



About Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG)

BIG is flagship programme of BIRAC, which provides the right admixture of financial and mentoring and support to young startups and entrepreneurial individuals. BIG is the largest early stage biotech funding programme in India. Funding grant of upto ₹50 Lacs for a fixed period of 18 months is available to best in class innovative ideas to build and refine idea to proof-of-concept.

If you have any idea or a device prototype which you wish to develop further, then BIG is ideal funding support grant you should pursue.

Please visit us at www.cmie-aiims.in or email to cmie@aiims.edu for any assistance

Purpose of the grant

01 Foster generation of ideas with commercialisation potential

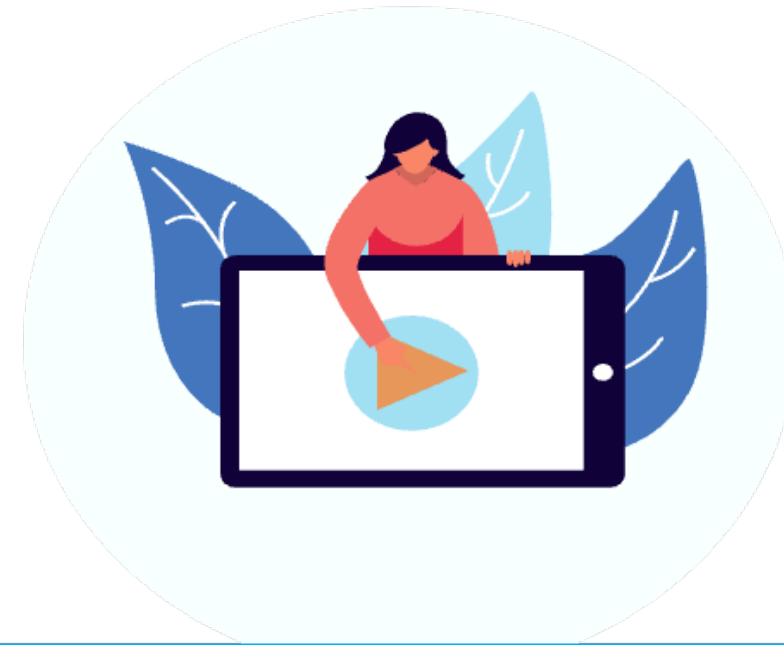
02 Upscale and validate of proof of concept

03 Encourage researchers to take technology closer to market through a start up

04 Stimulate enterprise formation



Supports
ideation to PoC



Nurtures
Entrepreneurship to enable
translation of ideas into
commercially viable products/
technologies to address unmet need



Enables
Biotech Startup Ecosystem in
the country to become
globally competitive



Who can apply? (Eligibility Criteria)

- Should be an Indian Citizen
- Primary applicant should be project leader
- Applicant has to be incubated in an incubator located anywhere in India (which may/may not be supported by BIRAC). Applicant should identify a preferred incubator and should have a Letter of Intent (LoI) from the incubator.
- If applicant is employed with an academic/research organisation,
 - *The applicant should produce a No Objection Certification (NOC) from competent authority of the organisation.*

Project Leader

- Project leader will take responsibility for technical & managerial aspect of the project execution
- Project leader must be technical qualified to under the project.

Financials

- The funding support under BIG is in form of grant-in-aid
- Fund allocation is milestone based and released in 4 instalment
 - *1st Instalment: Signing of Contract; upto 30%*
 - *2nd Instalment: Completion of 1st Milestone; ~ 30%*
 - *3rd Instalment: Completion of 2nd Milestone; ~ 30%*
 - *4th Instalment: Completion of project and submission of final report; ~ 5 - 10%*

Last Instalment is released after submission of project completion report. This is typically in the nature of reimbursement

Royalty on Grant

- Grantee will pay 5% royalty on net sales of the product/technology developed through BIRAC support till such royalty/payment becomes equivalent to the grant-in-aid assistance disbursed by BIRAC for the project.
- BIRAC will seek payment in case there is transfer of technology, know-how, application to 3rd party to carry out further commercialisation with/without further development by way of one time transaction



Other Important Details



Applicants should show documentary evidence for verification by BIG partners:

Before Technical Expert Panel (TEP)

- Letter of Commitment from Scientific Advisors/Mentors to serve as honorary advisors
- Letter of intent from incubator (CMIE)
- Evidence of access to unique facility(ies) needed to execute the project
- Evidence of access to key samples needed to execute the project (eg: bio-fluids)

Post Expert Selection Panel (ESC)

- Letter of acceptance or MoU with incubator
- Formal agreements/MoUs with other key facility(ies) providers/suppliers
- Any other due diligence documents requested on case to case bases by BIG partners (eg: technology inlicensing, IP rights clarifications, NOC from institute etc.)
- Undertaking by the applicant that the project with same objectives and deliverables has not received funding from any other agency.

BIG support can be provided only once to any individual/start-up

Project Duration

The funding is provided for a period of up to 18 months. Project is implemented in a milestone based manner.

NO EXTENSION IS PROVIDED

Where to apply?

Project proposal for BIG can only be applied online by registering and logging-in the BIRAC website www.birac.nic.in



Thematic Areas

BIG grant will be awarded to the person/team(s) or any start up company who submits the best idea, technology, or solution in the following areas of biotechnology:



Agriculture and allied areas



Medical devices



Drugs, Biosimilars & Vaccines



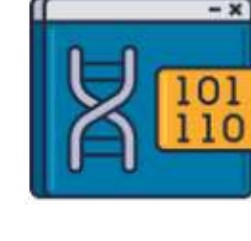
Industrial Biotechnology



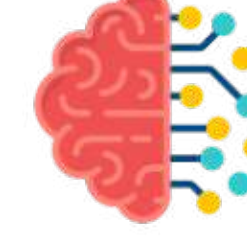
Bioenergy



Waste management



Bioinformatics



AI/ML and IoT

BIRAC encourages proposals involving integration of Biotech with applied sciences that may include Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Sensors, Big Data Analytics, Cloud Computing, Machine Learning, Automation, Robotics and related disciplines to potentially facilitate transforming healthcare, life sciences, agriculture, secondary agriculture and other bio-based industry/ markets.



BIG Scheme encourage entrepreneurs & innovators with the best ideas, technologies, or solutions at ideation stage that are novel, market driven and have societal impact.



Basic/exploratory research projects with no commercial potential and novelty



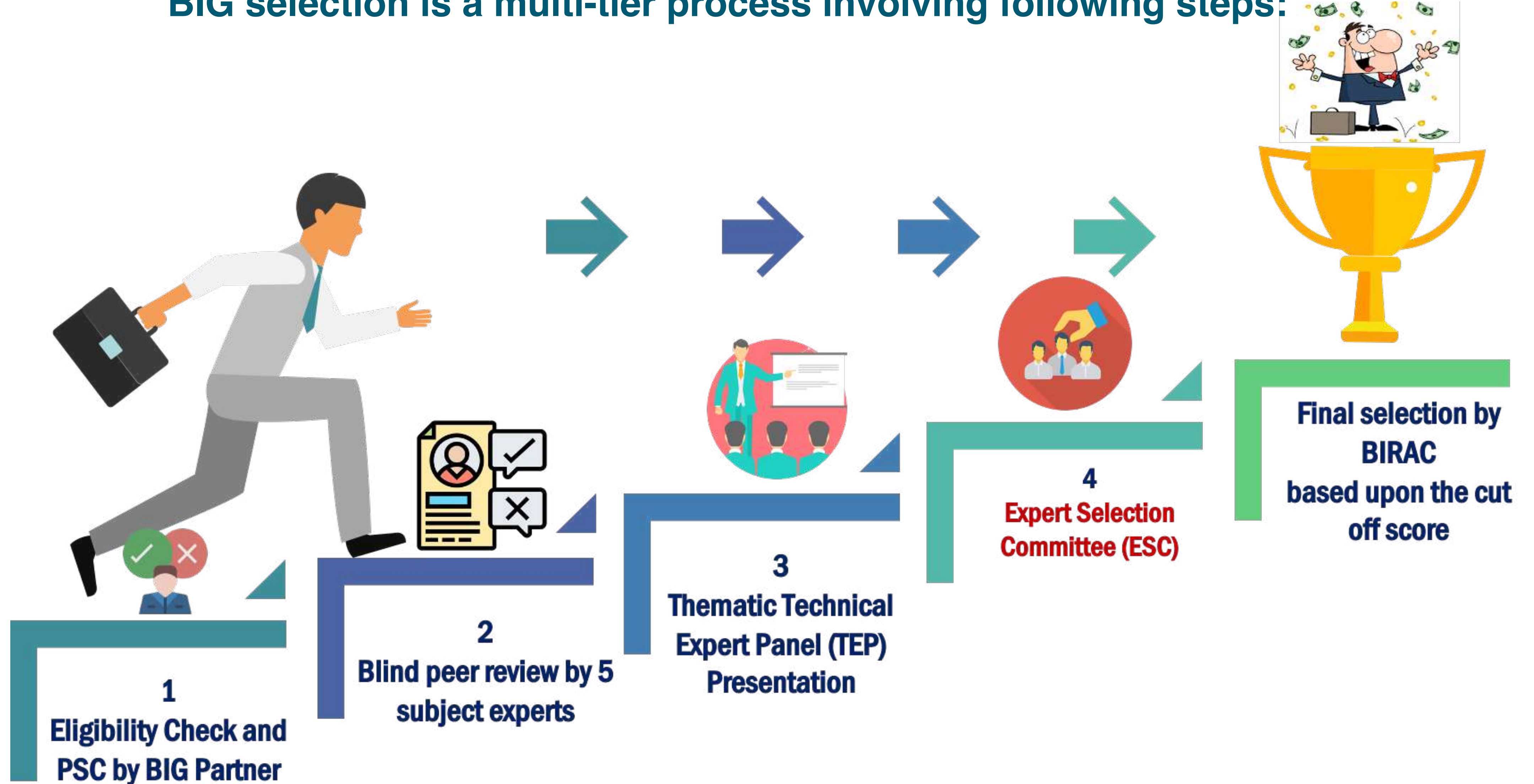
BIG funding cannot be used to support PhD research



Projects involving systematic clinical trials, field trials or late-stage validation/certification of the

Selection Process

BIG selection is a multi-tier process involving following steps:





Evaluation of the proposal



BIG proposals are reviewed on following parameters:

- Unmet Need (max 20)
- Value Proposition/Differentiation (max 20)
- Technical Viability (max 30)
- Team Strength/Passion (max 15)
- Business Perspective (max 15)

Value proposition

- Why is the value proposition?
- Will the technology have significant commercial/societal impact?
- Does the idea offer a potential solution to an unmet need in market/society?
- Does the product/technology offer import substitution with potentially high economic benefit?
- Is the target market large or addressing a niche segment?
- If the idea succeeds, does it have potential for disrupting the markets or industry or technology landscape?

Novelty

- Does the proposed technology have a significant novel component?
- Does it differ from the existing solutions and future relevant competitors?
- Does the proposed technology have potential to create new IP?

Technical feasibility of idea

- Is the idea technical feasible in the light of current state of knowledge in the field and data provided to support the proposed idea?
- Are technical claims reasonable?

Team Strength

- Technical competence of the PI & Team
- Is the strength of PI and team sufficient to take the project to completion?
- What is the strategy to cover the missing technical/business expertise gaps?

Commercialisation strategy

- What is the Go to Market Strategy?
- Has the applicant identified target customers for the technology/product/service?
- Has the applicant identified potential business partners/mentors?



About BIG Partners



BIRAC has identified 8 BIG Partners and BIG scheme is implementation through these partners



Responsibilities of BIG Partners:

- Create awareness about BIG Scheme
- Provide mentoring for proposal submission to BIG aspirants
- Receive online applications, screen the applications and conduct first level of screening there
- Conduct technical & financial due diligence of the applicants shortlisted by the ESC and submit due diligence reports to BIRAC for final approval
- BIRAC provides funds to the grantee through the BIG Partners chosen by the grantee.
- Monitor the milestones and provide continuous mentorship/handholding for activities related to IP management, legal, contracts, mobilising resources, fund raising and other business development related activities.
- Provide a platform for interaction with experts, mentors and other academic/business partners.

Applicant may contact CMIE to choose an appropriate BIG partner and Letter of Intent will be provided by CMIE (associate partner) and will be incubated at CMIE.



VERY IMPORTANT

- **Faculties of AIIMS, Delhi should share a small presentation (as per prescribed format) with CMIE regarding the proposal which they wish to apply to BIG Scheme**
- **CMIE will assist the faculties to write the final proposal.**
- **NOCs to apply for BIG Scheme will be obtained via CMIE only after providing the full complete proposal to CMIE.**
- **Letter of Intent to apply for BIG Scheme will be provided by CMIE.**
- **CMIE will provide incubation to faculties of AIIMS, Delhi applying for BIG Scheme.**
- **Faculties members are requested to keep CMIE in loop during/after the submission of proposal.**

Presentation to be emailed at cmie@aiims.in on or before 15th January 2023

Contact:

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