

Terms and Conditions III: Technology Development Fund
Terms & Conditions for Projects for Startups

1. Technology Development Fund (TDF) has been established to promote self-reliance in Defence Technology as a part of the 'Make in India' initiative. It is a programme of MoD (Ministry of Defence) executed by DRDO meeting the requirements of Tri-Services, Defence Production and DRDO.
2. The scheme encourages participation of public/private industries especially start-ups so as to create an eco-system for enhancing cutting edge technology capability for defence application.
3. Nascent Start-ups are start-ups having been incorporated less than 3 (three) years ago from the date of application. Although Nascent Start-ups shall be given preference, the scheme shall be open for all Start-ups.
4. Nascent Start-ups applying to the TDF Scheme, should be attached / associated with a government-aided or government-recognized incubator.
5. The role of incubators is to provide all necessary support to Start-ups for the execution of the project as per Design Document and such incubators may charge fee for providing working space, mentoring, business planning, IPR, Legal support. However, the contribution of incubators under the Scheme shall not be more than 20% (twenty percent) for any project proposal and included in the total project cost.
6. The Start-ups and Incubators need to submit their DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) certificate (erstwhile DIPP) and Start-Up registration details, along with other mandatory documents while participating in the Scheme.
7. The funding will be through provision of grant to Start-ups that may also work in collaboration with the academia or research institutions to carry out innovation, research and development. However, the contribution of such academia / research institution shall not be more than 40% of the total project cost.
8. Submission of Project proposal doesn't guarantee any commitment under this Scheme from DRDO / DTDF.
9. Suitable technical information will be provided to the Start-ups on submission of NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) during technical interaction meeting on 'need to know' basis.

10. The Start-ups shall submit a compliance statement for all the eligibility requirements with necessary supporting documents for scrutiny.
11. SOFT / Type Approval (CEMILAC Certification) is required for all airborne systems / subsystems. The details of certification process can be seen in the guidelines published on TDF Website (<https://tdf.drdo.gov.in>).
12. Any Start-up can have concurrently, maximum of 3 TDF Scheme projects (Maximum 2 as Lead DA) either as lead DA or as consortium partner.
13. The Start-ups shall submit all information about their executed / ongoing / applied projects under TDF scheme during the submission of project proposal.
14. The transfer / sharing of IPR will be carried out under DRDO through a committee of constituted by DRDO. In addition, filing of Patents and other IPR protection will be carried out by DRDO as per extant guidelines & policy of DRDO.
15. Only equipment essential for execution of the project will be considered for funding under TDF Scheme. The essentiality of the equipment will be established through a nominated committee of technical expert.
16. Any Start-ups providing false information will be liable for action as per existing MoD guidelines.
17. The EOI/DPR submission will be evaluated as per relevant evaluation criteria given in the Resources -> Documentation Section of the TDF website.
18. In the event that any of the applicants or prospective awardees under the TDF Scheme have availed of, been awarded or secured a grant-in-aid or any other form of monetary assistance from Government institution for same / similar technology before applying to the TDF Scheme or during their execution of the Project, the same must be disclosed to DTDF within 30 days of change in status.