

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):**

**Q1. There are emerging areas of Industry 5.0 nowadays. Can we include those areas as well?**

Answer: Challenge-driven Innovation Fund (CIF) has broad thematic areas that must be covered within the proposals.

**Q2. Can we associate travel grants with other projects?**

Answer: No. It must be associated with that submitted project only.

**Q3. Can we target multiple themes or target a single theme for the project or multiple projects?**

Answer: There is no limitation. It is preferable that one should focus on a particular theme of the project that could lead to a broader impact.

**Q4. Is there any restriction on Industrial collaboration?**

Answer: No. It is open and Ignite supports ideas from any side.

**Q5. What is the first step in project submission?**

Answer: There is a sequence of activities that need to be performed in which Project Outline submission is the first step.

**Q6. Who will do the desk evaluation? If general reviews are received, how they can be catered?**

Answer: Desk evaluations will be performed by the experts in the field comprising University senior faculty, industrial experts, and technical experts may be engaged.

**Q7. Do we need to have national collaboration only?**

Answer: No. As per policy, it has to be the international Consultants that need to contribute to the dire need of the project. However, the cost must not exceed 10% of the direct HR cost.

**Q8. If someone is interested in more than one project, can he apply for multiple projects?**

Answer: Yes. But, one needs to choose carefully to have the best successful idea.

**Q9. If someone is a PI in one project, can be a Co-PI in another project?**

Answer: Yes. We have flexibility on it.

**Q10. When the collaborator/partner is a center/company, who's CV should I include from each partner's side? The CEO, the contact person, or the technical person?**

Answer: The only person(s) who is/are engaged as CPI/Consultant of that company with your consortium.

**Q11. Do we have a timeline for a project?**

Answer: Yes. The project evaluation process may be completed within 6 months.

**Q12. Do we have project costs in USD?**

Answer: No. All costs are calculated in PKR.

**Q13. Does the project cover infrastructure cost?**

Answer: The project only covers costs under separate heads such as equipment costs, overheads costs, contingency costs, HR costs, etc.

**Q14. What about Livestock model development, is it fall under CIF?**

Answer: CIF doesn't cover the Infrastructure development cost of the project may be the development of a farm, clinic, center, etc.

**Q15. Do you have any monitoring mechanism for fund utilization?**

Answer: Yes. We do have a proper mechanism in which we will ask the PIs to present the progress of the project quarterly and even take confirmation by visiting the collaborating organizations.

**Q16. Is there any restriction on a number of collaborations such as public/private or industry?**

Answer: No. There is no limit.

**Q17. How does someone take details of the projects?**

Answer: Details are available on the Website.

**Q18. If we have a product in developmental stages, in which thematic area does it fall?**

Answer: It has to be linked with any particular thematic area of CIF. Then it must have a roadmap to accomplish a large societal impact.

**Q19. Is it possible that two or more commercial organizations can come together to participate or there is a need for a university or research organization to be part of the proposal?**

Answer: There is a need to form a consortium comprising of at least two independent entities that may be universities, industry, large companies, or SMEs (any combination). There is no such obligation.

**Q20. Does a private company that performs R&D for different organizations is considered a "research organization"?**

Answer: A Private Company may be termed as a Company (must be a legal entity in Pakistan).

**Q21. Can an independent organization submit an application? Or does it have to be 2 entities and is it a mandatory requirement to have a university or research organization on board?**

Answer: Forming a Consortium of at least 2 legal entities is a must that can be Universities, Companies, or SMEs (or their combination). No such binding of involving a research organization or University.

**Q22. Can the application be submitted for a product development idea relevant to one of the thematic areas? Or is this fund for research only?**

Answer: Product development is encouraged for the projects to be submitted.

**Q23. What type of research I can select according to the criteria as I want to work on health and wellbeing and also to collect primary data, analyze it, and after results can we decide about policies.**

Answer: Detail guidelines are available on Ignite website:

<https://ignite.org.pk/cif/>

Please select the appropriate theme and follow the guidelines fully.

**Q24. Kindly confirm if medical research-based projects, specifically cancer genes research, are considered eligible to apply.**

Answer: CIF has provided a theme for such projects. They have to be linked with ICT as Ignite's mandate is to support ICT-related projects. Furthermore, please select carefully your thematic area from the list of thematic areas in which your research falls.

- Transport and Smart Mobility
- Health and Well-being
- Education and Learning
- Climate Change & Environment
- ICT enabled Agriculture and Agri-business
- Smart Energy
- Smart Cities and Communities
- Digital Industry
- Digital Life
- Connectivity and Interoperability
- Safety, Security, and Reliability

**Q25. I looked at the call for funding under different themes. Kindly guide me that whether PI must be a Ph.D. degree holder or people with MS qualifications can apply as well.**

Answer: Eligibility criteria are clearly mentioned at:

<https://ignite.org.pk/cif/cif-eligibility-criteria/>

However, there is no such restriction on the Ph.D. degree.

**Q26. Can you please guide me that how can I get the prescribed format for applying for subject Funds?**

Answer: For your convenience, forms are already placed on the website:

<https://ignite.org.pk/cif/cif-forms-download/>

Furthermore, the ONLINE submission facility will be available from 20th July 2022 on the website.

**Q27. Can an industrial partner be the lead partner under the CIF grant and be funded?**

Answer: Anyone can be a lead partner.

**Q28. I am a full-time permanent faculty member but am currently in outside Pakistan for my postdoc. I will return to my parent institute in March 2023. Am I eligible to be the PI?**

Answer: PI can be from a university, industry, company, or SME but that must be a legal entity in Pakistan. Any full-time faculty member registered with a legal entity has to seek internal approvals.

**Q29. My consortium currently consists of an auto manufacturing company, a solar energy company, a software house in Pakistan, and a research center internationally. How can I include them in the PO as you require details of collaborators on a personal level and not a company level?**

Answer: Ignite has already asked for the collaborators in PO and supporting collaboration both at the personal as well as company levels.

**Q30. There is not much financial guidance regarding industrial and research partners (not on a personal level). Kindly guide.**

Answer: Initially, PO will be submitted for which sufficient information is placed on the website. In further stages, details will be asked subject to the shortlisting.