



सत्यमेव जयते

रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



Framework for iDEX Partners

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As part of the design of iDEX initiative, iDEX envisages to work with India's innovation entities like existing incubators, which would help in discovery and exploration of Startups/MSMEs that can perform the function of co-creation. iDEX would work with these incubators closely, tracking upcoming Startups/MSMEs and Innovators, and investing in them opportunistically, from the Defence Innovation Fund.

These would be complimentary in their focus areas and would enabling covering of a wide variety of technologies and innovations. More than just their strengths, these incubators can collaborate to underpin the innovation deployment efforts.

iDEX will run programs such as accelerators, long-duration incubation, piloting, prototype investments, etc. in partnership with these incubators. In addition, the DIHs will also run various programs to encourage and support defence innovation at the college and school level, targeting the student population of India.

To do so, there is a necessity to collaborate with existing Indian incubators that have the strengths to support start-ups and hence this framework under DIO.

After an initial pilot program with 5 incubation centers, any new partners will be selected through the following framework

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 startups



- It should have successfully graduated at least 5 startups in the past 3 years that are running as ‘a going concern’ as of the date of application for affiliation with DIO.
 - ❖ A startup’s 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 acqui-hired 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 startups will be given extra consideration.
- It should have at least 25 mentors for startups 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 startups 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 startups

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 startups to Indian defence.

Grant Funding for Programs run by iDEX Partner Incubators

Innovation activities like accelerator programs, challenges, etc. will be carried by the DIHs along with their outreach and candidate sourcing. These programs will target locations or clusters focused around specific military platforms, components, or requirements as decided in consultation with the iDEX (DIO) team.

The iDEX-PIs will send budget proposals for major innovation programs/activities (e.g. accelerator programs) which will be vetted by the core iDEX team and approved by the iDEX CEO before funding disbursement.



If the proposed program is deemed worthwhile by the iDEX team, it will disburse funding of up to 40 lakhs (excluding TA/DA and accommodation of participants for the contact sessions) depending on the activity. There will be no establishment funding provided to any DIO-affiliated incubators; only programs will be funded.

On completion of the activity, the iDEX-PI will provide

1. A project completion report – detailing the activity and its result
2. An audited statement of accounts and balance sheet
3. A Utilization Certificate

All decisions for affiliation/partnership with iDEX will solely be at the discretion of DIO/iDEX, and no representation will be entertained unless applications have been solicited either online or directly.

Department of Defence Production

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