



सत्यमेव जयते

रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

SPARK

**Support for Prototype and
Research Kickstart (in Defence)**



Innovations for Defence Excellence

SPARK – Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart (in Defence) Framework

The Support for Prototype and Research Kickstart (in Defence) framework by the Defence Innovation Organization – Innovations for Defence Excellence (under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence) in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, is aimed at supporting Startups/MSMEs/Innovators to create prototypes and/or commercialize products/solutions in National Defence and Security.

The vision of this framework is two-fold:

- (a) help create functional prototypes of products/technologies relevant for national security (prototyping), and spur fast-moving innovation in the India defence sector;
- (b) help new tech products/technologies find a market and early customer (commercialization) in the form of the Indian Defence Establishment.

SUPPORT PROVIDED

The framework will call for proposals through challenges and other means to address specific technological needs of the Indian Defence Establishment. Applicants showing capability, intent, and promise to be able to produce functional prototypes or to productize existing technologies will be awarded grants of **up to Rs. 1.5 crores**, strictly on a milestone basis and starting, in the form of grant/equity/debt/other relevant structures.

The exact amount and mode of each grant shall be decided by a high-powered committee based on the application, as per the prevailing scheme. MoD and AIM reserve the right to modify the scheme as and when required, without prior notification. In special cases, if deemed necessary by the high-powered committee, the funding amount may be increased beyond the prescribed limit, on a case by case basis.

Eligible expenditures for grant money under SPARK

Since the focus of the framework is to facilitate creating of prototypes and bringing of products/technologies to market (defence or otherwise), applicants will be encouraged to spend on:

- a. Research & Development
- b. Prototyping
- c. Pilot Implementation
- d. Market Assessment

Detailed fund utilization guidelines will be provided to the selected applicants.

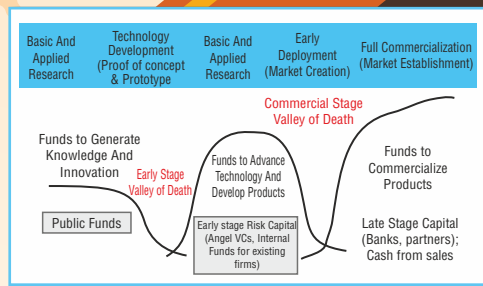
WHO WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SUPPORT

1. Startups, as defined and recognized by Department of Industrial Policy Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
2. Any Indian company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956/2013, primarily a Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) as defined in the MSME Act, 2006.
3. Individual innovators are also encouraged to apply (research & academic institutions can use this category to apply)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants will be required to provide the following information in an online application:

1. Full Details of a Single Point of Contact for the applying entity – these are the full contact details of a single person who will act as the point of contact between iDEX and the applicant. We encourage that this person be a core member(founder/CEO) of the applicant entity (Startup/MSME).
2. Entity Details – these are the details of the Startup/MSME applying. Individuals Innovators do not have to fill these.
3. Proposal Details – these are the details of the proposal in response to the Defence India Startup Challenge problem statements/focus areas. Applicants must select the problem statement they are addressing, what amount of funding they want and provide technical and financial details of their proposal. This will include mentioning relevant patents and research papers by the applicant, if any, a detailed project report with the technical details of the product/technology they are proposing and how the applicant plans to deliver it, if selected. The applicants are also asked to provide a tentative business plan, which should detail the plan to manufacture the product/technology, as well as whether they have identified a separate civilian market for the product/technology, or a close variant thereof.



EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

The applications will be screened by a duly constituted high-powered committee of defence, technology, and innovation deployment experts for screening and selection of applications for the Defence India Startup Challenge.

Key parameters in selection of applications for the Defence India Startup Challenge

The vision of SPARK is two-fold:

- (a) help create functional prototypes of products/technologies relevant for national security (prototyping), this will also help build an ecosystem of fast-moving innovation in the Indian Defence Sector;
- (b) help new deep-tech products find markets and early customers (commercialization) in the context of the Indian Defence Sector.

Accordingly, applications will be screened on the following criteria:

- a) Potential for proposed prototype to meet existing Indian defence needs.
- b) Potential to deploy an existing technology or patent to meet existing Indian defence needs.
- c) An additional but optional parameter will be whether the proposed prototype/product/ technology has the ability to reach alternative civilian markets also.

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For more details about this framework and other iDEX initiatives please visit

<http://www.makeinindiadefence.gov.in>



About AIM (Atal Innovation Mission)

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stake holders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country. AIM's flagship schemes include establishing Atal Tinkering Labs and Atal Incubation Centers, providing scaling up support to Established Incubation Centers, and finding ultra-low-cost solution to India's most intractable problems through Atal New India Challenges and Atal Grand Challenges.



About iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence)

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework, launched in April 2018 at DefExpo, primarily aims at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging industries including MSMEs, Start-ups, Individual Innovators, R&D Institutes & Academia, and provide them grants/funding and other support to create product and services for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.

iDEX is also the executive arm of the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), which is the legal entity created by the defence PSUs- HAL & BEL - to support the MoD in building the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem in Defence in India.