

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: RECOGNITION FOR AI ADOPTION IN TEXTILE MANUFACTURING



Artificial Intelligence Lighthouses in Textile Manufacturing 2026

GLOBAL TEXTILE EXPO



Bharat
TEX 2026

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In partnership with



ATHENA
INFONOMICS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lighthouses in Textile Manufacturing 2026

Call for Applications: Recognition for AI Adoption in Textile Manufacturing

Call Start Date:	Submission Deadline:	Contact:
May 22, 2026	June 15, 2026	bharatex2026@athenainfonomics.com

OVERVIEW

Artificial Intelligence (AI) creates a pathway for India's textile to move beyond cost-based competition towards capability-led competitiveness (anchored in reliability, consistency, speed, and compliance) as India's defining value proposition in global supply chains. In this regard, the National Institute of Smart Government (NISG) and Athena Infonomics, under the aegis of the study titled "Accelerating AI adoption in manufacturing MSMEs" commissioned by the IndiaAI Mission, invites manufacturing organisations and AI solution providers to submit Artificial Intelligence (AI) interventions in the Indian Textile Sector that have been implemented and have delivered measurable outcomes, if any. The leading AI adopters in the textile manufacturing industry shall be recognised during the Bharat Tex 2026 and the early AI adoptions shall be published as best practices in a "Lighthouse Compendium" to accelerate responsible AI adoption across the sector.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Call for Application is to		
<i>Recognise manufacturing organisations demonstrating real-world AI benefit/impact</i>	<i>Document and disseminate replicable best practices for sector-wide learning</i>	<i>Enable peer learning through dialogues and a published AI Compendium for the India's Textile Sector</i>

WHO SHOULD APPLY:

- Manufacturers across textile sectors including MSMEs and large enterprises operating in India.
- Manufacturers can also make joint submissions with technology partners/System Integrators/startups, with the manufacturing entity as the primary applicant.

ILLUSTRATIVE AI USE CASES:

AI-based tracking of shade, GSM, and product quality across development stages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Automated monitoring of production throughput• AI-driven delivery timeliness tracking & reporting dashboards for leadership• Real-time deviation alerts against technical specifications• AI-enabled automated defect detection at:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Loom stage○ Dyeing stage○ Finishing stage

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer vision-based fabric defect classification • AI-powered end-to-end fibre-to-fabric traceability • Digital compliance logs auto generated for buyer audits • Paperless audit-ready documentation systems 	
AI-based loom downtime prediction & reduction	AI-based demand forecasting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predictive maintenance for processing machinery • Yield optimization in dyeing & finishing • Rework reduction through pattern recognition • AI-driven small batch production planning optimization • Capacity utilization analytics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Style and trend analytics • Rapid sampling optimization • AI-supported process parameter tuning • Order mix optimization for faster product cycles
AI-driven water usage optimization	Loom-side camera + edge AI for
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical input optimization models • Energy consumption optimization • Unit-level emissions tracking • Waste measurement and reduction analytics • Sustainability performance dashboards for buyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uptime tracking • Fabric metres produced • Defect occurrence mapping • Timestamped digital production ledger • Audit-ready production history • Data usable for Buyer audits and Bank working-capital assessments

The above is an indicative list and similar cases of AI adoption are welcome

ELIGIBILITY & SCOPE

The Applications meeting the following criteria shall be considered for evaluation:

- Solution should have been implemented in a production environment and should be operational in steady state for at least three (03) months prior to the date of call for Applications.
- Should have resulted in measurable outcomes in terms of cost efficiencies / productivity improvement / quality enhancement / failure reduction / energy saving / safety improvement / forecasting accuracy / reduced downtime / sustainability or ESG /etc.
- Global deployments are eligible if at least one site is operated by the applicant in India.
- An organization can submit multiple entries with each entry being submitted separately, provided that the multiple entries pertain to implementation of distinct AI solutions. However, if, an AI solution qualifies for more than one thematic area then only one application needs to be submitted after selecting any two appropriate thematic areas.
- All submissions must respect confidentiality/Intellectual Property (IP) and should not include any proprietary secrets. If required, the submitting organization may take necessary consents to ensure there is no violation of any confidentiality/IP.

- The shortlisted entries may be requested for evidence to validate the submissions.

SUBMISSION DETAILS & TIMELINE

The submission shall be made as per the detailed format provided in this [google form](#). The document should contain links to videos/demos and high-resolution images. By submitting the google form, the organisation shall be deemed to declare on accuracy of information submitted and consent to publish curated content by the organisers.

The timeline is as follows:

Milestone	Date
Call for Proposal Launch	May 22, 2026
Last Date for Submission of Queries, if any	June 01, 2026
Response to Queries*	June 04, 2026
Submission Deadline	June 15, 2026
Evaluation	June 15 – June 24, 2026
Shortlist Announcement	June 25, 2026
Recognition Event & Felicitation	July 14-17, 2026
AI Lighthouse Compendium Release	July 14-17, 2026

* The queries can be submitted to the email id bharatex2026@athenainfonomics.com. The organisers reserve the right to respond or not to respond to any query received.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

- The proposal shall be screened for completeness and eligibility.
- Only complete and eligible Applications shall be considered for evaluation.
- The proposal shall be examined in terms of technology used, business impact, innovation and technical rigor, scalability and replicability, data governance and responsible AI use, change management, ESG alignment, evidence and documentation and other such parameters.

RECOGNITION

The selected organisations that have implemented the best use of AI shall be felicitated as “AI Lighthouse in Textile Manufacturing – 2026”. The submission shall feature as a case study in the AI Lighthouse Compendium. There shall be no cash grants and the recognition provided shall be non-transferable and subject to verification.

The applicants can submit their proposals under the following thematic areas and one organisation can submit their proposals under a maximum of two thematic areas. The Proposal Evaluation Committee shall assess the proposals and decide one thematic area within which a proposal fits the best. The decision of the Proposal Evaluation Committee shall be binding and final in all aspects and no request from the applicants or organisations shall be admissible. Please note that for each thematic area, there would be only one organisation selected from each category i.e., micro, small, medium and large.

Thematic Area	Description
National AI Excellence Award	This award shall be given to one organisation that has the best AI solution within each category including those in sustainability (Green AI Award) or solving the best manufacturing problem (Innovation Award).
Green AI Award	This award is for organisation that have taken measures to adopt sustainable textile manufacturing processes supported by AI technologies. Please note that adoption of sustainable practices without any AI-technology supported solution shall not be considered. Such AI-technology applications could also include improving environmental protection, water use efficiencies or any other sustainability measure that are directly or indirectly promoted by AI.
Innovation Award	This award is for organisations that have successfully solved a textile manufacturing problem through a most innovative AI-solution that is novel in the country. It is to be noted that the focus is on implementation of the AI-solution rather than the development of the AI solution per se. Any existing AI-solution applied for the first time to solve a problem either at the textile factory shop-floor level or for general purposes in textile manufacturing (i.e., support systems like supply chain management, marketing, training, HR & payroll etc.), can be considered under this thematic area.
Emerging AI Adopter Award	This award shall be given to an organisation that has successfully deployed an AI solution or a set of AI solutions for the first time during the period 01.04.2025 – 31.03.2026. The solution(s) must have remain in operations for at least a period of three months from the date of deployment.

OTHER TERMS

By submitting the proposal, the organization shall grant organisers to use and/or publish the curated case study while the organisation shall retain the IP. The organisation shall also indemnify organisers and its partners for any incorrect information or confidentiality violation. The information/data submitted shall comply with applicable laws and organisation’s internal policies. Organisers may request additional artifacts for verification, failure in submission of any such request may lead to disqualification. The program may evolve at the organizer’s discretion and the final decisions rest with the organisers.

The applications can be submitted through the following google form - <https://forms.gle/TSU7QKQUAxiRkthM9>

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION

Part A: Applicant Details

Organisation Name

Plant/Location Address

Sub-Sector within Textile Sector:

Products Manufactured

Category¹

- Micro Small
 Medium Large

Thematic Area (select maximum of two)

- National AI Excellence Award
 Green AI Award
 Innovation Award
 Emerging AI Adopter Award

Contact Details (Name, Designation)

Email:

Phone/Mobile:

Co-applicant/Partners' Details, if any

PART B: AI Intervention

Title of the Project/Initiative

Go-Live Date

Current Status

- Live On Hold
 Scaled

PART C: Project/Initiative Details

Problem/Objective

Describe what operational/business problems and targets have been addressed by the initiative.

(200 words)

¹ Please refer <https://msme.gov.in/know-about-msme> for MSME definition. The definition shall apply to organization as a whole and not individual location or plant

Key Technologies Used (one or more as applicable)

AI / Machine Learning (ML) / Deep Learning / Computer Vision / Natural Language Processing (NLP) / Time-Series Forecasting / Optimization Algorithms / Anomaly Detection / Edge AI / Industrial IoT (IIoT) / Digital Twins / Control Systems / Generative Models / Graph Analytics / Distributed Ledger (Blockchain-enabled Traceability) / Multi-Agent Systems (for production planning) / Sustainability Analytics Engines /Others

Solution Overview

Describe the solution, approach, key models/algorithms, data notes, deployment (edge/cloud), integrations, human-in-the-loop, etc. details. A broad overview of technology architecture, model performance, security/privacy controls, etc. can be included.

(750 words)

Benefits/Impact to organization and/or end-user

Describe the benefits/outcomes of the initiative in terms of objectives/targets defined

(500 words)

Investments/Return on Investments

Please share the details in terms of capital and operational investment and the ROI, as feasible

100 words.

URL of the Demo/Video, if any

Image URL, if any

Brochure URL, if any

For more information, follow <https://www.linkedin.com/company/athena-infonomics>



Write to us at
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