

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**TECHNOLOGY TRANSLATION AND INNOVATION (TTI) DIVISION**

TTI division of DST is inviting project proposals under

Waste Management Technologies (WMT) Program



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**TECHNOLOGY TRANSLATION AND INNOVATION (TTI) DIVISION**

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## Call for Project Proposals under Waste Management Technologies Program

Through its Technology Development Programs (TDP), the Department of Science and Technology (DST), formerly under the Technology Development and Transfer (TDT) Division, promoted technology development across various fields with strong focus on transforming proof-of-concept technologies, techniques, processes, and products into advanced prototypes for validation and demonstration in real-world settings.

Following the merger of TDT Division with National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), the newly evolved “Technology Translation & Innovation” (TTI) division has taken on an enhanced role. Through TDP, the division is now even more committed to supporting collaborative projects that bring together *Research teams and Translation teams*. The primary objectives include advancing technology development, facilitating its transfer to the suitable stakeholders for further validation & commercialization, and promotion of startups.

The DST initiated a technology development program titled “Waste Management Technologies (WMT)” during 2015, aligning with the goals of the Swachh Bharath Abhiyan. Waste Management encompass a variety of interventions, including waste generation, prevention, characterization, monitoring, treatment, handling, reuse and ultimate disposal of residual solid wastes. The WMT program aims to promote the development of innovative and sustainable technologies capable of ameliorating the environmental impact caused by the huge amounts of waste generated due to industrial development and consumption lifestyle. The objectives of WMT include (i) Take stock of technological development, assess, analyze and look for material recycling systems with low environment loading and improve upon them or find better alternatives and (ii) To establish techno-economic feasibility of proposed methodologies/technologies.



**भारत सरकार  
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय  
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग  
प्रौद्योगिकी अनुवाद और नवाचार (टीटीआई) प्रभाग**

**अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन प्रौद्योगिकियां (डब्लू एम टी) कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत परियोजना प्रस्तावों के लिए आमंत्रण**

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग (डीएसटी) ने अपने प्रौद्योगिकी विकास कार्यक्रमों (टीडीपी) के माध्यम से, पूर्व में प्रौद्योगिकी विकास और हस्तांतरण (टीडीटी) प्रभाग के अंतर्गत, विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में प्रौद्योगिकी विकास को बढ़ावा दिया है, जिसमें यह विशेष रूप से इस बात पर केंद्रित रहा है कि साक्ष्य-आधारित अवधारणाओं, तकनीकों, प्रक्रियाओं और उत्पादों को उन्नत प्रोटोटाइप में रूपांतरित किया जाए ताकि उन्हें वास्तविक परिस्थितियों में मान्य और प्रदर्शित किया जा सके।

टीडीटी प्रभाग के राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी उद्यमिता विकास बोर्ड (एन.एस.टी.ई.डी.बी) में विलय के बाद, नया गठित " प्रौद्योगिकी अनुवाद और नवाचार” (टीटीआई ) प्रभाग अब एक सशक्त भूमिका निभा रहा है। टीडीपी के अंतर्गत, यह प्रभाग अनुसंधान टीमों और रूपांतरण टीमों को एक साथ लाकर सहयोगात्मक परियोजनाओं का समर्थन करने के लिए और भी अधिक प्रतिबद्ध है। इसके प्राथमिक उद्देश्य हैं: प्रौद्योगिकी विकास को आगे बढ़ाना, उपयुक्त हितधारकों को इसके हस्तांतरण को सुगम बनाना जिससे आगे मान्यता और व्यावसायीकरण हो सके, और स्टार्टअप्स को बढ़ावा देना।

डीएसटी ने वर्ष 2015 में "अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन प्रौद्योगिकियाँ (डब्लू एम टी )" नामक एक प्रौद्योगिकी विकास कार्यक्रम प्रारंभ किया, जो स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के उद्देश्यों के अनुरूप है। अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन में विभिन्न प्रकार के हस्तक्षेप शामिल हैं, जैसे अपशिष्ट का उत्पादन, रोकथाम, वर्णन, निगरानी, उपचार, प्रबंधन, पुनः उपयोग, और शेष ठोस अपशिष्टों का अंतिम निपटान। डब्लू एम टी कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य ऐसी नवाचारी और टिकाऊ प्रौद्योगिकियों के विकास को बढ़ावा देना है, जो औद्योगिक विकास और उपभोक्ता जीवनशैली से उत्पन्न भारी मात्रा में अपशिष्टों के कारण पर्यावरण पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव को कम कर सकें।

डब्लू एम टी के उद्देश्य हैं:

(i) तकनीकी विकास की स्थिति की समीक्षा करना, उनका मूल्यांकन और विश्लेषण करना, और पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव को कम करने वाले सामग्री पुनर्चक्रण प्रणालियों की खोज करना, उन्हें बेहतर बनाना या उनके लिए बेहतर विकल्प खोजना।

(ii) प्रस्तावित कार्यप्रणालियों/प्रौद्योगिकियों की तकनीकी-आर्थिक व्यवहार्यता स्थापित करना।

**DST is inviting proposals for translational research in the following specified areas of solid waste for financial support:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **Thrust Area** | **Topics** |
| **1.** | Industrial Waste | * 1. To develop and demonstrate technology for extraction of critical metals (as listed by Ministry of Mines) including rare earth elements (REE) from secondary resources, by- products, waste and urban ores, using zero waste approach. Use of indigenously developed solvents should be preferred.   2. To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology for the utilization of mine overburden, tailings, sludge and slime generated during mining and beneficiation. The technology should address bulk volume utilization and zero waste generation. Potential application areas are construction material, cement, agglomeration/ briquetting, paints and pigments, etc.   3. To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology (min 1tpd) for bulk volume utilization of Red mud using holistic approach with zero waste. This may include extraction of Iron, Titanium, Aluminium, Silica, Rare Earth Metals like Scandium, Cerium, Lanthanum, etc. and conversion of residue to some building materials.   4. To develop and demonstrate technology for the holistic utilization of metallurgical slags (ferrous and non-ferrous). The focus should be on hot stage modification of slag for use as cement, dry granulation and energy recovery, slag wool, basalt, synthetic granite, artificial sand, glass ceramics, etc.   5. To develop and demonstrate energy efficient technology at pilot scale for recycling of non- ferrous scrap such as scrap of aluminium, copper, zinc, magnesium, titanium, nickel etc. and develop application based products for import substitution.   6. To develop and demonstrate technology for recycling of solar panels, and windmill blades. The focus should be on extraction of critical/ precious metals if any, followed by the holistic utilization.   7. To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology for the recycling of used refractories/ castable used in ferrous, non- ferrous, cement and other industries. |
| **2.** | Toxic and Hazardous Waste | * 1. Chemical sludge from Textile sector: Utilization of chemical sludge as energy resource: Production of Biochar/Briquettes etc.; to develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology at 0.5 to 1MT scale with Industry collaboration.   2. Chemical sludge from Dye and Dye Intermediate Manufacturing sector: Stabilization/Solidification of ETP sludge of Dye & Dye intermediate for use as building material: To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology at 0.5 to 2MT scale with Industry collaboration.   3. Pharmaceutical residue: Utilization of sludge and residue.   4. Spent pot lining generated from Aluminium smelters: (a) Utilization of carbon portion of spent pot lining as energy source; To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology at 1 to 5 MT scale with Industry collaboration (b) Utilization of refractory portion of spent pot lining; To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology at 1 to 5 MT scale with Industry collaboration.   5. Concentration and Evaporation of residue: (a) Recovery of salt in cost effective manner from Textile, Tannery, Dye and Dye intermediates, Pharmaceutical industry Multi Effective Evaporator (MEE) residue (b) Characteristics of MEE residue and methods of ultimate disposal for non-recoverable materials.   6. Treatment of the paper industry effluents from the Alkali Extraction bleach plant stream and from secondary/ tertiary stage employing membrane filtration and/combination of technologies making use of Rejuvenated RO membranes and appropriate disposal of reject aimed to achieve stipulated discharge norms.   7. To develop and demonstrate the technology for the safe immobilization/ stabilization of toxic/ heavy metals in a cementitious matrix using the waste or by-product such as fly ash, slag, tailing, overburden etc. |
| **3.** | Organic Wastes | * 1. To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology at 0.5 to 1 MT scale, with Industry collaboration for recovery of resources and soil grade products like potash, phosphorous, macro - micronutrients from industrial waste like ash of incineration boiler, co-generation plant, spent wash of fermentation process, wastewater of agri input and biomass based industry.   2. To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology at 0.5 to 1 MT scale with industry collaboration for resource recovery and producing value added products from food and agri waste processing industry.   3. To develop and demonstrate the technology (with consumer acceptability) for production of Sustainable Packaging material from agro and food waste, adopting circular bio refinery and bio economy approach. The packaging material should be recyclable, derived from plant-based materials, and useful for e- Commerce application ensuring food safety, waste reduction. (Alternative to Single Use Plastic produced from renewable and environmental friendly materials including the waste biomass available across country). |
| **4.** | Plastic Waste | * 1. To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology for Upcycling Waste Plastics with an emphasis on increased efficiency in resource recovery and value added by-products for industrial applications adopting circular economy frame work.   2. Use of Multi Layered Plastic (MLP) Waste recycling to develop useful products such as furniture, doors, windows and frames. (Proof of concept available).   3. Use of Multi Layered Plastic (MLP) Waste usage along with bitumen and other plastics in roads to enhance durability and adverse weather conditions. (Proof of concept available).   4. To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology for Bio-based (cellulose-based) edible plastics (cellophane) as a substitute for MLP used in pharmaceuticals packaging.   5. To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology to standardize the use of non- recyclable plastics to make plastic blocks for paver blocks, tiles etc.   6. To develop and demonstrate a pilot scale technology for Recycling waste pet bottles and containers to make hard pet bottles for reuse and bottle to bottle refilling. |

**Terms and conditions:**

1. Proposals must be submitted using ONLINE portal (https://onlinedst.gov.in/) only by Faculty/Scientists/Engineers/Technologists working in Indian Universities and other Academic institutions, R&D institutions/ Laboratories having adequate infrastructure and facilities to carry out R&D work. Applicants should register as a PI in DST’s Online Portal. Registered PIs may get an option of “submit proposal”, under calls that are open. PIs may submit the proposal under the division of “Technology Translation and Innovation Division” followed by the scheme of “Waste Management Technologies”.
2. Proposals will be taken into 2 phases

**Phase 1: Concept Note**: The concept note must provide a clear and concise definition of the problem, along with relevant metrics for evaluating the strength of the proposed translational research. It should include evidence supporting the Technology Readiness Level (TRL)/Proof of Concept, as well as comprehensive scientific and technical details of the project. The proposal should also outline the project team, define individual responsibilities/work packages, and offer a justification for the selection of project partners. Declaration and signed endorsement letters of the collaborating partners including industry can be submitted in the later stages while submitting the full proposals.

**Phase 2: Full Proposal**: - Only those Principal Investigators (PIs) who are shortlisted will be invited to submit a full proposal. Complete budget details with justification/Quotations, Declaration letters, disclosures from industry partners should be appended to the full proposal.

1. The concept note will be reviewed **only if the PI has completed proof of concept**. The proposals falling under TRL 3 to 6 [TRL 3 – Experimental proof of concept, TRL

4 – Technology validation in lab, TRL 5– Technology validation in relevant environment, TRL 6 – Technology demonstrated in relevant environment] are only to be submitted. Proofs for achieving the claimed TRL/Proof of concept has to be enclosed. The fundamental R&D proposals will not be supported under this call.

1. **Laboratory-level demonstration is mandatory** to become eligible for consideration under this call.
2. **Only collaborative projects** (having research team and translation team) are supported under this call for 2 years. It is mandatory to include a Technology Enabling Center (TEC) or a Technology Business Incubator (TBI) established by DST as a translation team.
   1. Out of the total budget proposed for 2 years, the non-recurring should be limited to 50% and remaining is for recurring items. Budget for non-recurring can be extended to 60% max, if the procurement is done from a foreign country. Remaining budget under non-recurring should be borne by the Host Institute.
   2. **Industry participation is mandatory with 10% contribution in cash.**
   3. **Research team:** Collaborative, multi-institutional, and multidisciplinary projects are invited under the technology development initiative, with each participating institution represented by Principal Investigators (PIs), supported by Co-PIs.
   4. **Translation team:** Research team is expected to engage the Technology Enabling Centers (TECs) or a Technology Business Incubator (TBI) established by DST as strategic partners (To promote the translation of the project outcomes) for facilitating Technology demonstration, Industry engagement (Validation and Economic viability of the developed technology), Managing intellectual property etc. The expected out comes of TEC/TBI engagement would be ToT to the participating industry, on refusal to any other user industry/formation of startup (Can engage any TEC/TBI, but preference may be given to the one in close proximity). While the declaration and endorsement letter formalizing the collaboration with the TECs/TBIs may be submitted at later stages, but research team can engage the TEC/TBI to consult the user industries to narrow down the problem statement based on the industry consultations. Out of the total budget proposed, 10% of the budget will be provided for TEC/TBI engagement.
   5. Proposals from institutes (IITs, IISc., CSIR etc.), having their own Business Development Units as Translation partner, may be considered without DST's TBI/TEC, on case to case basis, with the recommendation of EAC, and due approval of Secretary, DST.

**POINTS TO BE KEPT IN MIND WHILE SUBMITTING PROJECT PROPOSALS:**

1. Financial support is provided only for temporary staff salaries, equipment (specific to project requirement), prototype building, consumables, domestic travel and other miscellaneous items. **No support is provided towards basic infrastructure, buildings and International travel**.
2. The investigators/ R&D Group must have adequate experience and expertise in the relevant area of proposal. The proposals should be based on innovative technologies/ideas. Proposals should have specific, concrete, quantifiable objectives/deliverables. Results of ongoing and completed projects of the PI must be reflected while formulating new proposals.
3. The technology demonstration and translational plan by involving TEC/TBI should be clearly spelled out with achievable milestones, timelines, justifiable budget requirement.
4. It is envisaged that the end product of development shall be transferred to industries/suitable stakeholders for technology implementation. Hence, project should be proposed with appropriate industry/suitable stakeholder participation, clearly stating the technical as well as financial terms of participation.
5. PI is required to submit an undertaking validated by the Head of the Institute/Competent Authority, stating that if the proposed industry partner withdraws from the project in midway, the host institute will contribute the necessary funds/support to ensure the successful achievement of the intended objectives of the project.
6. No financial support will be provided to industry. An endorsement letter from the participating industry/stakeholder with a detailed breakup of their contribution for the proposed project has to be submitted.
7. **Fund support under non-recurring grant for the required equipment will be given only if the same or similar facility is not available in the PI’s institution or nearby institutions.**
8. A PI can submit only one proposal against this DST-WMT-2025 Call. Submission of more than one proposal from a PI would be liable for disqualification.
9. It is desirable to have the contribution of the Industry and host institution/grantee institution for the non-recurring cost of the project.
10. The quarterly deliverables should be clearly mentioned in the proposal in the form of a Gantt chart /matrix.
11. Implementation of the projects will be monitored regularly through Progress Reports, Audited Financial Statements and Committee of Experts in Group review meetings and onsite review as well.

**For any queries related to this call, please feel free to write to:**

**Dr. Krishna Kanth Pulicherla**

Scientist ‘E’, Technology Translation and Innovation Division,

Department of Science & Technology,

Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi Email: [kkpulicherla.dst@gov.in](mailto:kkpulicherla.dst@gov.in)

**Shri Anil Kumar Meena**

Scientist ‘B’, Technology Translation and Innovation Division,

Department of Science & Technology Ministry of Science & Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road New Delhi – 110 016

Email: [anilmeena.99@gov.in](mailto:anilmeena.99@gov.in)

**Last Date and Time of Submission: 31.07.2025, 5.00 P.M**

**(Note: Please complete the online submission of proposal well in advance to avoid last day rush)**



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**WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES (WMT) PROGRAM**

# Format of Concept Note for Collaborative Project Proposal

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Project Title | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | Thrust Area  (Tick the appropriate box and write the sub thrust area number as given at Annexure) | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | 3 | | | | 4 | |
|  | | | |  | | |  | | | |  | |
| 3. | Whether established the proof of concept for the proposed translation research (Yes/no) | | | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Details of the Patent filed by the research team, supporting to the above proof of concept | | | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | Current status in terms of technology readiness level | | | | | | |  | | | Expected TRL at the end of project | | | | | |  |
| 6. | **Investigation Team** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **1.Research Team Details (Name & Affiliation, Work Responsibility)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Institute 1 (PI 1) | | | | Institute 2 (PI 2) | | | | | | | | Institute 3 (PI 3) | | | | |
|  | | | |  | | | | | | | |  | | | | |
| **2.Translation Team** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Details of translation team (Refer 5.4 & 5.5 of Call for Proposal) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Anticipated Support (in brief 150 words) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | Current status of work briefly in terms of scientific & technical content  (in 100 words) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | Does your project proposal qualify as translational research project? (if yes please justify in 50 words) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | Specific quantifiable Objectives of the project | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | Project deliverables  (in bullet points) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. | Project outcomes  (in bullet points) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12. | Details of Industry partner & Anticipated support for technology development | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13. | Did you conduct any research/survey to identify evidence of demand or interest from Indian industries for the proposed work and project deliverables? If yes, please provide details about the responsibilities and roles of the selected partners, along with the justification for choosing them. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14. | Research support availed/being availed/applied by the PI from different sources, including DST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Project title | | | Funding agency | Project Cost | | Project duration | | | Ongoing /completed | | | | | Project Outcome | | |
|  | | |  |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  | | |
| 15. | Budget Estimates: | | | Total Budget | Recurring | | | | | | | | | Non-Recurring | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |  | | | |
| Budget Req. from DST |  | | | | | | | | |  | | | |
| Industry Contribution |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16. | Uniqueness/Innovativeness/Novelty of the project: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17. | Technology Transfer / commercialization plan: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18. | Work plan and timelines for the respective activities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | S.No. | Year | Activity | | | Milestone | | | | | | | Details | | | | |
|  |  |  |  | | |  | | | | | | |  | | | | |
| 19. | How will this project contribute to the National Development Goals? (describe briefly) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20. | Any other information relevant to project proposal /execution of the project | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



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**WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES (WMT) PROGRAM**

# Annexure – I

## 1. List of Technology Enabling Centers (TECs)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **TEC** | **TEC Coordinator / Contact Person** | **Email- ID** |
|  | Birla Institute of Technology and Science-Pilani, Rajasthan | Dr. Deepak Chitkara | [deepak.chitkara@pilani.bits-pilani.ac.in](mailto:deepak.chitkara@pilani.bits-pilani.ac.in) |
|  | Bundelkhand University , Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh | Dr. Lavkush Dwivedi | [lavkush@bujhansi.ac.in](mailto:lavkush@bujhansi.ac.in) |
|  | Career Point University, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh | Dr. Kuldeep Kumar | [kuldeep.che@cpuh.edu.in](mailto:kuldeep.che@cpuh.edu.in) |
|  | Dr. Harisingh Gour Central University , Sagar, Madhya Pradesh | Dr. K. B. Joshi | [kbjoshi77@gmail.com](mailto:kbjoshi77@gmail.com) |
|  | G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology , Tanda Range, Uttarakhand | Dr. S.K. Kashyap | [kashyapsk@gmail.com](mailto:kashyapsk@gmail.com) |
|  | GITAM University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | Prof. Raja P Pappu | [rpappu@gitam.edu](mailto:rpappu@gitam.edu) |
|  | Guru Ghasidas Central University , Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh | Prof Alok Kmar Singh Kushwaha | [alokkushwaha@ggu.ac.in](mailto:alokkushwaha@ggu.ac.in) |
|  | Medicaps University, Indore, Madhya Pradesh | Prof. Birajashis Pattnaik | [tec@medicaps.ac.in](mailto:tec@medicaps.ac.in); [pvc@medicaps.ac.in](mailto:pvc@medicaps.ac.in) |
|  | Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Raysan, Gujarat | Dr. Anirbid Sircar | [sircar1970@gmail.com](mailto:sircar1970@gmail.com) |
|  | Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh | Dr. Rahul Chandra Kushwaha | [drahulck@gmail.com](mailto:drahulck@gmail.com) |
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## 2. DST-Technology Business Incubators (TBIs)

The comprehensive list of DST-supported Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) can be accessed through the official website of the Department of Science and Technology (DST-NIDHI) at the following link: <https://nidhi.dst.gov.in/>

# Format for Conflict of Interest



**DEPARTMENT** **OF** **SCIENCE** **AND** **TECHNOLOGY**

**POLICY** **ON** **CONFLICT** **OF** **INTEREST**

**FOR** **REVIEWER** **&** **COMMITTEE** **MEMBER** **or** **APPLICANT** **or** **DST** **OFFICER** **ASSOCIATED/** **DEALING** **WITH** **THE** **SCHEME/** **PROGRAM** **OF** **DST**

Issues of Conflicts of Interest and ethics in scientific research and research management have assumed greater prominence, given the larger share of Government funding in the country's R & D scenario. The following policy pertaining to general aspects of Conflicts of Interest and code of ethics, are objective measures that is intended to protect the integrity of the decision making processes and minimize biasness. The policy aims to sustain transparency, increase accountability in funding mechanisms and provide assurance to the general public that processes followed in award of grants are fair and non-discriminatory. The Policy aims to avoid all forms of bias by following a system that is fair, transparent and free from all influence/ unprejudiced dealings, prior to, during and subsequent to the currency of the programme to be entered into with a view to enable public to abstain from bribing or any corrupt practice in order to secure the award by providing assurance to them that their competitors will also refrain from bribing and other corrupt practice and the decision makers will commit to prevent corruption, in any form, by their officials by following transparent procedures. This will also ensure a global acceptance of the decision making process adopted by DST.

**Definition** **of** **Conflict** **of** **Interest**:

Conflict of Interest means "any interest which could significantly prejudice an individual's objectivity in the decision making process, thereby creating an unfair competitive advantage for the individual or to the organization which he/she represents". The Conflict of Interest also encompasses situations where an individual, in contravention to the accepted norms and ethics, could exploit his/her obligatory duties for personal benefits.

1. **Coverage** **of** **the** **Policy**:
2. The provisions of the policy shall be followed by persons applying for and receiving funding from DST, Reviewers of the proposal and Members of Expert Committees and Programme Advisory Committees. The provisions of the policy will also be applicable on all individuals including Officers of DST connected directly or indirectly or through intermediaries and Committees involved in evaluation of proposals and subsequent decision making process.
3. This policy aims to minimize aspects that may constitute actual Conflict of Interests, apparent Conflict of Interests and potential Conflict of Interests in the funding mechanisms that are presently being operated by DST. The policy also aims to cover, although not limited to, Conflict of interests that are Financial (gains from the outcomes of the proposal or award), Personal (association of relative / Family members) and Institutional (Colleagues, Collaborators, Employer, persons associated in a professional career of an individual such as Ph.D. supervisor etc.)
4. **Specifications** **as** **to** **what** **constitutes** **Conflict** **of** **Interest**.

Any of the following specifications (non-exhaustive list) imply Conflict of Interest if,

1. Due to any reason by which the Reviewer/Committee Member cannot deliver fair and objective assessment of the proposal.
2. The applicant is a directly relative# or family member (including but not limited to spouse, child, sibling, parent) or personal friend of the individual involved in the decision making process or alternatively, if any relative of an Officer directly involved in any decision making process / has influenced interest/ stake in the applicant’s form etc..
3. The applicant for the grant/award is an employee or employer of an individual involved in the process as a Reviewer or Committee Member; or if the applicant to the grant/award has had an employer-employee relationship in the past three years with that individual.
4. The applicant to the grant/award belongs to the same Department as that of the Reviewer/Committee Member.
5. The Reviewer/Committee Member is a Head of an Organization from where the applicant is employed.
6. The Reviewer /Committee Member is or was, associated in the professional career of the applicant (such as Ph.D. supervisor, Mentor, present Collaborator etc.)
7. The Reviewer/Committee Member is involved in the preparation of the research proposal submitted by the applicant.
8. The applicant has joint research publications with the Reviewer/Committee Member in the last three years.
9. The applicant/Reviewer/Committee Member, in contravention to the accepted norms and ethics followed in scientific research has a direct/indirect financial interest in the outcomes of the proposal.
10. The Reviewer/Committee Member stands to gain personally should the submitted proposal be accepted or rejected.

# The Term “Relative” for this purpose would be referred in section 6 of Companies Act , 1956.

1. **Regulation**:

The DST shall strive to avoid conflict of interest in its funding mechanisms to the maximum extent possible. Self-regulatory mode is however recommended for stake holders involved in scientific research and research management, on issues pertaining to Conflict of Interest and scientific ethics. Any disclosure pertaining to the same must be made voluntarily by the applicant/Reviewer/Committee Member.

1. **Confidentiality**:

The Reviewers and the Members of the Committee shall safeguard the confidentiality of all discussions and decisions taken during the process and shall refrain from discussing the same with any applicant or a third party, unless the Committee recommends otherwise and records for doing so.

1. **Code** **of** **Conduct**
   1. **To** **be** **followed** **by** **Reviewers/Committee** **Members**:
2. All reviewers shall submit a conflict of interest statement, declaring the presence or absence of any form of conflict of interest.
3. The reviewers shall refrain from evaluating the proposals if the conflict of interest is established or if it is apparent.
4. All discussions and decisions pertaining to conflict of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
5. The Chairman of the Committee shall decide on all aspects pertaining to conflict of interests.
6. The Chairman of the Committee shall request that all members disclose if they have any conflict of interest in the items of the agenda scheduled for discussion.
7. The Committee Members shall refrain from participating in the decision making process and leave the room with respect to the specific item where the conflict of interest is established or is apparent.
8. If the Chairman himself/herself has conflict of interest, the Committee may choose a Chairman from among the remaining members, and the decision shall be made in consultation with Member Secretary of the Committee.
9. It is expected that a Committee member including the Chair-person will not seek funding from a Committee in which he/she is a member. If any member applies for grant, such proposals will be evaluated separately outside the Committee in which he/she is a member.
   1. **To** **be** **followed** **by** **the** **Applicant** **to** **the** **Grant/Award:**
10. The applicant must refrain from suggesting referees with potential Conflict of Interest that may arise due to the factors mentioned in the specifications described above in Point No. 2.
11. The applicant may mention the names of individuals to whom the submitted proposal should not be sent for refereeing, clearly indicating the reasons for the same.
    1. **To** **be** **followed** **by** **the** **Officers** **dealing** **with** **Programs** **in** **DST:**

While it is mandatory for the program officers to maintain confidentiality as detailed in point no. 6 above, they should declare, in advance, if they are dealing with grant applications of a relative or family member (including but not limited to spouse, child, sibling, parent) or thesis/ post-doctoral mentor or stands to benefit financially if the applicant proposal is funded. In such cases, DST will allot the grant applications to the other program officer.

1. **Sanction** **for** **violation**
   1. **For** **a)** **Reviewers** **/** **Committee** **Members** **and** **b)** **Applicant**

Any breach of the code of conduct will invite action as decided by the Committee.

* 1. **For** **Officers** **dealing** **with** **Program** **in** **DST**

Any breach of the code of conduct will invite action under present provision of CCS (conduct Rules), 1964.

1. **Final** **Appellate** **authority**:

Secretary, DST shall be the appellate authority in issues pertaining to conflict of interest and issues concerning the decision making process. The decision of Secretary, DST in these issues shall be final and binding.

1. **Declaration**

**I** **have** **read** **the** **above** **“Policy** **on** **Conflict** **of** **Interest”** **of** **the** **DST** **applicable** **to** **the** **Reviewer/** **Committee** **Member/** **Applicant/** **DST** **Scheme** **or** **Program** **Officer** **#** **and** **agree** **to** **abide** **by** **provisions** **thereof.**

I hereby declare that I have no conflict of interest of any form pertaining to the proposed grant \* I hereby declare that I have conflict of interest of any form pertaining to the proposed grant \*

\* & # (Tick whichever is applicable)

**Name** **of** **the** **Reviewer/** **Committee** **Member** **or** **Applicant** **or** **DST** **Officer**

*(****Strike*** ***out*** ***whichever*** ***is*** ***not*** ***applicable****)*

(**Signature** **with** **date**)