ESTABLISHING MEDTECH INCUBATION CENTERS IN MEDICAL COLLEGES

Introduction

Blockchain for Impact (BFI) invites proposals from accredited medical colleges across India to participate in a pioneering initiative to establish MedTech Incubation Centers on their campuses.

Our vision is to bridge the gap between medical innovation and clinical practice by embedding MedTech entrepreneurs within the medical college ecosystem. This model ensures solutions are clinically relevant, validated and ready for real-world impact.

Through this program, BFI will award up to five grants to selected medical colleges for the setup and operationalization of these centers. Medical colleges with existing MedTech incubators are also welcome to apply to expand their facilities and operations.

Objectives

The MedTech Incubation Centers will:

- Enable close collaboration between innovators and clinicians.
- Provide infrastructure for prototyping, validation and trials.
- Support both external startups and in-house student innovators.
- Accelerate commercialization of MedTech solutions in India and beyond.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicant medical colleges must meet the following requirements:

- **Accreditation:** Recognized and accredited medical institution in India.
- **FCRA Registration:** Valid Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act registration to receive and utilize grant funds.
- **Infrastructure:** Dedicated minimum of 3000 sq. ft. for the center.
- **Human Resources:** Commitment to appoint:
    - **Head of Incubation Centre:** Strategic leadership and program management.
    - **Coordinator:** Day to day operations and startup liaison.
- **Clinical Access:** Ability to provide:
    - Access to relevant clinical data (with full compliance to privacy regulations).
    - Mentorship by expert doctors and faculty.
    - Ethics committee facilitation for clinical trials.

Scope of Work & Deliverables

A. Infrastructure Development
- Prepare at least 3000 sq. ft. exclusively for incubation activities.
- Provide secure facilities for prototype development and safe equipment storage.
- Offer a minimum of three private, lockable startup chambers.

B. Operational Management

- **Staffing**

The hiring for the Head of Incubation Centre and Coordinator will be conducted by BFI from a pool of candidates nominated by the medical college. A minimum of three nominations is required for each position. The Head of Incubation Centre and Coordinator must be full-time and exclusively dedicated to the center's operations. Their commitment is crucial for the center's success and for effectively supporting startups.

Roles and Responsibilities

-Head of Incubation Centre: Provides strategic leadership and vision for the entire program. Responsibilities include:

1. Setting the center's goals and long-term strategy.
2. Building a strong network of mentors, investors and industry partners.
3. Overseeing the selection of startups and managing the incubation process.
4. Securing grants and other funding for the center and its startups.
5. Serving as the primary point of contact and representative for the center.

-Coordinator: Handles daily operations of the center. Responsibilities include:

1. Managing the center's physical space, including startup chambers and prototyping areas.
2. Acting as the liaison between startups, the Head of Incubation Centre and the college's clinical departments.
3. Organizing events, workshops and committee meetings.
4. Assisting startups with administrative tasks and ensuring resource access.

Please note: This full time dedication ensures operational efficiency and continuous, high quality support for startups. Lack of dedicated staff may lead to mismanagement, slow decision making, and reduced impact.

- **Mentorship Network**

1. Establish structured access to clinical experts, researchers and industry mentors.
2. Create an **Expert Committee** under the Incubation Centre Head, including:
   - Representatives from each clinical department (including super-specialties) as well as any translational medicine/research units or department in the institution,
   - Head of the Clinical (Bio)Chemistry Laboratory (CCL).
   - Nursing Department representatives.

Please note: The committee will meet at least once per month to address operational and startup-related issues, with minutes sent to BFI monthly.

- **Clinical Access:**

Implement a documented process for requesting clinical data, securing ethics approvals and conducting trials/validation studies.

- **Accommodation:**

1. The medical college will provide accommodation within the college premises for startups nominated by BFI for the duration of their stay.
2. Additional subsidized or arranged accommodation may also be offered to other startup teams (optional but encouraged).

C. Startup & Student Engagement

- Host 3 BFI nominated startups at a time.
- Support student and college led innovation through:
    1. Orientation programs on entrepreneurship and MedTech.
    2. Workspace and prototyping support for student led projects.
    3. In-house innovation nurturing alongside external startups.
- Provide validation resources and clinical trial pathways for all incubated startups.

Grant Details

Grant Size
- ₹1 Crore for the first year.
- ₹50 lakhs annually thereafter, subject to performance.

Permitted Use of Funds
- Space renovation and infrastructure setup.
- Purchase of prototyping and testing equipment.
- Operational expenses, utilities, and maintenance.
- Salaries of the Head of Incubation Centre and Coordinator.

Disbursement Schedule
- Tranche 1 – ₹50 lakhs upon signing the agreement and submitting a detailed setup plan.
- Tranche 2 – ₹50 lakhs upon center readiness and onboarding of the first BFI-nominated startup cohort.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Proposals must be submitted as a **PDF (max 20 pages)** and include:

- **College Profile** – History, achievements, infrastructure and research capabilities.
- **Vision & Rationale** – Alignment with the college's mission and innovation goals.
- **Implementation Plan** – Layout of 3000 sq. ft., budget allocation of ₹1 Crore, and setup timeline.

- **Team & Governance -** Profiles of Head and Coordinator candidates, governance structure and oversight plan.
- **Clinical Integration –** Processes for mentorship, clinical data access and ethics approval.
- **Sustainability Plan –** Strategy for operations beyond the initial grant period.

Submission & Contact Details

Proposal Submission - Template

Deadline – 15 January 2026

Email – info@blockchainforimpact.nl

Disclaimer

Blockchain for Impact (BFI) reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal without assigning reasons. The decision of the selection committee will be final and binding.