

# Venture Center

-- Seeding Tomorrow's Enterprises Today --

Call ref: **2014/Nov**; Call opens: **4 Nov 2014**; **Call extended last date 9 Dec 2014**

Designation	Requirements	Responsibilities
<b>BIRAC Social Innovator / SIIP Fellow – Social Innovation Immersion Program (SIIP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ph D/ M Tech / B Tech / MD / MBBS / MSc / M Phil / M Des / MPH /MBA / MSW and equivalents with undergraduate training in Science, Medicine, Engineering</li><li>• Candidates with work/ research experience relating to Health Care/ Devices/ Diagnostics, preferably with emphasis on Maternal and Child Health would be preferred</li><li>• Candidates with a track record of biomed innovation and/or entrepreneurship will be preferred</li><li>• Excellent spoken and written communication skills</li><li>• Applicant has to be Indian National</li><li>• Full time</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore real-world health care needs in rural and urban to semi-urban settings via clinical and rural immersions.</li><li>• Engage with medical professionals, social workers, technical experts and business mentors to evolve technology solutions to health care needs with significant social impact potential.</li><li>• Conceptualize, design and prototype product/ service ideas.</li><li>• Develop technology commercialization / business plan to take the idea ahead.</li><li>• Draft and pitch proposals to raise funding.</li><li>• Participate in training and mentoring sessions to take the project to successful end points.</li><li>• Submit timely reports as per requirement of the project.</li></ul> <p>More information: <a href="http://www.venturecenter.co.in/siip">http://www.venturecenter.co.in/siip</a></p>

## Highlights of the fellowship

- ❖ Fully supported financially in the form of fellowship and kick start grant
- ❖ Explore and develop socially relevant health care innovations up to the product stage
- ❖ Mentoring support from a team of experts from Venture Center and Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital and Research Center (Clinical partner) and MASUM (Rural partner, NGO) and many more (details of mentors on website)
- ❖ Fellows will be based out of and hosted at Venture Center, Pune. Venture Center shall plan all the training and mentoring sessions and provide necessary referrals and connects.

## How to apply:

Submit your application online along with, resume and statement of purpose on the website:

<http://www.venturecenter.co.in/siip>

## About Venture Center:

The Venture Center is a technology business incubator specializing in technology enterprises offering products and services exploiting scientific expertise in the areas of materials, chemicals and biological sciences & engineering. 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 the trademark of Entrepreneurship Development Center, a not-for-profit company, based in Pune.

For more information, visit website: <http://www.venturecenter.co.in>

**About BIRAC**

BIRAC a Public Sector Unit under Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India has been registered under India Companies Act 1956 as a section 25 'Not for Profit Company'. As an interface agency for Department of Biotechnology, BIRAC aims to apply unique methodologies for nurturing and promoting innovation led research by providing financial, infrastructural, institutional and mentoring support. BIRAC works towards fulfilment of the goal of empowering and enabling the biotech innovation ecosystem for affordable product development.

BIRAC's core mission is to work as a Development Agency in the field of biotechnology which addresses the national needs of health and food security problems through bottom up competitive grant approach or through top down product development programmes. To achieve this, BIRAC works in partnership with private, public and international groups. The organization has diverse teams and still affirms operational reciprocity.

For more information, visit website: <http://www.birac.nic.in>

**About SPARSH:**

Sparsh is the Social Innovation programme for Products: Affordable & Relevant to Societal Health. The programme is initiated by BIRAC under the aegis of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

The program highlights the need of Innovative solutions to society's most pressing social problems. The scheme is tackling major social issues and offering new ideas for wide - scale change. The scheme aims to invest in ideas and innovations that improve health care of all Indians and provide affordable product development in social sector.

For more information, visit website: [http://www.birac.nic.in/index\\_sparsh.php](http://www.birac.nic.in/index_sparsh.php)

**About Social Innovation Immersion Program (SIIP):**

SIIP is a fellowship program under SPARSH which intends to create a pool of social innovators in the biotech arena who can identify specific needs and gaps in healthcare of different communities which can then be bridged and serviced through innovative product development and services.

The need identification will be through immersion in clinical and rural communities. The SIIP fellows will receive a fellowship from BIRAC (amounting to INR 35,000 – 50,000/month) and a mini-kickstart grant of INR 5 lakhs per fellow. Fellowship amount will be decided by an expert committee based on the qualification and work experience of the fellow. The BIRAC Fellowship requires the Innovators to work fulltime and cannot be combined with fellowships from other funding organizations. Selected Fellows would be designated as '**BIRAC Social Innovators**'.

**Objective of SIIP programme:**

The primary objective of SIIP is to create a pool of biotech "Social Innovators" who can identify needs & gaps within communities and then can help bridge the gaps either through an innovative product development or services.

**SIIP – Implementation Mechanism:** The following is the work flow for SIIP

**1. Pre-Immersion orientation & induction: (Upto 4 weeks)**

SIIP fellows would be briefed about objectives & outcomes as well as provided with tools for identifying gaps & needs of different communities and trained for 'ethnography' studies. Training sessions will be provided on process of systematic clinical & Community observation, needs assessment and refinement, affordable technology development & Commercialization, market and industry research and enabling rural/remote settings.

## **2. Immersion Programme (Upto 24 Weeks)**

During this period the fellows would be exposed to both clinical settings as well as rural community settings. During the immersion period, fellows would identify multitudes of needs and conduct detailed ethnography and need assessment studies of different communities. The clinical partners will assist the innovators in need identification and refinement, understanding the clinical needs, disease states, basic biology and physiology. Rural community immersion would expose them to cultural aspects and other pain points faced by a community. Venture Center would be in continuous engagement with fellows throughout this period and take periodic reviews of the fellows. Also, mentoring on Intellectual property and technology commercialization issues would be provided.

A written report from the fellows at the end of the immersion programme about the experience and summary of the Ideas generated during the Immersion should be generated for submission to BIRAC.

## **3. Post Immersion Filtration (Upto 12 weeks)**

Fellows are expected to do desk research to understand various solutions explored and list out all the gaps & need analyses that were conducted & identified during the immersion component. Further to this they are expected to filter the list to 10 and further narrowed down to top 2-3 needs that align well with possible product or service strategies. This would involve a mix of business & technical understanding such as understanding market dynamics, technology landscaping, understanding regulatory challenges, business plan formulation and grant writing skills.

Venture Center would provide them with connect points especially with mentors from business, technical and regulatory fields. They would also be exposed to workshops and conferences for social innovators relevant to their requirements and meeting with few key opinion leaders or stakeholders would be arranged.

The Social Innovators will come out with detailed document on the 2-3 final ideas shortlisted. The detailed requirements for the next stage should also be envisaged. Fellows are expected to submit to BIRAC a detailed plan of action for taking an identified gap/need to the next stage either in terms of product design or delivery component with at least two milestone stages.

## **4. Product Design, Prototyping and Delivery Mechanism (Upto 36 weeks)**

This stage will provide the live prototype development environment or planning a delivery implementation to the Social innovators. The detailed plan of action submitted by applicant will be reviewed by Venture Center. Based on this review report, BIRAC would then release the **mini kick-start grant of INR 500,000** in two stages of (INR 250000 each time) routed via Venture Center. If two or more fellows wish to work as a team on developing a single identified need that they can combine their mini kickstart grants. However this has to be communicated in advance and a project lead for the joint project be identified and agreed upon. The team then has to submit a

detailed milestone based plan to Venture Center & BIRAC for approval before the combined mini kick-start grant is released. Once BIRAC approval has been provided for a joint project, it cannot be reversed. In such cases, if more than 2 Social innovators decide for a joint project then the combined mini Kick start grant will be provided in two milestone stages as for individuals.

Venture Center would help connect the fellows to product designers and engineers and various design labs during this period. Also access would be provided to the laboratory facilities available with Venture Center and connects to Tinkering Labs and prototyping labs would be provided.

#### **SIIP Intellectual property**

- i. Any Intellectual property generated through SIIP will be owned by the SIIP Fellow and Venture Center.
- ii. Notwithstanding the foregoing sub clause, the allocation of IP generated during the SIIP project execution may be negotiated based on special arrangements duly executed among the Parties thereto to avoid the encumbrance of existing intellectual property rights the IP policy of SIIP or to facilitate the commercial deployment of inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice.

#### **Outcome from SIIP**

It is expected that the Social innovators should reach a point where they either have a ready business plan to pitch to investors, or an advanced proposal with some preliminary results suitable for funding by BIG or equivalent funding source or a technology / patent suitable for licensing.

#### **Further information for applicants:**

- All applications shall be accepted online only via the website: <http://www.venturecenter.co.in/siip> during the duration of the call.
- Upon completion of the screening process, Venture Center shall announce the shortlisted candidates called for interview via the same site.
- Venture Center will not be able to reply to interim queries from the applicants on the status of their applications.
- Venture Center will not be able to reimburse for travel and stay cost for candidates.
- Fellows will receive a fellowship amounting to INR 35,000 – 50,000/month. The fellowship shall be all inclusive; there is no separate provision for any other allowances.
- The exact level of fellowship shall be decided by the selection committee based on the qualification and work experience of the fellow. Decision of the selection committee shall be final in this regard.
- Fellows are expected to make their own arrangements for accommodation and transport during the course of the fellowship.
- Fellows who successfully propose a technology solution for a need identified during the immersion program shall be eligible for a mini kick-start grant of INR 5 lakhs.
- Fellows are expected to commit themselves for the entire 18 months duration of the fellowship.
- Fellows are expected to pursue the program full time and qualify as resident incubatees of Venture Center by meeting the eligibility criteria as well as fulfilling the terms and conditions.
- During the duration of the fellowship, fellows would be reporting to the Program Manager, SIIP at Venture Center.

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