

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

A Section 25 'Not-for-Profit Company'

of

Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India

Mandate of BIRAC:

- i. To trigger, transform and tend, biotech start-ups to convert research in public and private sector into viable and competitive products and enterprises.
- ii. To support and strengthen small scale and medium enterprises through gap filling intervention that facilitates high risk research, innovation and product development.
- iii. To provide financial, infrastructural, institutional and mentoring support so that barriers to entry are reduced for the budding entrepreneurs.
- iv. To encourage knowledge networking among biotech entrepreneurs at national and international level to maintain the technological and scientific edge.
- v. To provide all other policy and institutional support for all stakeholders involved in converting biotechnological innovations into enterprise.
- vi. Conceptualize and support development of affordable, novel, deployable products and technologies in Healthcare, Agriculture, Environment, Bio-energy, and other industrial products and

processes involved in manufacturing through public private partnership

- vii. In addition to promoting agriculture, the organization would also promote secondary agriculture which provides a unique opportunity for entrepreneurship and employment.

Functions of BIRAC

Major activities of BIRAC include funding support for product innovation and related infrastructure and services, to cover the entire product innovation value chain - including Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI), Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP), Ignition grant, Technology transfer and Acquisition in national priority areas, and Technology development (Incubators, Parks).

BIRAC would also offer services required at different stages of the value chain for promoting innovation and product development such as IP facilitation, legal, contracts, regulatory and clinical trial facilitation and undertake mentoring and capacity building. It will also Partner with those responsible for product diffusion.

To fulfill all the envisaged goals and objectives, the primary functions of BIRAC would be:

- (i) Funding / investment for supporting product innovation and innovation related common use infrastructure and service
- (ii) Services required at different stages of the value chain for promoting innovation and product development.
- (iii) Partner with those responsible for product diffusion.

What BIRAC offers through its functions is:

- (i) A novel platform to facilitate discovery and innovation in Biotech industry specially Start ups and SMEs, and in Academia-Industry interphase.
- (ii) Innovation funding
 - a. By itself
 - b. In partnership with the other not-for-profit and philanthropic organizations
 - c. Jointly or in parallel with Private industry equity providers.

This could be through grant, loan and equality and conversion of loan into grant or equality or vice-versa combination

- (iii) Mapping of Intellectual Property – Indian, Global
- (iv) Global Technology Acquisition
- (v) Technology Transfer
- (vi) Entrepreneurship Development
- (vii) Skill Augmentation
- (viii) Access to major equipment or research resources through existing institutions.

How will BIRAC fulfil this role?

- i. By making available Ignition grant schemes centered around individuals or a team of individuals – in partnership with private investment agencies as a co-investment - that will help mature

nascent ideas into to a stage where a start up company can be envisioned.

- ii. Provide funds for innovative product/process development through early and late stage funding under Public Private Partnership
 - a. Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP)
 - b. Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)
- iii. By encouraging and providing incentives to target groups (students, researchers, other skilled workers) to consider a career in bio-entrepreneurship. This target group could include Principal Investigators also.
- iv. Create schemes that facilitate the acquisition or license of innovative technology from any source (including overseas) which can be used to start new bio-enterprises or facilitate the growth of existing bio-enterprises.
- v. Create common service facilities in public and private sector to serve the needs of Start Ups.
- vi. Create capacity in various fields required for successful Bio-enterprises, some examples:
 - Intellectual property protection
 - Grant writing
 - Licensing and negotiation
 - Designing Field Trials for Agriculture

- cGMP manufacturing
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Regulatory issues
 - Legal and contracts
 - Product evaluation
 - Designing and implementation of clinical trials
 - Ethical issues
 - Data management
 - Toxicology
- vii. Facilitate or provide Information and background business related research and analysis for critical decision making and provide technology policy research and inputs directed towards encouraging bio-enterprise in India.
- a. Market research reports – trend analysis
 - b. Competitive technology evaluation
- viii. Partner with organizations that are similar or like minded and have similar objectives (who can also provide external human resources, infrastructural facilities and mentorship) to fulfill these objectives.
- a. Industry organizations
 - b. Venture / seed capital companies
 - c. Biotechnology parks and Institutes

BIRAC shall operate as an Organization which will act as a facilitator and not merely as a service provider. BIRAC shall serve the Biotech Industry by operating an IP & Analysis cell, Regulatory and Liaison cell, Technology Transfer and Acquisition cell and Legal & Contracting services to begin

with, which shall be the major support services to help the different programmes run smoothly. It would provide technical platform services to Industry and academia, offer product validation and other services required to create, nurture and support new enterprises. There will also be a provision to add more activities in future.
