

Technology Transition Fund

Call for Proposals Guidance

I. General Information

A. Program Description

IGNITE Technology Transition fund supports innovation activities that go beyond the experimental proof of concept in laboratory. It supports both the maturation and validation of your novel technology in the lab and in relevant application environments (by making use of prototyping, formulation, models, user testing or other validation tests) as well as the development of a business case and business model towards the innovation's future commercialisation. The anticipated result is the development of products or services that are marketable and can generate positive cash flows.

The proposed activities must include further technology development on the results achieved previously and follow user-centric methodologies to increase chances of the innovation's future success in the market. The Transition projects should address, in a balanced way, both technology and market/business dimensions, possibly including iterative learning processes based on early customer or user feedback. These activities should include, subject to the level of maturity of the technology, a suitable mix of research, technology development and validation activities to increase the maturity of the technology beyond proof of concept to viable demonstrators of the technology in the intended field of application (i.e. up to Technology Readiness Level 5 to 7).

B. Thematic Areas:

The following areas of strategic significance have been identified for the program:

- Automotive and infrastructure
- Energy harvesting and storage technologies
- Information technology and its applications in health, textile, environment, agriculture productivity, and agri-business
- Education technology
- Financial technology

C. Eligibility Criteria:

The Technology Transition fund support collaborative research and innovation from consortia. The proposal must be submitted by the coordinator on behalf of the consortium that includes:

- **At least two** independent Pakistan-based legal entities (i.e., university/research organization and industry).
- The legal entities may for example be universities, research organizations, large companies, or SMEs.
- Co-financing (including in kind or cash contribution) by the industry partner is mandatory

Submission must be made to the IGNITE online portal according to the guidance provided in the Call for Proposals.

D. Anticipated Funding

The budgets for Technology Transition projects are anticipated to be up to **Rs. 30 million, with a maximum project duration of 1-2 years**. Industry co-financing must equal at least **50%** of the funding requested from Ignite for the academic portion of the collaboration. Greater amounts of industry co-financing are encouraged. Budget requests should be consistent with the proposed research and development activities. The grant awards will be made and administered through the lead partner institution. The project budget can finance the following activities:

- a. Salaries for PI and co-PIs based on the amount of time spent on the project
- b. Stipends for bachelors, masters, doctoral students and post-doctoral scholars to conduct the research and innovation activities
- c. Travel to national and international meetings to present research results obtained and in support of the proposed research
- d. Processing fee for open access journals for disseminating research results obtained
- e. Patent filing
- f. The purchase and maintenance of appropriate, approved equipment and supplies to conduct the research proposed
- g. Producing licensing agreements
- h. Legal and financial investment advice
- i. Marketing of the prototype or proposed product to appropriate investors or stakeholders
- j. Institutional overheads

E. Due Dates

- Full Proposals must be submitted to Ignite by the deadline.

II. Proposal Preparation Instructions

A. Basic Guidance

All TTF proposals must be submitted through online portal.

B. Proposal Formatting

All Full Proposals should use the .docx Full Proposal Template Document as the basis for the submission. The section guidance should be deleted prior to proposal submission. Proposals must be submitted in English.

Full Proposals should include a Table of Contents.

All sections of the template – either the Project Outline or the Full Proposal - must be completed prior to submission. The list of required sections – and the guidance for the content within each section – is provided in Section III below of this Call for Proposals.

- The page limit for each section must not be exceeded.
- All pages of the proposal should have a page number.
- Proposals should be submitted in 11-point point, Calibri font.
- Tables should be completed in the format and length indicated in the relevant Template document (.docx).

- Proposal sections should not include URLs for additional information. Information or documentation beyond that included in the written proposal will not be used in the evaluation process.
- Proposals should follow accepted academic practice in citing references throughout the proposal. References should be numbered sequentially and listed separately as a required attachment to the proposal. References should be reported in a standard form, and include the names of all authors; the article and journal-title; book title; volume and page numbers; and year of publication. If available, a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) may be provided.

III. Required Proposal Sections

The required sections for the Full Proposal submission are described below. All submissions should address the identified topics for each section. Do not exceed the maximum page limit for each section.

A. Full Project Submissions

Principal Investigators must complete each section of the proposal as described in the Full Proposal Template .docx Document.

IV. Proposal Submission Procedure

All TTF proposals must be submitted by the Principal Investigator. The Head of the institute at which the PI is an employee should endorse the submitted project.

V. Evaluation and Selection Process

The selection of Technology Transition Grant awards will be made through an open, rigorous, transparent, competitive, and merit-based process consistent with international standards for funding research and innovation projects. All Full Proposals submitted in response to this Call for Proposals will be evaluated by independent experts. The evaluation process consists of three sequential steps:

1. Proposal Screening

For the administrative screening, the Ignite will ensure that the Principal Investigator and the lead institution submitting each Proposal is eligible to submit, the project aligns with one of the priority thematic areas, and that the necessary **industry collaborators (and the mandatory co-financing)** are identified.

If the Proposal is deemed appropriate in those elements described above, the Proposal will be forwarded for further evaluation as described below. For those Proposals that are deemed ineligible for the TTF, the Principal Investigator will receive a letter identifying the reasons why the Proposal will not be considered for further evaluation.

2. Desk Evaluation of the written Full Project Proposal

For the Desk Evaluation, Full Proposals will be grouped by thematic area and assigned to a Panel for evaluation. Each Panel will be composed of a team of experts - including international academic leaders and subject matter experts – who will evaluate the written proposals. Each Full Proposal will be independently evaluated by at least two members of the Panel, and additional reviews may be obtained by appropriate subject matter experts.

The expert evaluators will assess each proposal according to a scoring rubric, and will provide written comments on the proposal. All members of the Panel will discuss each Full Proposal assigned to the Panel. Following the Desk Evaluation of Full Proposals, a short list of the top

ranked proposals will be considered in the second stage of the Evaluation process. This short-list will be reasonably balanced across thematic areas.

3. Presentation before an Expert Panel

An Expert Panel will be convened to recommend which short-listed Full Proposals are selected for TTF Funding. The focus of the Expert Panel is on assessing in person the capacity of the team and the host institution to deliver on what is described in the written proposal.

This will be accomplished through a presentation by the Principal Investigator and the institution that submitted the short-listed proposal. The presentation team should include: institutional leadership, the Principal investigator and key members of the consortia; and sectoral partners. The Expert Panel will assess each proposal according to a scoring rubric, and should offer additional written comments on the proposal.

Following the completion of presentations by all of the short-listed teams, the Expert Panel will formulate recommendations for on the proposals that should be selected for TTF support.

VI. Grievance procedure

Applicant(s) may submit a grievance notice if not satisfied with the decision on the submitted proposal which will be processed by the Program Manager as per procedure to address grievance notices.

In exceptional circumstances, institutions submitting a full Proposal that was not selected for funding may submit a written Notice of Grievance to the Program Officer, Ignite within Seven (07) working days of results being announced. A Notice of Grievance is permitted only when the institution believes that the proposal was not evaluated fairly or in a reasonable manner.

VII. Negotiation and Implementation

Following the Evaluation and Selection process, the Ignite will enter into negotiations with the PI and the host institution.

The final budget for each selected TTF budget will be negotiated following the evaluation and selection process. The budget will depend upon: the proposed research and innovation activities; the size of the research team; the costs associated with the proposed workplan; the resources required; the capacity of the research team to achieve the results; and the feedback to the PI provided through the Evaluation and Selection process. The negotiation on anticipated results will occur concurrently with the budget negotiation. In addition, a detailed implementation plan for the project must be prepared and approved.

VIII. Final Selection

The final selection of the grants will be made by Ignite Project Management & Appraisal Committee (PMAC)/ Board. In the final selection, the Ignite or PMAC/Board may deviate from the recommendations as a result of Desk review stage or Expert Panel Review as the case may be, without, however, changing any evaluation marks of the individual proposals.

It may do so based upon an objective and clearly stated rationale to ensure a reasonable geographical, priority and principal investigator representation in the final selection. In its selection, the Project Management & Appraisal Committee (PMAC)/ Board must ensure that the portfolio of grantees address the major priority areas described in the Call for Proposals.

IX. Project Websites

Full details of the TTF will be available on the Ignite website available at: <https://ignite.org.pk/ttf/>

Questions regarding the Challenge-driven Innovation Fund may be directed to:
seedfund@ignite.org.pk