



Who can apply? (Eligibility criteria)

1. The individual applicant should be an Indian citizen.
2. The primary applicant should be the Project Leader.
3. The applicant has to be incubated in an incubator (Incubator could be located anywhere in the country and may/may not be supported by BIRAC). At the time of application, the applicant is expected to have identified preferred incubator. LoI/MoU with the incubator is required for final approval. (Please refer to the BioNEST page on BIRAC website for details on BIRAC supported Bio incubators)
4. If the applicant is formally employed (or registered as a student) with an academic or research organization, then the applicant has to produce a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from competent authority of the organization clearly indicating that the organization has policies in place to allow the applicant while in service/ on sabbatical/on Extraordinary Leave: accept funding support (if successful) as an individual, manage the funds through a separate no-lien account in individual capacity undertake BIG project in an incubator to create an enterprise. Alternatively, the applicant needs to provide an undertaking that he/she plans to terminate his/her association with the current employer and take up the project full time in the event of grant approval. A resignation/ relieving/ retirement letter will be needed as supporting document before final approval and release of the grant.
5. If the applicant is formally employed with a for-profit company/LLP, the applicant needs to provide an undertaking that he/she plans to terminate his/her association with the current employer and take up the project full time in the event of a grant approval (A resignation/ relieving/retirement letter will be needed as supporting document before final approval and release of the grant.), or, Alternatively, the application should be submitted under Company/LLP category.
6. Individual who is a promoter shareholder of a Biotech company or one of the partners in a Biotech LLP will not be allowed to apply as an individual, irrespective of the percentage of shareholding of the applicant in the company. (In such a case, the application can be submitted through company/LLP route, in case the company/LLP meets the required eligibility criteria as detailed below)

Company/ LLP

1. The Company/LLP should be registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956/2013



2. The incorporation date of the Company/LLP should not be earlier than 5 years from the date of closing of a particular BIG call.
3. A company is considered as 'owned' by resident Indian citizen(s) if minimum 51% of the capital is beneficially owned by resident Indian citizen(s) and / or Indian companies, which are ultimately owned and controlled by resident Indian citizens
4. Company/LLP's application should be represented by a Project Leader (defined under Section 7.1).
5. The Company/LLP must have its own in-house R&D facility that is functional and adequate to execute the project. If the Company/LLP does not have a functional and adequate laboratory of its own, then it should be incubated at an incubator (This shall be verified and confirmed by BIG Partner)
6. If an applicant company, in which any promoter holding more than or equal to 20% of the shares, is a co-promoter of another ineligible company or a partner in another ineligible LLP, then the applicant will not be eligible. The only exception to this shall be situation wherein the latter ineligible company/LLP is operating in non-biotech domain. In case applicant is a LLP: An applicant LLP, in which any of the partners is also a partner in another ineligible LLP or is a co-promoter in another ineligible company, then the applicant will not be eligible. The only exception to this shall be situation wherein the latter ineligible LLP/company is operating in non-biotech domain.

Royalty on Grant:

BIG grantees are required to pay 5% royalty on net sales of the product/technology developed through BIRAC support till the time such royalty payment becomes equivalent to the grant-in aid assistance disbursed by BIRAC for the Project.

BIRAC would also seek payment in case there is transfer of intermittent technology, know-how, application to third party to further carry out commercialization with/ without further development by way of one-time transaction.

Payment of royalty shall fall due beginning with the first sale of the product(s) and the liability to pay royalty will terminate upon the first of any of the following two events to occur: - a) 5% royalty has been paid till the royalty amount paid becomes equal to the amount of the Grant-In-Aid disbursed and that was not returned as unutilized funds; or (b) in case of Foreclosure or Termination of Project as per the terms of GLA.



Application process

- BIRAC issues a national call inviting applications under BIG at least twice a year (1st of January & 1st of July).
- The Call for Proposals is advertised through one or more means that may include BIRAC website, newspapers, journals and magazines.
- The Call for Proposals is typically open for a period of upto one and a half month.
- The BIG Scheme is implemented across the country through BIRAC's BIG Partners. The Call will mention the names of BIG Partners for the particular call. Names of the BIG Partners and their responsibilities are mentioned in Annexure 2.
- Application for BIG needs to be submitted online ONLY through BIRAC website www.birac.nic.in.
- Applicants are advised to fill-up and submit their applications early without waiting for the last date in order to avoid last minute rush. Please note that the online system will stop accepting applications automatically at the specific date and time mentioned in the Call details.
- Applicants are advised to provide sufficient details in their applications to allow for an informed and fair evaluation/review.
- Requests for changes in a proposal once submitted will not be entertained.
- Providing incorrect information intentionally is viewed adversely and may lead to disqualification.



Budget Planning

<p>Budget heads typically involve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment • Manpower • Consumables • Incubation space rentals and services. • Travel • Outsourced services • IP costs • Contingency 	
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of 30% of project cost can be considered for equipment.
Manpower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 30% of project cost can be considered for manpower/salary head with a cap of INR 50,000 per month per head. • Scientific advisors/ mentors to the BIG grantee cannot draw salary through BIG grant. None of the team members can receive salary/stipend/fellowship from two sources simultaneously (BIG and any other source).
Consumables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These heads are flexible and need to be justified.
Incubation space rentals and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rentals for incubation space or startup's R&D premises • Charges for services availed by the grantee at the incubator
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For project related travel within INR 1.5 lakh
Outsourced services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outsourcing cost should not exceed 30% of project cost. It may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ project related services that are not available at the Incubator/own R&D premises ○ Short-term consultancy to non-team members for specialized requirements
IP Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For patent drafting, filing and related services within INR 1.5 lakhs • Foreground IP in-licensing charges not covered under BIG grant



Contingency	Contingency cannot exceed 5% of project cost and in general includes expenses towards minor variations in any of the above budget heads; meeting expenditure towards unplanned activities. It may include project related expenses incurred for setting up of company/ LLP during BIG tenure, stationery charges, incidental expenses, conference registration etc.
Waivers	The above guidelines shall be followed unless there is a specific exemption by BIRAC.