

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: What exactly qualifies as a "5x to 10x Delta Change"?

Answer: We are looking for non-linear leaps. If you are making a bio-polymer that is 10% cheaper, that is incremental. If you are making a bio-polymer with 10x better oxygen barrier properties that enables it to replace aluminium foil, that is a Delta Change. We fund the latter.

We are looking for a non-linear leap. For example, if current imported enzymes degrade plastic in 30 days, we seek a "First-in-Class" enzyme that does it in 3 days (10x speed). If a medical-grade protein currently costs ₹10,000/mg, we seek a manufacturing process that produces it for ₹1,000/mg (10x cost-efficiency). **Routine optimizations of 10-20% will not be considered.**

Q2: Can I apply for funding to set up a standard manufacturing plant?

Answer: Only if the process of manufacturing is itself an innovation. If you are using a novel, "First-in-Class" bioprocessing method that reduces waste or energy consumption by 5x, then yes. We do not fund "business as usual" manufacturing capacity.

Q3: What if my innovation is "First-in-India" but not "First-in-World"?

Answer: "First-in-India" projects are eligible only if they significantly reduce national dependence on critical imports (e.g., medical-grade raw materials or R&D reagents) and provide a path to cost-leadership that is 3x better than current imported options.

Q4: What is the preferred Technology Readiness Level (TRL)?

Answer: We prefer projects that have moved past basic research (TRL 3) and are looking to validate a prototype or scale a manufacturing process (TRL 4 to 7). The goal is to see a tangible "Product" or "Platform" by the end of the funding period.

Q5: Does the funding cover only R&D or also Manufacturing?

Answer: Both. However, we have a preference for projects that bridge the "Valley of Death" between a proven lab PoC and pilot-scale manufacturing. We want to see how your deep-tech discovery becomes a physical, manufactured product on Indian soil.

Q6: What is the expectation regarding Intellectual Property (IP)?

Answer: We expect applicants to aim for Primary IP. The goal is for India to own the foundational patents. Technology in-licensing is supported but Proposals that rely on licensing "end-of-life" technology from abroad are discouraged.

Q7: Are Large Industries eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes. We encourage Large Industry players to apply, provided the project is a "Moonshot" that they wouldn't typically fund through routine R&D budgets. Collaborative proposals between Industry and Academia/Startups are highly encouraged.