



iDEX Innovations for
Defence Excellence
PM Awardee

Framework for iDEX Partners





FRAMEWORK FOR IDEX PARTNERS

As part of the iDEX initiative, the program seeks to forge strategic partnerships with India's innovation ecosystem, particularly by collaborating with technology incubators. These partnerships are aimed at discovering, nurturing, and supporting startups and MSMEs that are focused on developing cutting-edge technologies for the defence sector. By working together, iDEX and these incubators will facilitate the creation of innovative solutions that address the evolving needs of India's defence industry.

These incubators will bring complementary expertise, covering a diverse range of technologies and innovations such as AI, robotics, cybersecurity, aerospace, and more. By leveraging their collective strengths, iDEX will foster collaboration across multiple sectors and ensure a unified, coordinated approach to scaling and deploying defence innovations. This collaborative model will allow startups and innovators to thrive in a supportive environment, ultimately accelerating the development and commercialization of breakthrough technologies.

iDEX - DIO aims to create a robust ecosystem that supports the development of next-generation technologies by providing financial assistance, mentorship, and support to startups/MSMEs and innovators. By partnering with incubators and fostering a culture of co-creation, iDEX strives to strengthen India's defence capabilities and build a self-reliant, indigenous defence technology ecosystem.



ELIGIBILITY TO BECOME A IDEX PARTNER INCUBATOR (IDEX-PIS)



- The applicant incubator should be registered in India as a legal entity in public, private or public – partnership mode, and should have received establishment or grant support from a government of India ministry/department in the past.
- The incubator must have been in operation for a minimum of 3 years before application for affiliation with DIO, and experience of having supported at least 25 start-ups.
- It should have successfully graduated at least 5 start-ups in the past 3 years that are running as 'a going concern' as of the date of application for affiliation with DIO.
 - A start-ups' graduation is to be defined as any of the following: (a) having raised a series A round of at least Rs 1 crore, valuing the firm at least Rs 10 crore; (b) or acquired by another large company, at a valuation of at least Rs 10 crore; (c) a viable firm with at least Rs 5 crore in annual revenue, or (d) employee 20 full time-equivalent staff.
 - Experience of having supported defence or aerospace related start-ups will be given extra consideration.
- It should have at least 25 mentors for start-ups affiliated with it, at least 5 of whom should have some connection with the defence or aerospace domain.
- Experience of having run sector-focused accelerator programs in at least two sectors, with investible start-ups having come out of each of them.
- Experience of having partnered with academia and research sector
- Extensive corporate, investor, academic, vendor, mentor and government relationships to support start-ups.

These eligibility conditions are not sufficient to become an iDEX-PI. A suitably empowered committee will look at all applications to select the iDEX-PIs, and may also directly identify other suitable partners, to meet the objectives of connecting start-ups to Indian defence.

Contact us at

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