

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indo-Australia Fund for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (Indo-AISRF)
Round 12

CALL FOR PROPOSALS-2019-2022

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: 23 October, 2019

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, New Delhi and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS), Australian Government are providing financial support for joint research activities carried out by Indian and Australian researchers. Indian-Australian research teams are hereby invited to submit joint research proposals under Round 12 of AISRF.

PART 1 – OVERVIEW

1.1 Background and objectives

The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) is a platform for bilateral collaboration in science, jointly managed and funded by the governments of India and Australia.

Since its establishment in 2006, the AISRF has supported collaborative, leading-edge research between scientists in India and Australia across a range of agreed priority areas. It has also helped to build linkages between premier research institutions in both countries.

The objectives of the AISRF are to:

- increase the uptake of leading-edge science and technology (S&T) by supporting collaboration between Australian and Indian researchers in strategically focused, leading-edge scientific research and technology projects, and strengthening strategic alliances between Australian and Indian researchers; and
- facilitate Australia's and India's access to the global S&T system.

1.2 SUPPORT AVAILABLE UNDER ROUND TWELVE

Applications are sought for proposals in the 12th round of the following AISRF components:

- the Indo-Australian Fund for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (*Indo-Australian S&T Fund*); and
- Support is provided for collaborative **research projects** involving Indian and Australian partners.

We cannot fund your project if it receives funding from another government grant for the same activities. If you receive Australian government funding for your core activities, you will need to demonstrate that the activity you are carrying out for the project is additional to your core activities. If you have received AISRF project funding in a previous round, you cannot receive funding for the same activities in this round.

1.3 INDO-AUSTRALIAN S&T FUND

The Indo-Australian S&T Fund is jointly managed by the Australian Government's Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The priority areas for collaborative research projects in Round Eleven of the Indo-Australian S&T Fund are:

- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Food processing, storage and distribution**
- **Mining safety and efficiency**

All applications for the Indo-Australian S&T Fund must fall within one of this priority area. Applications not related to this area will not be considered.

1.4 TIMELINE FOR ROUND TWELVE

The call for applications for Round Twelve is open from **28th August 2019 to 23rd October 2019**. For online submission of application forms please visit at

<https://onlinedst.gov.in/Projectproposalformat.aspx>

PART 2 - ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for funding under the *Indo-Australian S&T Fund*, the Indian applicant must:

- Seek support for a bilateral collaborative research project in one of the priority areas of research;
- Have obtained the agreement of their proposed Australian research partner to undertake the project activities;
- Be one of the following 'eligible organisations' (or a consortium of eligible organisations):
 - Education institution;
 - UGC recognized Universities/ Deemed Universities
 - Academic Institutes and National Research & Development Laboratories/Institutes
 - public sector research agency; or
 - private, not for profit, research organisation (Recognised by Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Govt. of India organisation as S&T organisation)
- Address each of the Assessment Criteria

- Seek funding for eligible expenses; and
- Not seek funding for activities funded under another Indian Government program.

2.2 Conditions relating to Eligibility Criteria

AISRF grants are not intended to duplicate support available from other Indian Government sources. Where an applicant already receives Indian Government funding for their core activities, the applicant will only be eligible if they can demonstrate that the activity for which funding is sought is additional to their core activities.

2.3 Eligible activities and expenses

Under the *Indo-Australian S&T Fund*, the Indian Government will support the direct costs of **bilateral collaborative research projects** in one of the priority areas of research

Indian side will provide for the following expenses:

- **International economy excursion class return airfares for Indian researchers travelling to Australia to participate in collaborative research projects** (*international airfares for Australian researchers travelling to India will be met by the Australian Government*);
- **Living expenses, including accommodation and meals, for Australian researchers travelling to India to participate in collaborative research projects and workshops. Indian side will contribute a maximum of Indian Rs. 2,500/ per person per day or Indian Rs. 25,000/- per person per month whichever is the lesser amount and Guest House Accommodation Charges** (*Living expenses, including accommodation and meals, for Indian researchers travelling to Australia will be met by the Australian Government, Australian side will contribute a maximum of AUD\$300 per person per day, or AUD\$4,000 per person per month, whichever is the lesser amount*).
- Manpower-Salaries and on-costs for Indian researchers employed specifically for the project (this includes JRF/RA etc.) as per DST norms.
- Minor Equipment (if specific)
- Consumables up to 2 lakhs per year

Details of cash and in-kind contributions should be disclosed

2.4 Costs not eligible for support

The following activities/costs will not be funded by the Indian Government:

- any cost incurred prior to the execution of a funding agreement with the Indian Government;
- costs that duplicate the in-kind support from the applicant or other participants in the project;
- capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers;
- costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licenses) and ICT hardware (unless it can be used only for the project);

- administration and infrastructure costs;
- Indian project manager's salary and salaries for existing staff, including salary related expenses;
- staff recruitment and relocation costs;
- international travel and living expenses for undergraduate and Masters students;
- costs associated with the protection or patenting of intellectual property;
- costs associated with the internal preparation of finance and audit statements; and
- debt financing.

2.5 Duration of projects

Projects may range from short bilateral collaborations to more complex projects spanning up to three years

2.6 Cash and in-kind support from other sources

Applicants will be assessed on the level of support that they can procure from both Indian and Australian organisations (including the applicant's own organisation) for the collaborative research project.

There is no requirement for applicants to demonstrate that the Indian contribution (cash and/or in-kind) to the project matches or is more than the funding sought from the Indian Government.

Indian contributions to the project may be in cash and/or in-kind. The contributions may be from the applicant's own organisation, or other Indian sources, for example, collaborative participants, industry contributions or contributions from other Indian Government funding sources. Salaries for Project Managers may also be included as an in-kind contribution.

In-kind contributions will be required to be detailed and costed. In-kind costs must be directly related to costs of delivering the activities of the project and can include salaries of staff for the time they are involved and other costs incurred for the duration of these activities.

PART 3 - ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PROCESS

3.1 Notes on the Assessment Criteria

Applicants should note that, in accordance with the 'value with public money' requirements of the Government of India, they should clearly demonstrate that the intended outcomes cannot be achieved without grant assistance from the AISRF.

Please note the maximum number of words or pages specified for each criterion, use clear language, avoid technical jargon wherever possible and spell out acronyms or abbreviations in the first instance. Include all information and do not refer to other sources, e.g. websites.

Supporting documentation should be provided as listed under each of the criteria.

The information provided in your application must be consistent with that provided by your Australian partner's application to the Government of Australia.

3.2 Assessment Criteria

Providing the eligibility criteria set out in the AISRF Guidelines have been met, applicants will be assessed against the following criteria, all of which must be addressed. The assessment criteria must be addressed as a written proposal of **no more than ten (10) A4 pages** (other than supporting documentation identified below), to be submitted as an attachment with the online application form.

NOTE: Use the same Project title as the one in the Project Details section of the application form. The Project title must be identical in both the Australian and Indian applications.

This table provides a guide on how to address each of the assessment criteria:

A. 30%	The scientific merit of the proposed research, including the potential of the anticipated outcome to advance the knowledge base of the discipline, and its likely scientific impact
	<p>POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSAL:</p> <p>A1. Aims and background: Describe the aims and list the specific objectives of the proposed research collaboration in the context of recent international progress in the field of research, detailing how it will relate to, and benefit, work in the field. Refer only to papers that are available to national and international research communities.</p> <p>A2. Significance and innovation: Describe how the proposed activity is significant; the need for the proposed activity to address an important problem; and how the anticipated outcomes will advance the knowledge base of the discipline and/or address the problem.</p> <p>A3. Approach and methodology: Outline the conceptual framework, design and methods, and demonstrate that these are adequately developed, well-integrated and appropriate to the aims of the proposed research collaboration.</p> <p>A4. Roles and research capability of personnel: Summarise the role, responsibilities and contributions of the respective Principle Investigator and other key personnel, including the proportion of their time each will spend on this activity; the leading-edge research capability of the Project's Australian and Indian partners which must be demonstrated by evidence of their academic awards and citations as contained in the submitted CVs, and/or other measures of research or innovation excellence; and the roles and levels of involvement of other participants, such as technical staff, including the division of work between Australian and Indian investigators.</p> <p>NOTE: Where possible, diversity (including gender), should be considered in developing the Project team compositions.</p> <p>A5. References cited: Include a list of all publications/documents cited in support of claims made against Criterion A.</p>

	<p>The following documentation must be provided in support of this criterion: Curricula vitae for both Australian and Indian key personnel identified under A4. NOTE: There can be a maximum of 10 key personnel, including the Australian and Indian Project Managers.</p>
<p>B. 30%</p>	<p>The ability of the Project to maximise the application and commercialisation of research outcomes and contribute to economic growth and diversity (including gender) in Australia and India</p>
	<p>POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSAL:</p> <p>B1. Expected outcomes and benefits resulting from the collaboration: Describe the expected outcomes and the likely impact of the proposed research collaboration, including the possible tangible benefits for the two countries, especially: the relevance of the Project to industry or other end-user partners; demonstrate a clear path to end use in support of economic growth and development in India and Australia, including the application and commercialisation of research outcomes; and explain how the long-term benefits of the Project outcomes will be sustained beyond the term of funding.</p> <p>B2. Diversity and other benefits: Explain how the research collaboration might result in any environmental, social or other benefits, including contributing to diversity (including gender), for India and Australia. Provide a statement addressing diversity, including gender – for example, how the Project will support the development of female researchers as well as how outcomes from the Project have the potential to support women’s economic empowerment in the longer term.</p> <p>B3. Details of intellectual property provisions: Provide details of the intellectual property (IP) arrangements, including use of IP, the proposed ownership of IP generated by the Project and strategies for protecting Australia’s interests.</p>
<p>C. 30%</p>	<p>Support for the Project from participating Australian and Indian organisations and the capacity of the partners to manage it and deliver the activities</p>
	<p>POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSAL:</p> <p>C1. Roles and research expertise of each partner organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why these Australian and Indian partners are the key organisations to be involved in this Project and how the collaboration will be managed. • Provide details of the governance model. Outline how this will be applied and make it clear to the assessors that a sound governance structure will be put in place at the outset. • Demonstrate that the Project management arrangements are appropriate,

	<p>including that any issues can be managed and key milestones met to ensure the objectives of the activity can be achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise the support available from the partners for the Project. • Summarise the research leadership and management credentials of the Project Manager and how the team will be managed. • Demonstrate how Project members will ensure they collaborate effectively over the course of the Project. <p>C2. Project Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This should be presented as a mature plan ready for implementation, leading towards the overall Project objectives and include proposed timelines, milestones and project management arrangements. It will form the basis of the funding agreement between the Australian Government and successful applicants.
Weighting	Guide to addressing and Assessment Criteria
	<p>C3. Cash and In-kind Contributions and Budget (to be input directly into the online application form, not in proposal):</p> <p>The indicative budget for the Australian applicant should itemise eligible expenses for which Project funding is sought from the Australian Government (see the AISRF Guidelines) and should clearly detail in-kind contributions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supporting documentation must confirm and demonstrate claims. Support for the Project may encompass either a financial commitment or an in-kind commitment. • In-kind costs must be directly related to costs of delivering the activities of the Project and can include salaries of staff for the time they are involved, and other direct costs incurred for the duration of the activity. • Indirect costs cannot be included as in-kind contributions. <p>The following documentation must be provided in support of this criterion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter(s) of support from the applicant organisation and any other Australian partner organisation(s), demonstrating and clearly articulating the organisation's financial support (cash and/or in-kind) for the Project, the commitment to engage in the research collaboration, the potential to create enduring links, and the contribution to diversity, including gender. • Letter from the Indian primary partner confirming (i) that the proposal is jointly prepared and the Indian partner is submitting an equivalent proposal to the Government of India, (ii) the level of financial support (cash and/or in-kind) the Indian partner organisation is committing to the Project, and (iii) the commitment to engage in the research collaboration and the potential to create enduring links. • Letter(s) of support from any other Indian partner organisation(s) and, if

	<p>applicable, any international partner organisations, demonstrating and clearly articulating the organisation’s financial support (cash and/or in-kind) for the Project, the commitment to engage in the research collaboration and the potential to create enduring links.</p> <p>NOTE: All letters of support must be prepared on official letterhead and be signed by a person who is authorised to commit such support. Each letter should be limited to one page preferably, two pages maximum. Letters of support must be combined and submitted as one PDF attachment</p>
D. 10%	The contribution of the Project to building enduring Australia-India collaboration in a priority area
	<p>POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSAL:</p> <p>D1. Value and longevity of collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the collaboration between Australian and Indian partner organisations is integral to achieving the outcomes of the proposed Project. Explain the strategy to maintain the momentum of this collaboration beyond the term of AISRF funding, including the expected timeframe.
Total 100%	

3.3 Conditions relating to Assessment Criteria

The assessment criteria provide the basis for assessment of an application. It is the applicant’s responsibility to provide all relevant information and documentation as required.

Please note that:

- i. applicants may be asked to provide additional information to clarify any issues raised during the assessment process; and
- ii. the Department may also seek the applicant’s permission to obtain further advice from third parties, if appropriate.

3.4 Collaborative Research Projects

Supporting documentation checklist to assist with the preparation of your application.

Supporting Documentation	Have you attached this to your application form?
Criterion A: Detailed written proposal that demonstrates the scientific merit of the research collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion A: Letter from the Australian primary partner confirming that the proposal is jointly prepared. The letter should state that the Australian partner agrees to submit an equivalent proposal to the Government of Australia.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion A: Curricula vitae for each of the key personnel (both	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting Documentation	Have you attached this to your application form?
Australian and Indian).	
Criterion B: Describe why collaboration between the Indian and Australian partner organisations is integral to achieving the outcomes of the proposed research project.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion C: Detailed project plan and Indian budget.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion D: Letter of support from the applicant organisation clearly articulating the organisation's financial support (cash and/or in-kind) for the project and commitment to engage in the research collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion D: If applicable, letter of support from any other Indian partner organisations clearly articulating the organisation's financial support (cash and/or in-kind) for the project and commitment to engage in the research collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion D: Letter of support from the Australian partner organisation clearly articulating the organisation's financial support (cash and/or in-kind) and commitment to engage in the research collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criterion D: If applicable, letter of support from any other international partner organisations clearly articulating the organisation's financial support (cash and/or in-kind) and commitment to engage in the research collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>

3.5 Eligibility checks and assessment of applications

All Indian applications received by the Department by the advertised closing date will be assessed in accordance with the AISRF Guidelines and these Application Instructions.

3.6 Discrepancies, ambiguities, inconsistencies, errors or omissions in an application

The Indian and Australian Governments will not accept responsibility for any misunderstanding arising from the failure by an applicant to comply with the guidelines, or arising from any ambiguity, discrepancy, error or omission contained in an application.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring the correctness, sufficiency and eligibility of their submitted application. If an applicant discovers any material discrepancy, ambiguity, inconsistency, error or omission in their application, they must **immediately** bring it to the attention of the Department by email to ujjwala@nic.in

The Department may request further information from an applicant or referee and allow an applicant to remedy any errors, omissions etc in an application at any time, including after the round closing date. The Department reserves the right to consider new information regarding matters referred to in the original application at any time, including after the round closing date.

The Department reserves the right to allow applicants to correct errors or omissions in submitted applications. On these matters the Department's decision will be final. No correspondence will be entered into in relation to the decision other than to inform the applicant of the decision.

Note: Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Please note that on the Indian side applicant already implementing two projects funded by the International Division of DST is not eligible to submit the project against this call.

Guidelines for Proposal Submission

- The deadline for the submission of proposals is **23rd October, 2019**.
- The Indian researchers can download the proposal formats from website www.onlinedst.gov.in after registering themselves (if applying for the first time) and should submit completed application form and all relevant information. Proposals must be submitted to DST through the **e-application system** provided at www.onlinedst.gov.in. Indian Applicants are also requested to send two hard copies to DST by 23rd October, 2019 through proper channel. **It should be ensured that application with identical title has been submitted by his / her Australian counterpart to AISRF by due date.**
- **Please remember to upload 6 documents before “SUBMIT” the final proposal. So make it ready (in the formats given below) before submitting.**
 - i. Biodata of the PI (in pdf, Max size 800kb)
 - ii. Conflict of Interest (in pdf, Max size 800kb)
 - iii. Certificate from PI (in pdf, Max size 800kb)
 - iv. Endorsement from Head of the Institute (in pdf, Max size 800kb)
 - v. Complete proposal (in pdf with max size 5mb)
 - vi. Complete proposal (in doc with max size 5mb)
- **Proposal submitted only on one side will not be considered.**
- Australian Principal Investigators need to submit proposals with a matching joint research project plan to AISRF simultaneously. Australian Researchers are requested to contact AISRF for their application submission period, documents to be submitted etc.

- Soft copies of the proposal should be sent to ujjwala@nic.in and hard copies of proposal should be submitted to the following address:
Dr (Mrs) Ujjwala Tripti Tirkey,
Scientist 'F'/Director, Room No. 19-B, S&T Block I,
International Cooperation (Bilateral), Department of Science and Technology,
Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi 110016
Tel: +91 (0)11 2659 0377; +91 (0)11 2686 4642 ; Email: ujjwala@nic.in.

**For application format, please see
International Cooperation (Bilateral) at**

<https://onlinedst.gov.in/Projectproposalformat.aspx>
