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Early Translation Accelerator: Call 1

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ABOUT	• Early translation accelerator (ETA) programme for scale-up and development of lab-validated technologies from academic and research institutions. • ETA facilitates de-risking and development of technologies as funded projects for faster commercialization by industrial partners. • Supporting successful translation of lab-validated technologies into potential products in the market by industrial partners. • For Information on ETA visit: https://www.venturecenter.co.in/eta/
SUPPORTED BY	• BIRAC (https://birac.nic.in/index.php)
PROGRAMME PARTNERS	• TechEx.in (https://www.techex.in/) • ETA Advisors and Industrial Partners
FOCUS AREAS	• Industrial biotechnology-based products for nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals, personal care, functional foods & beverages and other FMCG segments
FOR WHOM	**Inventors and Research Scientists in Universities, Academic and R&D Institutions in India** working on novel sustainable biotechnology products with application in consumer goods.
BENEFITS FOR INVENTORS AND RESEARCH SCIENTISTS	• Opportunity for de-risking and development of technologies for enhancing their commercialization prospects. • Scale-up of novel bioprocesses and innovative technologies as funded projects with support from BIRAC and industry partners. • Realising commercial potential of technologies with significant societal and market relevance. • Helping industry address current global demand for sustainable technologies and green products. • Fostering a robust innovation ecosystem in India by promoting collaboration between academia, research institutions and industries.
CALL OPEN DATE	**Wednesday, 20 September 2023**
CALL CLOSE DATE	**(Extended!!) Friday, 3 November 2023**
CONTACT	For ETA related queries & technical questions: Ms Sujaya Ingale | eta@venturecenter.co.in |+91-8956226084
HOW TO APPLY	**Limited Projects: 4; All applicants can apply online by filling the Application form: https://forms.gle/Q7b49feC1aPB5bAs7 and uploading documents listed below:** **1.** Updated scientific presentation (**file format: pptx**) of the technology specifying: Background of technology; Unique features of the technology ; Proposed uses & applications; Perceived market potential; IP status; and current TRL as per BIRAC TRL and status of technology. **2.** Biodata of lead scientist/ inventor/ researcher(**file format: docx**). **3.** About the research lab & team capabilities (**file format: pptx/docx**). **4.** Relevant publications and details of patent applications/grants. (**file format: pdf/ pptx**).

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Introduction: About ETA Programme

The **Early Translation Accelerator (ETA) programme at Venture Center**, supported by the BIRAC-DBT, aims to help academic and research institutions across India to successfully scale-up and commercialise technologies.

In order to achieve this, Venture Center as ETA will facilitate various activities including:

- **Scouting** for lab-validated technologies at TRL 4-5 from academic and research institutions.
- **Identifying** relevant industrial partners for technology commercialization.
- **Planning** and management of scale-up and development activities for successful translation of technology.
- **Facilitating** selection of technologies by ETA committee and funds from BIRAC up to 90% project cost (cost ceiling at 2 Crores/ Project)
- **Handling** technology demonstration and technology transfer activities for successful commercialisation by industrial partners.

Focus of ETA programme at Venture Center is on development and scale-up of industrial biotechnology-based products such as actives, intermediates, excipients, additives or finished products for use in the consumer goods:

- Cosmeceuticals, Skin Care and Personal Care
- Functional Foods & Beverages
- Nutraceuticals
- Health & Wellness
- Household Care

In-house Capabilities at Venture Center for Technology Translation

- **TechEx.in** - Technology transfer office for scouting of technologies from Indian academic and research institutes, for identifying relevant Industry partners, conducting technology matchmaking, marketing and outreach activities.
- **Network** of advisors and domain experts from industries.
- **IPFACE** - handle IP related activities and tech transfer support.
- **RIFC** - In-house support for regulatory and certification requirements.
- **VC AnalytiX** - Advanced analytical support for analysis and testing of raw materials, evaluation of finished products, soft matter characterization and complete biomolecule characterization for biopharma.
- **Bioincubator** - In-house facilities for bioassays, **bioprocess engineering**, translational cell studies and tissue engineering.
- Support for formulation design, processing and ISO certified **cleanroom for packaging**.
- Proof-of-concept and **prototyping facilities**.
- **Plug-and-play labs** for R&D in chemistry, material science, biology and health science.

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Programme Plan



Phases of the Programme:

- **Phase 1 - SELECTION:** Call opens; Technology submissions received; Eligibility check including technical feasibility and due diligence; Short-listing; Identifying industrial partners; Selection by ETA Committee.
- **Phase 2 - SCOPING & AGREEMENT:** Defining technical scope of the technology translation project; Verifying technical feasibility and due diligence; Detailing project scope, activity plan, budget; Executing project agreement and receiving commitment of resources by partners.
- **Phase 3 - TRANSLATION ACTIVITIES:** Initiating technology transfer to ETA; Procuring and installation of equipment; conducting preliminary trials for reproducibility of technology and scale-up activities.
- **Phase 4 - DEMONSTRATION:** Demonstration of technology scale-up to industry partners.
- **Phase 5 - TRANSFER:** Initiating technology transfer and commercialization activities.

Proposed Project Timeline

Start	Activities
Day 0	**Programme Call Announcement**
Day 60-90	1. Eligibility check including technical feasibility and due diligence; Shortlisting; Identifying industrial partners. 2. Detailing project scope, activity plan, budget and receiving commitment of resources by partners. 3. Selection of technologies by ETA committee.
Day 90	4. Signing of agreements and initiating Project
Month 11	5. Milestone review after 8 months
Month 19	6. Milestone review after 16 months and submission of final project report
Month 30	7. Completion of Technology Transfer for Commercialisation

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Selection Process

Total of 4 innovative technologies will be selected for this programme. Selection of technologies will be carried out by an ETA expert committee comprising experts from academia, industry and BIRAC-DBT.

Evaluation of technologies will be on the basis of following parameters:

- Availability of technical data for reviewing risks attached to the technology (bioprocess/ product) with respect to safety, technology limitations and commercial potential.
- Technology to be at technology readiness level (TRL) of 5 or above at the start of the project. For BIRAC's definition of TRL for Industrial Biotechnology, click on link: BIRAC TRL for Industrial Biotechnology
- Feasibility to translate the technology at least by two TRL levels as part of the ETA project.
- Providing ample clarity on the technical endpoints for the ETA project to help define the milestones and budgeting for the project.
- Technology should have prior appropriate approvals such as NBA clearance, GMO use approval etc., wherever necessary.

Preferences:

- Preference may be given to technologies with well assessed commercial opportunities including a sizable market and potential for IP generation.
- Preference may be given to technologies with industrial partners participating in the ETA project as commercialisation partner with a written commitment to commercialise the technology within specified timeline after successful completion of the ETA project as well as contribute a minimum of 10% of the total project fee upfront towards incubation.
- Preference may be given to technologies with broader significance in terms of technical impact, social relevance and national importance.
- Preference may be given to technologies without any conflict of interest or related party funding.

Illustrative Terms of Engagement

The following are the proposed terms of engagement for the collaborative project for technology scale-up and development:

Technology Accelerator agreement:

- ❖ Parties:
  - o Academia or Research institution as technology provider
  - o Industrial partner as technology commercialisation partner
  - o EDC (Venture Center) as partner for technology advancement, IP protection and tech transfer
- ❖ Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest, Non-compete
- ❖ Background knowhow and IP:
  - o Will belong to the Academia or Research Institution.
  - o Adequate rights shall be made available to the partners for the project in order to license the technology and successfully commercialise it.
- ❖ Project knowhow and IP:
  - o Shall be jointly owned by EDC and the Academia or Research Institution unless agreed otherwise.

- ❖ Commercialization rights:
  - o The industrial partner has the first right to license and commercialise the technology.
  - o If the industrial partner refuses to license the technology or commercialise it within the specified time period, then both EDC and the technology provider can look for other potential licensees.
- ❖ Financials
  - o EDC will commit to up to 90% of the total project fee which will be brought in as project initiation and milestone payments from BIRAC-DBT ETA Grant.
  - o The industrial partner contributes a minimum of 10% of the total project fee upfront towards incubation.
  - o The project fee will be used towards purchase and running of equipment, accessories, supplies, raw materials, specialty chemicals, consumables etc., as well as engaging experts, human resources, outsourcing etc.
  - o EDC will provide access to relevant in-house technical and advisory services to the project.
  - o Any statutory/government fees associated with patent filing, agreements etc., shall be borne by all concerned parties equally.
  - o EDC team members will be the project managers and provide project management services and engage advisors and domain experts as deemed necessary.

Technology Transfer agreement:

Background IP/ Knowhow:

- Exclusive or Non-exclusive, worldwide or country specific, limitations.
- Duration: later of 10 years or expiry date of longest lasting patent.
- Upfront fee
- Annual minimum license maintenance fee.
- Running royalty on net sales.
- Option to seek assignment and termination of running royalty at pre-decided fixed cost.

Project IP:

- Exclusive or Non-exclusive, worldwide or country specific, limitations.
- Duration: later of 10 years or expiry date of longest lasting patent.
- Upfront fee
- Annual minimum license maintenance fee.
- Running royalty on net sales.
- Option to seek assignment and termination of running royalty at pre-decided fixed cost.

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About the organizer	
	Entrepreneurship Development Center (Venture Center) – a CSIR initiative – is a Section 25 company hosted by the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. Venture Center strives to nucleate and nurture technology and knowledge-based enterprises by leveraging the scientific and engineering competencies of the institutions in the Pune region in India. The Venture Center is a technology business incubator supported by the Department of Science & Technology's National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (DST-NSTEDB). Venture Center's focuses on technology enterprises offering products and services exploiting scientific expertise in the areas of materials, chemicals and biological sciences & engineering. For more information, visit: http://www.venturecenter.co.in/

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	Biotechnology Industry Research & Assistance Council (BIRAC)is a new industry-academia interface and implements its mandate through a wide range of impact initiatives, be it providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology transfer, IP management and handholding schemes that help bring innovation excellence to the biotech firms and make them globally competitive. For more information, visit: www.birac.nic.in

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	TECHEX.IN is a Technology Transfer Hub operated by Venture Center, Pune, India and supported by the National Biopharma Mission, BIRAC (Govt of India). TECHEX.IN aims to help technology developers and technology commercialization entities find each other, forge partnerships and advance the technology closer to the market in a win-win partnership. In this mission, TECHEX.IN will build upon the learnings, methods and experiences of NCL Innovations (department of CSIR-NCL championing innovations), IPFACE (IP Facilitation Center) and Venture Center (technology business incubator). The TECHEX.IN is based in the western part of India. While its focus is on organizations in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa states of India, it welcomes technology developers and technology commercialization entities from any part of the world. For more information please visit: techex.in