



# COVID-19 and Beyond

## Technological Innovations for Strengthening Health Systems and Managing Efficiencies:

Third call for Proposals: 5<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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An IKP KNOWLEDGE PARK Initiative  
with Funding Support from IKP Trust and BIRAC  
and Technology Support from Amazon Web Services

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## Third Call for Proposals: 5th - 25th May 2021

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## Introduction

The **ICO Fund** (IKP COVID-19 Fund), an initiative of IKP Knowledge Park (IKP) in association with Funding Partners IKP Trust, BIRAC, Hindustan Syringes & Medical Devices Ltd. and Tynor Orthotics Pvt. Ltd, aims to identify and fast-track technology driven solutions from entrepreneurs that are relevant to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In April 2020, the first call for proposals was launched. The immediate response to Covid-19 pandemic in terms of manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE – masks, visors, PPE kits), diagnostic kits, treatment modalities such as affordable ventilators, step-up and step-down ICUs etc. were supported under the first two calls of the program. For the list of startups and innovation supported, please [CLICK HERE](#).

The third call for proposals supported by IKP Trust, BIRAC and AWS will identify and nurture **technological innovations that focus on Strengthening Health Systems and Managing Efficiencies**. The second wave of the pandemic and the post-COVID world require us to focus on the long-term impact of the pandemic. The IKP team along with the partners have identified a few thematic areas, which are listed in the following section.

Funding for the current round (3<sup>rd</sup> Call) of proposals is being supported by the IKP Trust & Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). Amazon Web Services (AWS) would provide cloud credits & technology stack mentorship. Please see the Section on Funding for more Information.

The ICO-Fund will enable the selected entrepreneurs to develop and refine their solutions for rapid deployment in the market through expert mentorship and connecting with relevant commercial partners to aid the accelerated development, scale-up and distribution of their solutions.

### Thematic Areas: Third Call for Proposals - May 2021

We are seeking applications from entrepreneurs for solutions to address challenges that focus on Strengthening Health Systems and Managing Efficiencies, especially in the areas that are directly or indirectly affected/impacted by Covid-19 pandemic. (Please see below for the thematic and sub thematic areas for submitting applications).

The first & second Call for Proposals were completed in April & May 2020 respectively. [SEE THE FUNDED CANDIDATES HERE](#).

We invite you to submit your proposals online using this link: <http://tiny.cc/ico-fund> (the Form needs a google account to apply.)

Proposals with **Technology driven Innovation** are invited in the following **thematic areas**:

**a. Patient Management:**

- Better triaging solutions for optimal use of beds, oxygen supply and ventilators in Tier 1 & Tier 2 cities (e.g. a real time live portal to access information on bed occupancy, ICU & ventilator availability, availability of medications etc. across hospitals & cities)
- Telehealth, Home care with a special focus on mental health issues that have resulted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, especially towards positive mental health and mental wellbeing
- Digital technologies and Remote monitoring, to assess lung health and coagulation profile of Covid patients in addition to SPO<sub>2</sub>, HR and temperature; solutions that can assess / track post-Covid complications – as in lung health and coagulation disorders
- Solutions providing better access to qualified medical advice for home care in Tier 3 & Tier 4 towns

**b. Clinical Decision Support Ecosystem** (screening, diagnostics and surveillance tools):

- Faster, affordable, point of care and non-invasive diagnostic tests for Covid-19
- Biomarker-based immunity tests
- Surveillance mechanisms for newer variants of Covid-19
- Solutions involving retinal scans to gauge vasculature and related health parameters amongst Covid patients and survivors

**c. Impact on Community:**

- Technologies and logistics support that help students, employees & organizations get back to schools and work places
- Behavioural interventions in school settings, shopping complex and other public places for greater compliance to Covid appropriate behaviour
- Immunity enhancement products
- Upcycling and recycling of products to reduce dependency on supply chains

**d. Futuristic innovations for Covid management:**

- Ambient air quality indicators (specifically measuring bacterial and viral load, be it in offices, hospital settings, auditoriums, malls etc.)
- Innovative processes for boosting immunity (for e.g. Custom engineering immunity cells)
- Indicators of immunity status of an individual. (For e.g. Immunity passport)
- Non-invasive modalities of prevention and treatment for Covid infections (Sustained release vaccine / vaccine patch, nasal sprays / inhaler type devices etc.)
- Solutions using AI & Blockchain in Healthcare

Proposals from eligible candidates in any of the above-mentioned thematic areas, or related areas are welcome. The final decision on the eligibility of an application (in terms of thematic area and individual's eligibility criteria) to be funded under the ICO Fund lies with the Selection Committee.

## Funding

We plan to select candidates, who will be eligible for an initial rapid funding of up to INR 30 Lakhs each for a maximum period of 6 months (up to 18 months for proposals under futuristic technologies) to develop a solution that is ready for manufacturing/deployment. Amazon Web Services will provide Cloud Credits to those who need it, along with technology mentorship to enable Cloud services around the innovation.

**The financial assistance will be partly in the form of grant-in-aid and partly as funding against revenue sharing.**

The first & second Call for Proposals were completed in April & May 2020 respectively. [SEE THE CANDIDATES HERE.](#)

IKP will assist with the sales and marketing of your innovation. Further funding for procurement, manufacturing and deployment will be sought from government agencies and corporates.

## Eligibility Criteria, Application Process and Selection Criteria

This Call for Proposals is open to start-ups and SMEs. Apply here: <http://tiny.cc/ico-fund> (needs a Google Account to apply)

We will be able to receive your proposals until 11:59 PM, May 25, 2021 (IST) on the program website. Proposals will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1. Alignment with the mandate of the Call*
- 2. Market readiness*
- 3. Affordability*
- 4. Execution capacity*

Shortlisted candidates will be informed over email and will be required to make an online presentation to the Selection Committee comprising of representatives from IKP, BIRAC and AWS. The online presentation would be conducted by the first week of June, 2021.

The decision of the Selection Committee will be final. IKP will not be obliged to provide any feedback to the applicants and no calls will be entertained regarding the selection outcome.

The selected candidates will have to work on mission mode under the overall supervision and guidance of IKP Innovation Managers and Mentors with strict delivery timelines.

## Application Process

As an applicant you will register on the program website, fill an online form and submit a description of the innovation (including diagrams, figures and references) - the working concept in sufficient detail, stage of development and deployment, short term strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic and a long-term strategy for the product/ business, and IP ownership issues. Only online submissions will be accepted. Please do not email us any application.

The online form is here <http://tiny.cc/ico-fund> (needs a Google Account to apply). The form consists of the following:

You will be able to upload a project related document. Please explain in sufficient detail the aspects of innovation, commercialization metrics and the impact metrics

*Note: Please do not exceed 10 pages, and restrict your attachment size to 5 MB, otherwise your application may be disqualified.*

Please submit your application on <http://tiny.cc/ico-fund> (needs a Google Account to apply).

Only online applications will be accepted. Please submit before May 25, 2021.

## Terms and Conditions

In making financial assistance to innovators in furtherance of the objectives stated above, the Parties are committed to ensuring that

- (a) The knowledge and information arising out of or in connection with the fund be promptly and broadly disseminated
- (b) The products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data or other innovations arising out of or in connection with the fund be made available and accessible at an affordable price to people most in need within India and the rest of the world.
- (c) The financial assistance will be partly in the form of grant-in-aid and partly as funding against revenue sharing. IKP will assist with the sales and marketing of your innovation.

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## About the Partners

### **IKP Trust ([www.ikptrust.org.in](http://www.ikptrust.org.in))**

IKP Trust's mission, at the broadest level, is to enable the use of advanced scientific knowledge for the progress of society. In particular it seeks to focus on the intersection of information technology and life sciences and incubates organizations that explore different facets of the intersection in a manner that adds value to society.

### **IKP Knowledge Park ([www.ikpknowledgepark.com](http://www.ikpknowledgepark.com))**

IKP is a not-for-profit, 200-acre Research Park and Incubator headquartered in Hyderabad and having offices in Bangalore and 5 other cities. IKP has over 20 years of experience in promoting research-based companies with a mission to advance deep-tech and co-create solutions for tomorrow. IKP has served 600+ companies and innovators directly and touched over 8,000 innovators through various programs.

### **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) ([www.birac.nic.in](http://www.birac.nic.in))**

BIRAC is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as an Interface Agency to strengthen & empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research & innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

BIRAC is an industry-academia interface and implements its mandate through a wide range of impact initiatives, be it providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology transfer, IP management and handholding schemes that help bring innovation excellence to the biotech firms and make them globally competitive.

### **Amazon Web Services (AWS) ([aws.amazon.com](http://aws.amazon.com))**

Amazon Web Services has been the world's most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud platform for 15 years. It is a subsidiary of Amazon providing on-demand cloud computing platforms and APIs to individuals, companies, and governments. AWS has been continually expanding its services to support virtually any cloud workload, and it now has more than 200 fully featured services for computing, storage, databases, networking, analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), mobile, security, hybrid, virtual and augmented reality (VR & AR), media, and application development, deployment and management from 80 Availability Zones (AZs) within 25 geographic regions, with announced plans for 15 more Availability Zones and 5 more AWS regions in Australia, India, Indonesia, Spain and Switzerland. Millions of customers – including the fastest growing start-ups, largest enterprises, and leading government agencies – trust AWS to power their infrastructure, become more agile and lower costs.

## FAQs

### 1. Who can apply?

Indian companies applying for the award should have Registration under Companies Act 1956/2013 and must have 51% equity or shareholding by Indian Nationals only, including NRIs. Non-Indian companies will need to partner with an Indian company, so that the Indian company can be the beneficiary of the Fund. We are looking for innovations that are near-ready and are scalable.

### 2. Is the financial assistance a grant or equity investment?

The financial assistance in this particular round (3<sup>rd</sup> round of ICO Fund) will be partly in the form of grant-in-aid and partly as funding against revenue sharing.

### 3. When is the application Deadline?

11:59 PM on May 25, 2021 (IST).

Apply here: <http://tiny.cc/ico-fund> (needs a Google / Gmail Account to apply)

### 4. Can I submit more than one proposal?

Yes, you can. You will have to create separate user accounts on our website (with 2 different email ids) for each project proposal.

### 5. What are the criteria for judging?

Alignment with the goals of the Call, manufacturing readiness, affordability, execution capability.

### 6. Who owns the invention / intellectual property?

All Intellectual Property resides with the inventor.

### 7. Who were the candidates selected in the First and Second Calls?

The first & second Call for Proposals were completed in April & May 2020 respectively. [SEE THE CANDIDATES HERE.](#)

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