



IIT Tirupati
Navavishkār
I-Hub Foundation

IIT TIRUPATI NAVAVISHKAR I-HUB FOUNDATION

Technology Innovation Hub in
Positioning and Precision Technology

DISCOVER

Development Initiative for Startup Creation, Optimization, Venture Expansion and Research

Policy Document for Entrepreneurial Research Incubation Scheme

Supported by DST & NM-ICPS



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Policy Document for Entrepreneurial Research Incubation Scheme

Development Initiative for Startup Creation, Optimization, Venture Expansion and Research

(DISCOVER)

An IIT Tirupati Navavishkar

I-Hub Foundation (IITTNiF)

Initiative for

Catalyzing Advancements in Research and Innovative Endeavors

IIT Tirupati Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation (IITTNiF)

DISCOVER

*Policy Document for
Entrepreneurial Research Incubation Scheme*

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1. About US

IIT Tirupati Navavishkar Foundation is a Section 8 company founded to support the initiatives of the established Technology Innovation Hub at the Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati in the framework of National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The Foundation supports R&D in Positioning and Precision Technologies including GIS, Remote Sensing, GPS and other non-invasive technologies. It provides incubation support to technology-based startups towards developing innovative solutions and sustainable development in these domains.

1.1 Background

Positioning and precision technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing (RS), Global Positioning System (GPS) and non-invasive surveying methods have become indispensable for national development and good governance. India has a history of using GIS for resource planning and management since the 1980s. Government programs like NRIS and NNRMS have utilized GIS for land, water and forest resource mapping and planning. RS data from Indian and foreign satellites is used for applications in agriculture, urban planning, weather forecasting and disaster management.

The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) developed by ISRO provides position accuracy better than 20 meters throughout India and regions up to 1500 km. IRNSS will be a key enabler in sectors like transport, banking and emergency services. Advanced surveying technologies like LiDAR, digital photogrammetry and GPR that allow non-destructive 3D mapping and visualization have become essential for smart city development, infrastructure planning, heritage documentation and other applications requiring high precision and accuracy.

A robust policy framework and implementation strategy is required to promote wider adoption of these technologies across sectors, enable capacity building, incentivize private sector participation, and create a conducive innovation ecosystem and manufacturing base in line with Make in India, Digital India and other national missions. The potential of positioning and precision technologies must be fully harnessed for inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.

To address the challenges in efficient mapping, monitoring and management of resources, the Government of India established the Technology Innovation Hub (IITTNiF) in Positioning and Precision Technologies Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati with a fund of 100 Cr. At IITTNiF, we are developing collaborative Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) integrating GIS, remote sensing, GPS and other non-invasive technologies to enable precise real-time monitoring and data-driven decision making. The core R&D domains in which the hub is functioning are: remote sensing for advanced Earth observation, GIS and spatial analytics for resource mapping and planning, global navigation satellite systems for precise positioning, and non-invasive surveying for 3D modeling and visualization. By bringing together scientists, professors, innovators and startup founders, we aim to build an ecosystem to develop innovative solutions towards the sustainable and efficient management of land and water resources, smart agriculture, resilient infrastructure, and inclusive development. Here are the core domains in positioning and precision technologies:

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- GIS software tools, applications and solutions
- Spatial data acquisition, management and analysis
- GIS-based decision support systems
- GIS for resource planning and management
- Web GIS and spatial data infrastructures

Applications: Urban planning, disaster management, location-based services, logistics

Remote Sensing (RS)

- Satellite and aerial remote sensing
- Hyperspectral, multispectral and microwave remote sensing
- Image processing and analysis
- Applications in agriculture, forestry, geology, meteorology etc.

Applications: Land use mapping, weather forecasting, vegetation monitoring, geology and mineral exploration

Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)

- IRNSS/NavIC, GPS, GLONASS, Galileo
- GNSS receivers, augmentation systems
- Positioning, navigation and timing applications
- Location-based services and solutions

Applications: Navigation and mapping, precision agriculture, fleet tracking, disaster management

Non-Invasive Surveying

- LiDAR and digital photogrammetry for 3D mapping
- GPR, resistivity tomography and other geophysical methods
- Laser scanning, digital surveying systems
- Applications in infrastructure, heritage, mining etc.

Applications: Smart city modeling, infrastructure planning, heritage documentation, mineral exploration

Positioning, Navigation, Timing

- Precise positioning systems and services
- PNT for intelligent transportation, 5G networks
- Timing via cesium, rubidium, hydrogen maser atomic clocks
- Chip-scale atomic clocks, quantum sensors
- Resilient PNT technologies

Applications: Satellite navigation, telecom synchronization, autonomous vehicles, smart power grids, financial transactions

2. Development Initiative for Startup Creation, Optimization, Venture Expansion and Research (DISCOVER)

2.1. Overview:

The Technology Innovation Hub on Positioning and Precision Technologies (TIH-PPT) was established by the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and

Technology, as a pivotal initiative to advance the forefront of Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (ICPS). This establishment is a key component of a broader strategy aimed at embracing the global surge in CPS technologies. The TIH-PPT's mandate is to cultivate a vibrant ecosystem conducive to innovation and excellence in research, skill development, incubation, acceleration, and training and international collaboration, with a specialized focus on positioning and precision technologies. These include but are not limited to, advancements in geospatial mapping, satellite navigation systems, precision farming, autonomous vehicles, and timing technologies enabled by atomic clocks.

The hub endeavors to facilitate the integration of positioning and precision technologies across various sectors, emphasizing their application in services and manufacturing industries, disaster management, defense, agriculture, water resources management, energy, traffic control, healthcare, environmental monitoring, infrastructure development, Geo-Information Systems, security, financial sectors, and in efforts to combat crime. To this end, 25 hubs have been strategically established in premier institutes across India. At IIT Tirupati, the hub aims explicitly to empower researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and startups to harness PPT technologies for innovative solutions in GIS, Remote Sensing, GPS, and other non-invasive sectors.

In alignment with the Department of Science and Technology's National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (DST NM-ICPS), the IIT Tirupati Navavishkar I-Hub Foundation (IITTNiF) is proud to announce the launch of two groundbreaking initiatives, DISCOVER and SARATHI, aimed at catalyzing entrepreneurship and fostering innovation in the incubation and acceleration of cutting-edge technologies. These initiatives are set to be directly implemented by IITTNiF, ensuring a focused and efficient execution of their objectives. Moreover, to enhance the scope and impact of these programs, IITTNiF will strategically collaborate with both national and international partners, integrating their expertise and resources as necessary to meet the evolving demands of the projects.

The DISCOVER policy is strategically designed to accelerate the evolution of research ideas from innovative minds, researchers, and aspiring entrepreneurs into successful startup ventures. This initiative is particularly aimed at those either in the nascent stages of developing their ideas or who have already achieved a proof of concept and prototype phase and are seeking substantial support to further their development. DISCOVER commits to facilitating this journey by offering a comprehensive suite of resources, including mentorship, networking opportunities, access to laboratories, financial backing, and platforms for international collaboration. Central to its mission is the promotion of research, innovation, development, and the commercialization of technology. This initiative not only supports startups within the IITTNiF ecosystem but also extends its reach to include external partners like corporations, government agencies, NGOs, and more.

Key Highlights:

- Intended for innovators, researchers, and aspiring entrepreneurs focused on converting research ideas into startup businesses or advancing existing prototypes.
- Provides a wide range of support services such as mentorship, networking, lab access, funding, and opportunities for international collaboration.
- Prioritizes research, innovation, development, and the commercialization of technology, benefiting startups within IITTNiF as well as external partners.

- Acts as an all-encompassing incubation program for individuals ready to progress to the next stage in the startup ecosystem.
- Supports both nascent and burgeoning ICPS research ideas or early-stage innovations in DeepTech, as well as hardware and software R&D, with the goal of strengthening the ICPS network and enhancing its influence at a national level.
- Aligns with national priorities and encourages the indigenization of technology, focusing on the commercialization of ideas from researchers and scientists to support the IITTNiF community and external collaborators.

2.2. Objective

The DISCOVER program is dedicated to fostering a thriving ecosystem for existing and emerging innovators and entrepreneurs within the IITTNiF framework. With a core focus on advancing deep tech-based concepts towards scalability, commercialization, or incubation within IITTNiF, this initiative is designed to provide robust support encompassing incubation facilities, mentoring, networking opportunities, and other essential resources, all aligned with the overarching vision and mission of the DST NM-ICPS.

Outlined below are the key objectives of the DISCOVER initiative:

- Incubating ICPS-led Innovations: Providing dedicated support for innovations originating from the ICPS, particularly those addressing critical challenges within sectors such as agriculture, water, and deep tech.
- Establishing Support Framework: Building a strong support framework comprising mentors, facilitators, funders, and collaborators to offer structured guidance and assistance throughout the development journey of ICPS research ideas.
- Facilitating Idea Evolution: Supporting researchers in transitioning their ideas from conceptualization to prototyping and eventual product launch, fostering partnerships and collaborations with relevant stakeholders within the innovation ecosystem.
- Tailored Training and Mentoring: Conducting customized training, outreach, and mentoring sessions tailored to the specific needs and requirements of each cohort, ensuring comprehensive support throughout their entrepreneurial endeavors.
- Financial Support for Scaling: Providing financial backing for scaling up ideas, developing proof of concept, and prototyping to meet industry-grade standards, whether through partnerships with established entities or collaboration with startups within the ecosystem.
- Encouraging Innovation: Motivating researchers and scientists to actively pursue innovative research products with potential for commercialization, cultivating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within the IITTNiF community.
- End-to-End Support: Offering complete support encompassing laboratory facilities, mentoring, networking opportunities, funding, and other essential resources, creating an environment conducive to the growth and success of innovative ventures.

Through these objectives, the DISCOVER initiative endeavors to create an environment that nurtures groundbreaking ideas and facilitates the realization of entrepreneurial aspirations within the IITTNiF ecosystem.

2.3. Scope and Opportunity

The DISCOVER Development Initiative for Startup Creation, Optimization, Venture Expansion, and Research is committed to nurturing the growth and success of ICPS startups specializing in Positioning and Precision Technologies within the framework of the Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) at IIT Tirupati. This initiative is meticulously crafted to accelerate the advancement of these startups by providing a comprehensive suite of support services, tailored to meet the unique needs and challenges encountered in the startup journey.

- **Technology Validation and Due Diligence:** Through rigorous validation and due diligence processes, DISCOVER ensures that the technologies and products emerging from ICPS startups are meticulously evaluated for their market viability and readiness, setting a robust foundation for entrepreneurial success.
- **Progressive Support:** DISCOVER offers a continuum of support, guiding startups through various stages of growth—from early-stage ideation to mid-stage development and eventual large-scale implementation. This progressive support mechanism nurtures startups, facilitating their seamless integration into dynamic market landscapes.
- **Partnership Facilitation:** DISCOVER serves as a conduit for forging strategic alliances and partnerships with both domestic and international innovation stakeholders. By fostering collaborative environments, this initiative catalyzes the growth and expansion of tech-driven ventures, unlocking new avenues for innovation and market penetration.
- **International Market Exploration:** With DISCOVER's support, well-established ICPS startups gain access to global markets, broadening their horizons and leveraging international opportunities to scale their operations and amplify their impact on a global scale.
- **Customized Training and Mentoring:** DISCOVER delivers tailored training, outreach, and mentoring sessions to cohorts, catering to their unique needs and aspirations. By offering personalized guidance and support, this initiative empowers startups to navigate challenges and seize opportunities with confidence.
- **Financial Assistance:** DISCOVER provides crucial financial backing to startups, facilitating the scaling up of their technologies and products. Whether through collaborative partnerships or direct funding, this support mechanism fuels innovation and accelerates the commercialization journey of startups, propelling them towards sustainable growth.
- **Commercialization Support:** DISCOVER offers comprehensive assistance in navigating the complexities of commercialization, guiding startups through the intricacies of bringing their innovations to market. This facilitative approach ensures the successful integration of technology-driven solutions into commercial spheres, driving economic growth and societal impact.
- **Test Bed Access:** By granting startups access to global test beds, DISCOVER facilitates market exploration and product validation within the Indian market. This access enables startups to forge collaborative partnerships, fostering innovation and growth through joint technology development endeavors.

Incorporating the DISCOVER initiative into the landscape of Positioning and Precision Technologies at IIT Tirupati amplifies the impact of these technologies on India's strategic,

economic, and societal goals. This initiative exemplifies a comprehensive approach to leveraging cutting-edge technologies to address pressing challenges and unlock new opportunities, steering India towards a future marked by innovation, resilience, and global leadership in positioning and precision technologies. Through DISCOVER, TIH at IIT Tirupati endeavors to catalyze innovation, entrepreneurship, and the commercialization of advanced geospatial solutions, contributing significantly to India's technological sovereignty and societal well-being.

2.4. Implementation Model

The DISCOVER Implementation Model, operating within the framework of IITTNIIF, will open its doors to aspiring individuals and research scholars who are navigating the transition from conceptualizing ideas to developing prototypes or seeking avenues for tech-commercialization. Each cohort within the DISCOVER program will span from 6 to 9 months annually, contingent upon the cycles initiated by the IITTNIIF Team. The initiative is poised to bolster Deep-Tech ICPS Focused Ideas, with approximately 2 to 3 cohorts envisioned per year, each comprising a minimum of 15-20 individuals. These figures may vary based on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) guidelines and resource allocation strategies.

Aligning seamlessly with the vision and policies of IITTNIIF, the DISCOVER initiative will meticulously plan its execution timeline and strategic maneuvers. However, the actual implementation and cohort size may fluctuate in response to various factors including fund availability, resource allocation, and program efficacy. To foster continual engagement and participation, IITTNIIF will actively encourage individual scholars and researchers to explore subsequent cohorts and seize opportunities presented by additional support programs launched intermittently.

The DISCOVER Implementation Model will operate on a robust 3P Model to provide comprehensive support to participants:

- Stage 1 (1st P): Idea to Proof of Concept Fund: This initial phase will offer assistance in the form of an Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Fellowship, providing recipients with a stipend of 30k per month for up to 1 year. This support aims to fuel the journey from idea inception to proof of concept development.
- Stage 2 (2nd P): PoC to Demonstrable Prototype Fund: Moving forward, participants will receive a one-time grant of up to INR 7 Lakh per year, aimed at facilitating the transformation of proof of concept into a demonstrable prototype. This funding injection supports the critical phase of refining and developing prototypes for market readiness.
- Stage 3 (3rd P): Product Commercialization Fund: The final stage focuses on product commercialization, technology transfer, and market launch. Tailored funding mechanisms will be deployed to ensure seamless commercialization, enabling participants to bring their innovations to market fruition effectively.

By adopting this multi-tiered approach, the DISCOVER Implementation Model endeavors to provide holistic support, empowering participants to traverse the complex landscape of innovation and entrepreneurship with confidence and efficacy.

2.5. Investment Model: DISCOVER

The DISCOVER Investment Model is dedicated to providing extensive support to innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs, and nascent startups, propelling them towards growth and success. Our investment framework encompasses the following core facets:

- **Financial Assistance:** We extend initial grants of up to INR 10 Lakh or offer Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) / CHANAKYA Fellowships, in alignment with IITTNiF's policies. These financial injections are aimed at fueling the progress of incubatees and research-preneurs, igniting the realization of their pioneering ideas.
- **Inclusivity Criteria:** Individuals or teams not formally recognized as startups but seeking financial backing for their ventures fall under the ambit of DISCOVER. This inclusivity ensures equitable access to resources for all aspiring entrepreneurs within the IITTNiF ecosystem.
- **Resource Commitment:** We are steadfast in our commitment to providing essential resources, including laboratory facilities, technical expertise, and grant support, to bolster the R&D and prototyping endeavors of startups. In instances where specific resources are lacking, concerted efforts are made to generate them internally or forge collaborations with partner hubs/institutes.
- **Grant Allocation:** Grants are disbursed through diverse mechanisms such as EIR grants, one-time grants, acceleration grants, matching grants, or milestone-based funding. Each disbursement is tailored to align with the unique needs and milestones of the startup, ensuring optimal utilization of resources.
- **Programmatic Fee:** A nominal fee may be levied for program participation, covering implementation and resource expenses. This fee structure underscores our commitment to sustainability and continued support for DISCOVER initiatives.
- **Policy Adherence:** Applicants availing direct financial support under DISCOVER are required to adhere to consulting or intellectual property (IP) policies mandated by IITTNiF. This ensures transparency and accountability in resource utilization, fostering a conducive environment for collaboration and innovation.
- **Rights and Recognition:** IITTNiF retains all rights pertaining to disbursement, with due acknowledgment to DST, IITTNiF, and IIT Tirupati to be accorded by the grantee. This recognition underscores the pivotal role played by our institution in nurturing and empowering startups, fostering a culture of innovation and excellence.

Through our comprehensive investment model, DISCOVER at IITTNiF is poised to empower startups with the requisite resources, expertise, and financial backing to navigate the intricacies of the entrepreneurial journey and actualize their full potential. Our unwavering commitment to fostering innovation and driving impact propels us to continually refine and adapt our investment strategies, ensuring maximum benefit for our vibrant startup community.

2.6 Disbursement Model

- **Customized Incubation Program:** DISCOVER offers a tailored incubation program designed to meet the unique needs of each researcher within the cohort. Services provided include access to laboratory facilities, networking opportunities, connections with startups, capacity enhancement programs, product refinement, and technology development support.

- **Financial Allocation:** Each individual in the DISCOVER cohort will be allocated a budget of Rs. 3.6 Lakhs. This funding can be utilized as an Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Fellowship, providing Rs. 30,000 per month, or up to a maximum of Rs. 1.5 Lakhs per month as a Faculty Fellow. Alternatively, researchers may opt for a one-time grant of up to Rs. 5 Lakhs to support their initiatives.
- **Mode of Funding:** The funding for DISCOVER will primarily be in the form of grants or fellowships, disbursed based on predefined milestones. This ensures that financial support is provided in a structured manner, aligned with the progress and achievements of the researchers within the program.
- **Tailored Support Services:** The funding provided through DISCOVER enables researchers to access a wide range of support services tailored to their specific needs. These services may include mentorship, training programs, access to specialized equipment and resources, and assistance in intellectual property management.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** DISCOVER maintains transparency and accountability in the disbursement of funds, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively. Milestones and performance metrics are established upfront, allowing for clear evaluation of progress and ensuring that funding is utilized optimally.
- **Encouragement of Innovation:** By providing flexible and targeted financial support, DISCOVER encourages innovation and entrepreneurship among researchers, facilitating the development and commercialization of groundbreaking ideas and technologies.
- **Continuous Evaluation:** The disbursement model for DISCOVER undergoes continuous evaluation and refinement to ensure that it remains responsive to the evolving needs of researchers and the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem. Feedback mechanisms are in place to solicit input from participants and stakeholders, driving ongoing improvement and optimization of the program.

3. Eligibility & Selection Procedure

Early Stage: Prototype Development

- **Objective:** Aimed at Innovators or Entrepreneurs who possess a definitive plan for their prototype designs.
- **Eligibility:** Encouragement is given to students or researchers who have patents or intellectual property (IP) to apply for the Early Stage Fund.
- **Funding:** Fellowships ranging from Rs 5,000/- to Rs 1,50,000/- per month are available (categories include UG/PG/PhD/Post-Doc, EIR, Faculty Fellow, Chanakya Fellow).
- **Duration:** The fellowship period ranges from 3 months to 9 months, extendable up to 12 months.

Mid-Level: Pilot Project

- **Stage:** Directed at entities that have either completed their prototype or are in the final phase of its development.

- Financial Support: Provision of INR 5 Lakh to INR 7 Lakh based on the specific needs of the startup.
- Progression: Registered companies may be expedited to the next phase.
- Objective Setting: Startups and entrepreneurs are required to establish and strive to meet clear targets within the next 3 to 6 months.

Scale-Up: Product Scale

- Recommendation Path: Guidance towards the SARATHI Initiative.

Startup & Innovators Selection Procedure

- Invitation: IITTNIIF DISCOVER team calls for applications from eligible researchers, early-stage startups, and entrepreneurs.
- Evaluation Panel: Selections are made by the IITTNIIF Startup Management Committee, comprised of experts from Government, Industry, and the Investment community.
- Preference Criteria: Special consideration for applicants focusing on technology, innovation, IP, and patents. Strong research credentials, industry experience, and academic qualifications are advantageous.

Incubation Services & Activities

- Assessment Process: Innovators might undergo virtual interviews or fill out online forms to help develop customized incubation programs.
- Offerings: Services include customer and startup networking, capacity and product enhancement.
- Support Capacity: Each cohort emphasizes support for up to 20 participants who are innovating within the realms of positioning and precision technologies. This includes areas such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing (RS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and the comprehensive field of Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT).
- Application Procedure: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with the IITTNIIF Startup Management Committee scheduling meetings monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly.

Provided Services

- Assistance Range: Comprehensive support includes diagnostic market research, tech-specific mentoring, legal assistance, collaborative learning, co-working spaces, mentor-expert weekly meetings, Demo Day for feedback, support in negotiation and tech commercialization, along with incubation or acceleration resources.
- Further Opportunities: Potential for subsequent acceleration support from the SARATHI initiative.

General Terms

- Funding Allocation: The IITTNIIF Startup Management Committee will determine the mode of grants or fellowships based on fund size and other parameters.
- Collaborations: In instances of matched investments, joint projects, or tech commercialization, decisions on IP, evaluation criteria, revenue sharing, and other agreements will be mutually established.

- Policy Adjustments: IITTNI F DISCOVER reserves the authority to amend IP and Consulting Policies based on individual case needs.

4. Program Management

The establishment of an IITTNI F Startup Management Committee (ISMC) for the DISCOVER initiative is proposed to ensure comprehensive oversight of the initiative's effective execution, periodic review of its progress against set objectives, provision of strategic guidance, and formulation of recommendations for modifications or improvements to enhance the program.

The proposed composition of the committee is outlined below:

- Chairperson: Director / Project Director / CxO
- Members:
 - CEO or a designated representative from an Incubator / Accelerator
 - Representative from a State Cell/Organization
 - Representative from IIT Tirupati
 - Experts from the industry, including Mentors, Experts, or Startup Founders
 - Representative from the Venture Capital (VC) Ecosystem
 - Nominated member by a Funding Partner
 - Nominated member by the Chairperson, serving as the Member-Convener

Meeting for ISMC: The IITTNI F team reserves the right to accept applications either on a rolling basis or in cohorts through an online submission process. Depending on the volume of applications received, the IITTNI F team may schedule meetings of the IITTNI F Startup Management Committee (ISMC) on a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly basis to ensure thorough evaluation and progress tracking.

5. Financial outlay (as per DPR)

Funding Category	Fund as per DPR (Rs per month)
Fellowship	
Chanakya Fellow UG/PG/PhD/Post Doc)	8,000 to 80,000
EIR	30,000
Faculty Fellow	1,00,000
Chair Fellow	1,50,000
Seed Fund / Seed Support / Contingency Grant	Upto 5 Lakhs
Acceleration Fund	Under SARATHI Initiative

IITTNI F is committed to fostering innovation through a diverse array of initiatives and programs, contingent upon the availability of funds, the viability of ideas and innovations, and obtaining necessary approvals. To optimally leverage the fund's size, IITTNI F will organize various programs, events, and conclaves, designed to support and amplify the impact of these initiatives. Additionally, the IITTNI F team will proactively engage in securing external funding from a broad spectrum of sources, including stakeholders, corporates, and CSR initiatives. This strategic approach aims to cultivate a robust ecosystem that

encourages and supports researchers, innovators, and startups, facilitating their journey from concept to commercialization.

6. Exit Management

The DISCOVER initiative, emphasizes a strategic exit management framework to ensure the successful transition of innovations from development to commercialization. This framework is designed to safeguard the interests of all stakeholders while aligning with the overarching goals of the program.

Key aspects of the program include:

- **Priority for Commercialization:** Innovations developed within the DISCOVER initiative are prioritized for commercial engagements with startups, corporates, or government bodies, underpinned by rigorous contractual agreements, including NDAs, established at the project's outset.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:** IITTNiF maintains intellectual property rights over all fully funded projects, ensuring a protected route to market for innovations.
- **Managed Exit Strategies:** Exit strategies for projects are carefully managed by IITTNiF or an authorized entity, with all significant decisions necessitating approval from the IITTNiF Startup Management Committee (ISMC).
- **Biannual Project Reviews:** The progress and viability of each project and applicant are evaluated through biannual reviews, which inform strategic decisions regarding the continuation or adjustment of projects.
- **Reporting and Accountability:** Participants, including those in fellowship roles, are required to report their progress to the Project Director / CxO of IITTNiF, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- **Funding and Grants:** The disbursement of fellowship funds, one-time grants, or other forms of financial support is at the discretion of IITTNiF, adhering to the foundation's established funding policies.
- **Project Duration:** The tenure of individuals engaged in projects is flexible, ranging from 3 to 36 months, to accommodate the varied demands and objectives of different projects.
- **Reinvestment of Profits:** Profits or returns generated from the commercialization of ideas or through other investment activities are reinvested into the DISCOVER fund, fostering the program's sustainability and enabling the continuous support of innovation and the initiation of new projects.

This comprehensive approach underscores IITTNiF's commitment to nurturing innovation and ensuring the successful commercialization of technologies developed within the DISCOVER program.

Disclaimer:

This document is intended for informational and policy guidance purposes only, aimed at supporting the research community and the startup ecosystem. It should not be utilized for any legal proceedings or formal legal advice.

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