

FAQS – OPEN CALL TO ESTABLISH MEDTECH INCUBATION CENTRES IN MEDICAL COLLEGES

A. Eligibility

1. What are the eligibility criteria for medical institutes under this call?

- The medical institute should be a NMC accredited/exempt and recognised medical college in India.
- The medical institute must hold a valid FCRA registration or be exempt under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act at the time of application.
- A minimum of 3000 sq. ft. of dedicated space must be committed for establishing the MedTech Incubation Centre.
- The medical institute must provide structured access to clinicians, patients and hospital infrastructure to enable validation, testing and clinical integration for incubated startups as per their requirements.

2. What are the minimum infrastructure requirements for the Incubation Centre?

The Centre must include:

- At least 3000 sq. ft. of dedicated space
- Secure prototyping and equipment storage areas
- A minimum of three private, lockable startup chambers for BFI nominated startups

3. Is there a minimum size, bed count, or annual patient footfall requirement for eligibility?

The medical institute must be a fully functional multispecialty medical college and hospital, with active clinical and super-specialty departments, supported by allied laboratory and biochemistry facilities. There is no minimum bed strength or annual patient footfall requirement for eligibility under this program.

4. Are medical colleges with existing incubators eligible to apply?

Yes. Medical colleges with existing MedTech incubation facilities are eligible to apply for expansion and strengthening of their current infrastructure and operations.

B. Regulatory requirements

1. Is FCRA registration mandatory at the time of application, or can it be obtained after selection?

Valid registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) is mandatory at the time of application. Only institutions with an active FCRA registration or exemption shall be considered eligible for this program.

2. Can an organisation collaborate with a medical college with FCRA registration and jointly apply for this program?

Applications under this call may be submitted only by accredited, recognised & FCRA-compliant medical colleges. The incubation centre is expected to be established within a single applicant institution and the responsibility and ownership of the centre will rest with the institutional leadership.

3. Who will own the intellectual property (IP) developed by startups incubated at the Centre?

All intellectual property generated by BFI-nominated startups during the incubation period shall vest exclusively with the respective startup founders.

In the case of externally onboarded startups (i.e., startups not nominated by BFI), intellectual property ownership arrangements may be mutually agreed upon between the incubation centre and the startup founder. BFI shall have no decision-making authority with respect to such arrangements.

C. Funding

1. What is the grant amount and how will it be disbursed?

The grant amount is up to INR 1,00,00,000 for the first year -covering infrastructure, operational costs, salaries and other indirect costs. Grant disbursement shall occur in two tranches:

- **Tranche I :** Up to ₹50 lakhs upon execution of the grant agreement and submission of a detailed setup plan
- **Tranche II :** Up to ₹50 lakhs upon confirmation of Centre readiness and onboarding of the first cohort of BFI-nominated startups

2. What funding support is available after the first year of funding?

Operational expenses up to INR 50 lakhs per annum may be covered under the program, subject to review of performance.

3. Is co-funding from the applicant institution required for establishing the Incubation Centre?

The grant amount is intended to cover approved setup and operational costs, subject to permitted use conditions. Existing infrastructure, including incubation services, may be leveraged and the funds may be utilized for operations-related expenditures. However, to ensure the sustainability of the program, and to optimise outputs, co-funding is highly encouraged.

D. Proposal submission

1. Is there a designated proposal submission format or template?

Yes. Applicants are required to submit their proposals using the designated proposal submission template for this program.

2. Is there a prescribed budget format or financial template to be followed?

Yes. Applicants are required to prepare the budget in accordance with the budget categories specified in the proposal submission template.

3. What is the deadline for proposal submission?

Proposals must be submitted no later than **23:59 hours 15 January 2026**.

4. When will the decision or results of the program be announced?

The shortlisted institutes under the program are expected to be announced in the first quarter of 2026.

5. What documents are mandatory at the time of proposal submission?

As specified in the proposal submission template, applicants must submit the following mandatory documents:

- Completed Proposal Submission Application
- Floor plan of the proposed Incubation Centre
- Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of key personnel and designated focal point(s) for the purposes of this application
- Existing infrastructure and equipment list
- Supporting documents, including but not limited to accreditation certificates, valid FCRA registration, ethics committee registration details and other relevant statutory approvals.

Additional documents may be requested by BFI during the evaluation process.

E. Infrastructure and Human Resources

1. What accommodation arrangements are required for startup founders and innovators?

The medical college shall provide complimentary reasonable on-campus accommodation for BFI-nominated startups for the duration of their incubation. Provision of additional or subsidized accommodation for other startup teams is optional but encouraged.

2. What level of clinical access must the medical college provide?

The institution must facilitate access to clinical experts, relevant clinical data (in compliance with applicable laws/policies) and ethics committee processes required for validation, trial and testing of MedTech solutions and innovations.

3. How many startups must each Incubation Centre host?

Each Centre is required to host three BFI-nominated startups at a time. In addition, Centres may support external startups, student-led, resident-led and college-led innovation projects, subject to available capacity and resources.

4. What categories of equipment are permissible under the grant?

Funds may be utilized for the procurement of equipment necessary for prototyping, testing and validating MedTech solution development activities.

5. Will BFI nominate startups only from India?

Yes, startups will be nominated only from India as the program is oriented toward advancing MedTech innovation within the Indian healthcare ecosystem.

6. Is the institution permitted to charge incubation or usage fees from startups?

The institution/incubation centre is not permitted to charge incubation or usage fees from BFI nominated startups. For other external startups, the institution may set its own policy on incubation or usage fees.

7. Can existing personnel from the medical college or hospital be engaged for Centre activities? Are there prescribed salary norms?

Given that the roles under the Incubation Centre require full-time and dedicated engagement, it

is recommended that individuals appointed to these positions are able to devote their time exclusively to the Centre's operations. Such appointments may be made from within the applicant institution, provided the individuals can meet the full-time commitment requirements. No specific salary norms or remuneration caps are prescribed under the program.

F. Reporting

1. What reporting and compliance obligations apply to the Institute/Incubation Centre?

The institute is required to hold monthly IEC meetings. The incubation centre is expected to convene fortnightly Expert Committee meetings and submit the minutes of meetings along with a monthly operational report to BFI. A financial report must be submitted on a semi-annual basis.

2. How will institutional performance be assessed for continued annual funding?

Release of subsequent annual funding (up to ₹50 lakhs per year) shall be subject to performance evaluation by BFI. The evaluation framework and criteria shall be determined by BFI and communicated as required.