuables. The implementation of these technologies is to be done in association with Municipal Corporations/ULBs identified by the applicant. It is desirable that the technology may be absorbed by the respective municipality.

## 4) **Eligibility criteria**

- Technical:
  - i) Projects for which early stage validation has been completed and are ready for scale-up/demonstration.
  - ii) The project should have achieved TRL 5- 6 and should aim to achieve TRL 7 – 8 by the end of the project.
  - iii) The participation of municipality/urban local body is mandatory
  - iv) Only biological route should be used for treatment of waste.
  - v) Developing proof of concept/early stage research will not be funded.
  - vi) It will be the responsibility of the urban local body or municipal corporation to provide the land for setting up the plant and the input waste material. The



municipality/applicant will have to ensure the usage of the final products/by products that will be generated as an outcome of the technology.

- Administrative: The basic eligibility criteria of BIRAC for company/LLP and academic institute will be followed.
  - i) Company should be registered under the Indian Companies Act, 2013. 51% of the shares of the Company should be held by Indian Citizens holding Indian passport (Indian Citizens do not include Person of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) holders).
  - ii) Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) incorporated under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. Minimum half of the persons who subscribed their names to the LLP document as its Partners should be Indian citizens.
  - iii) The Applicant Company/ LLP should:
    - i. Have adequate in-house facility to address the project implementation or ii. Incubated at any of the recognized Incubation Facility
  - iv) Academia (Public or Private Research Institute, University) having a well-established support system for research. The institute should have been established in India and have NAAC/ UGC/ AICTE or any equivalent recognition certificate or any other Public/ Government supported organization.

##### **5) Duration of the project**

The project will be a duration of maximum 2 years. Request for extension of milestone/project can be considered (without any additional financial implications) only in selected cases based on recommendation of the Review Committee. However, such request with proper justification must reach BIRAC well before the scheduled date of completion of project duration. Any request for extension received after the completion date will not be accepted.

##### **6) Selection and Evaluation**

- 1) An expert committee to evaluate the technologies will be formed. The Committee will evaluate the proposals on the basis of the following criteria:



- i) Novelty
  - ii) Scientific merit
  - iii) Competence of the team
  - iv) Letter of interest from Municipality
  - v) Robustness of the technology
  - vi) Strength of the early stage validation
  - vii) Feasibility of scale -up
- 2) The applicants will be invited to make a detailed presentation including objective, methods, deliverables, and budget to the Expert committee.
  - 3) A site visit for shortlisted projects may be done based on the recommendations of the committee. The site visit report will be presented to the expert committee for final recommendations.
  - 4) Subsequent to the recommendations of the Committee, MoU between the applicant and the respective municipality/ULB will have to be furnished which will be independent of any of the funders and will reflect the mutual agreement aspects of the applicant and ULB/Municipality, specifically roles and responsibilities, IP ownership, dispute resolution etc.

**7) Financial concurrence and Agreement by BIRAC**

- i) The application will be proceeded further for financial concurrence, legal/IP concurrence and issuance of GLA as per BIRAC norms. Financial Due Diligence will be done as per BIRAC norms.
- ii) Financial concurrence will be taken for the project by BIRAC followed by approval of MD, BIRAC and Chairman, BIRAC.
- iii) Grant in aid letter agreement will be issued to all parties with final milestones and budget.
- iv) The Fund Recipient shall submit the Utilization Certificate (UC) and Statements of Expenses (SOE) duly audited by a Chartered Accountant for the expenditure incurred towards the Project for every half year period, ending 30th September and 31st March, to BIRAC, within a month of closure of the accounts for the respective half



- year, in the format provided by BIRAC. The CA shall also certify that there has been no change in the shareholding pattern and if there is any change, the particulars shall be specified.
- v) The Fund Recipient shall submit UC and SOE duly certified by Internal finance personnel to BIRAC in the format provided on the completion of the respective milestones
  - vi) The Fund Recipient shall duly submit the periodic Progress Report for the Project to BIRAC
  - vii) The Fund Recipient shall submit audited Annual reports along with the audited balance sheets and profit & loss accounts to BIRAC within seven months of the completion of the financial year ending 31st March till the completion of the Project Duration.
  - viii) The Fund Recipient shall keep the Grant-in-aid assistance and their project contribution in a separate no-lien account in the name of the Company with a Scheduled Bank (as defined under the RBI Act, 1934), the withdrawals and payments from which account shall be subject to verification by BIRAC. It shall also obtain and furnish to BIRAC a letter from the concerned bank foregoing the right of set off or lien in respect of such account. Further, the interest earned on the Grant-in-aid if any should be reported to BIRAC. The interest thus earned will be adjusted towards further installment of the fund.
  - ix) The Fund Recipient shall ensure that the funds released for the Project are actually utilized only for the purposes of the Project and as expressly provided for in the GLA. Re-appropriation of BIRAC funds from one budget head to another shall not be affected without the specific written approval of BIRAC;
  - x) The Fund Recipient shall refund such part of Grant-in-aid funds disbursed to it that remains unutilized with it upon completion of all the responsibilities, duties and functions specified in connection with the Project, within one month of such completion, to BIRAC along with consolidated accounts of the funds received and utilized and of the unutilized balance returned (UC &SOE);



xi) The Fund Recipient at their own cost, shall take adequate care to maintain the capital assets acquired for the Project through BIRAC's Grant-in-aid. The capital assets acquired through BIRAC's Grant-in-aid shall not be disposed of or hypothecated without the specific approval of BIRAC till full and final settlement of all dues to the satisfaction of BIRAC.

## 8) **Funding**

- i) The funding support offered will be in the form of grant-in-aid.
  - ii) There is no upper cap on funding but will commensurate with activities.
  - iii) The quantum of the funds to be contributed by the applicant company/LLP will be based on the recommendation of the committee.
  - iv) It will be the responsibility of the applicant to obtain the regulatory approvals required for the technology, if any.
  - v) The fund disbursement by BIRAC to applicant will be milestone based and will be released in 5 installments. First installment (50%) on sanction of the project & last installment on completion of the project and submission of the project report (~ 5%). The remaining installment will be released as 20%+ 15%+10%. The installment schedule may change on the specific recommendation of the committee.
- It will be the responsibility of the applicant to define the budget heads with due diligence and justification.
  - No funds will be given to the collaborating urban local body or municipality
  - Executed MoU between Company and ULB/Municipal Corporation is required to be submitted to carry out project activities.

## 9) **Monitoring & Reviewing**

A Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) comprising of experts from the relevant field(s) will be constituted by BIRAC to monitor the progress of the objective(s) of the Project. BIRAC shall have at least one representative in the PMC.

The functions of the PMC shall be as follows:



- a) To monitor the progress of the Project in conformity with the outputs, milestones, targets objectives and other terms and conditions
- b) To keep track of funding from any other source for the Project.
- c) To assess the global developments impacting the domain of the Project.
- d) Based on the foregoing, to assess and recommend:
  - i. the release of next installment or part release thereof by the BIRAC.
  - ii. revision of Project Duration
  - iii. closing, dropping or modifying any of the components of the Project, within the overall approved objectives, budget and time-frame,
  - iv. inclusion of additional industrial/institutional partner(s), if the Company and the Institutes requests involvement of such partner(s), in the overall interest of the Project; and
  - v. revision of the financial assistance.
- e) To advise on issues related to securing of IPR and mentor to overcome any technological problem faced in the Project implementation; and
- f) To advise on any other matter as referred to it by BIRAC and/or otherwise reasonably necessary for effective discharge of its duties and/or achievement of aims and objectives of the Schemes

#### **10) Post Funding**

- a) The releases will be based on milestone-based achievement which will be monitored by project monitoring committee.
- b) The fund recipient shall submit technical milestone attainment report periodically.
- c) BIRAC provide continuous mentoring support to the fund recipients, including but not limited to the following:
  - i) Technical Mentoring
  - ii) IP Support
  - iii) Legal Support
  - iv) Networking and Outreach
  - v) Trainings





- vi) Regulatory Advice
- vii) Business Mentoring

### **11) Extension**

Extension of project duration is discouraged. Request for extension of milestone/project can be considered (without any additional financial implications) only in selected cases based on recommendation of the Expert Committee. However, such request with proper justification must reach BIRAC well before the scheduled date of completion of the project.

### **12) Transfer of Grant**

The grant is non-transferable.

### **13) Foreclosure and Termination**

- a) In case, during the Project Duration, if it is found that the Project or any Project component is not likely to lead to successful completion, BIRAC may decide to foreclose the Project or a specific Project component as warranted. The decision of BIRAC shall be final in all respects. If the Fund Recipient likes to continue the Project at its own cost, it would be able to do so without restrictions from BIRAC after complying with these provisions.
  
- b) The Fund Recipient may, before the completion of the Project, terminate the project by giving one month's notice in writing to BIRAC. BIRAC may also terminate the Grant in aid Letter Agreement (GLA) by written notice in the event of "the Fund Recipient" committing breach of any term of GLA and either not rectifying it to the satisfaction of BIRAC or not satisfying BIRAC about its inevitability within a specified period. In the event of termination of the GLA, no further disbursement shall be made by BIRAC. The Fund Recipient shall be liable to return immediately the amount of Grant-in-aid already availed of from BIRAC with additional simple interest at the rate of 12 (twelve) per cent per annum within 30 (thirty) days of termination of the GLA. Interest on the quantum of funding assistance shall accrue from the date of release of the grant in aid assistance. In case of failure to repay, without prejudice to any other rights under the GLA, the amount can be recovered by initiating any procedure available in Law.



#### **14) Acknowledgement**

- a) Funding support by BIRAC shall be duly acknowledged and its logo can be used when publishing/showcasing/or presenting project particulars or outcomes, also on the final Developed Product as provided hereunder: -

“Developed with support from (BIRAC Logo)”.



#### **15) Other Formalities**

- a) Fund releases for the project will be subject to fulfilment of certain formalities such as submission of Board resolution by the company, submission of letter of authorization by the academia etc.

**16) Call duration:** The call for proposals will be open for 45 days.

For further details, please contact:

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