

FAQs

1. What is the India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme?

The India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme is a bilateral initiative of India and Russia focused on strengthening the relationship based on Science, Technology and Innovation.

The programme is a joint initiative of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India and Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE) of the Russian Federation. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is the implementation partner on the Indian side.

The programme aims to support Indian and Russian S&T-led SMEs and Start-ups for joint R&D for technology development and cross-country technology adaptation. Through a rigorous application and evaluation process, the programme will identify and support innovative technologies from India and Russia for:

- Joint development through R&D collaboration
- Technology transfer/adaptation

2. What is the objective of the programme?

The key programme objectives are:

- Promote joint research and development (R&D) between India and Russia.
- Promote validated technology transfer/adaptation between India and Russia.
- Promote innovation and entrepreneurship development through financial, capacity building, mentorship and business development support to create successful joint enterprises.
- Development of a robust S&T and R&D ecosystem to scale mutually beneficial innovation of both the countries.
- Provide financial support to five technology projects per cycle between India and Russia.

3. Are there any specific focus areas under which applications are sought?

The programme will prioritize, but not limit, applications under the following thematic areas:

- IT & ICT, including AI, AR, VR
- Medicine/Pharmaceuticals
- Renewable Energy
- Aerospace
- Clean Technologies/Alternative Technologies
- Environment
- New Materials
- Biotechnologies
- Artificial Intelligence
- Robotics and Drones
- **Others:** Applications, which do not fall under the above-mentioned focus sectors, will also be considered.

4. What are the different tracks under which applications are sought?

Applications are being sought under two separate tracks:

- **Joint Development through R&D Collaboration:**

It is expected that the joint projects result in the development of commercial/market-ready technology-based solutions/products, applications and services.

 - The application must include at least one SME from Russia and one SME/Start-up from India (subject to each country's regulations).
 - The project must have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between participants from each country, including but not limited to increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of applications etc.
 - The project must clearly demonstrate the contribution of each participant from the two countries.
 - The project must demonstrate high commercialization potential, industrial and economic agenda.
- **Technology Transfer/Adaptation**

This track will include applications specifically for transfer/adaptation of technology between India and Russia and vice-versa. Both Indian and Russian applicants must include a clearly defined business plan and commercials. Clear

description of the R&D performed both in India and Russia (technology refinement, adaptation etc.) must be presented.

In addition to the above, please note that if applying under technology transfer/adaptation:

India to Russia: Projects may not be funded solely for technology commercialization in Russia, but for technology adaptation wherein additional R&D is required to be done by the Russian entity before commercializing.

Russia to India: Projects may be funded for technology adaptation or commercialization or both.

5. What are the eligibility criteria to apply to the programme?

Indian Applications:

- Only S&T-based Indian SMEs and Start-ups, as defined and incorporated under the Indian laws are eligible to apply.
- Universities, academic institutions, research organizations and other public bodies can only participate as subcontractors (30%).
- Must have a prior identified project partner in Russia.
- The maximum funding per project would be INR 1.5 Crore and the applicant must co-finance 50% of the amount requested from DST, Gol.
- **Permissive use of funding:** Salary, materials, subcontractors, technology modification, design & development, testing & trials and similar miscellaneous costs.
- **Project Duration:** 18 to 24 months

Russian Applications:

- Only small innovative companies (Federal Law No209, Article 4) can apply.
- Universities, academic institutions, research organizations and other public bodies can only participate as subcontractors (30%).
- Must have a prior identified project partner in India.
- The maximum funding per project would be RUB 15,000,000 and the applicant must co-finance 30% of the amount requested from FASIE.
- **Permissive use of funding:** Salary, materials, subcontractors, technology modification, design & development, testing & trials and similar miscellaneous costs.
- **Project Duration:** 18 to 24 months

In addition to the above, please note that if applying under technology transfer/adaptation:

India to Russia: Projects may not be funded solely for technology commercialization in Russia, but for technology adaptation wherein additional R&D is required to be done by the Russian entity before commercializing.

Russia to India: Projects may be funded for technology adaptation or commercialization or both.

6. What TRL level should the technology be to apply to the programme?

TRL level 6 and above but still pre-commercial will be preferred.

7. What would be the duration of the projects selected and funded?

Project duration can be anywhere between 18 to 24 months.

8. Can universities/academic institutions/research organizations and other public bodies apply to the programme?

Applications are sought from SMEs/Startups from both India and Russia (defined as per the respective government laws). Applicants may include universities/academic institutions/research organizations and other public bodies in their projects only as subcontractors (30%).

9. Is it necessary to have a prior identified partner in the other country (India/Russia)?

Yes, applicants must have a prior-identified project partner in the partnering country (India/Russia).

10. Does the programme help facilitate the identification of a project partner in India/Russia?

No, the applicants are expected to identify the project partners on their own.

11. Do both partners have to apply to the programme for the project to be considered?

Yes, both the Indian and Russian companies partnering on a project have to submit individual applications at the following links:

Indian Applicants can apply at <http://www.indiarussiainnovate.org/apply.html>

Russian Applicants can apply at <http://fasie.ru/press/fund/russia-india-2020/>

12. What is the evaluation criterion for the applications?

The following broad evaluation criterion will be deployed for assessing the applications:

In case of applications under Joint Development projects:

- How innovative is the technology?
- Development stage/TRL of the technology (TRL 6 and above will be preferred).
- Need for joint collaboration between the Indian and Russian partners. What is the USP brought in by the Indian and Russian partner.
- Total funding required for joint development vis-à-vis the funding ask from the program.
- Total time required for joint development of the technology to make it market-ready including technology validation.
- Commercialization strategy post technology development.
- Potential socio-economic impact of technology commercialization.

In case of applications under Technology Transfer/Adaptation projects:

- What is the stage of technology development?
- What is the stage of technology commercialization?
- What is the need of the technology in the other country (In case Indian company wants to transfer it to Russia, what is the Russian entrepreneur going to use it for?)
- Further R&D needed by Russian entrepreneur for adaptation of technology in Russia.
- Readiness of the partner who is transferring the technology in terms of stage of development, validations etc.
- Readiness of the other partner to absorb the technology in terms of technical know-how and funding available.
- Commercialization plan for the technology
- Socio-economic impact of technology commercialization in both countries.

13. What are the benefits of applying to the programme?

If your enterprise gets shortlisted, you shall get the following benefits:

- Access to Funds
- Capacity Building
- Mentorship and Hand-holding Support
- Technology Transfer
- Technology Showcase and Networking Opportunity

14.How much funding will be provided to the selected projects?

The programme is jointly funded by DST, Govt. of India and FASIE of the Russia Federation and will provide access to public funding for joint selected projects with the participation of at least one SME from Russia and one SME/Startup from India.

The funding to the Indian entity will be provided by the Department of Science & Technology (Govt) and the funding to the Russian entity will be provided by FASIE. The joint projects will be partially funded by both the agencies, with the remaining costs to be borne by the project partners themselves either through own funds or alternate sources of external funding.

Indian Applications: The maximum funding per project would be INR 1.5 Crore and the applicant must co-finance 50% of the amount requested from DST, Govt.

Russian Applications: The maximum funding per project would be RUB 15,000,000 and the applicant must co-finance 30% of the amount requested from FASIE.

The project comprises of two annual cycles and five projects will be funded under each programme cycle.

15.What can the awarded companies use the funding received for?

The permissive use of funding on both the Indian and Russian side includes salary, materials, subcontractors, technology modification, design & development, testing & trials and similar miscellaneous costs.

16.How many projects will be funded under the programme?

The programme comprises of two annual cycles and five projects will be funded under each program cycle.

17.Can I submit more than one application?

Yes, an applicant can submit more than one application during the cycle. However, please note that one E-mail ID/Login ID can be used to submit only one application. In case you are submitting multiple applications, please use a unique E-mail ID for each.

18.Where can I apply to the programme?

All applications need to be submitted online in India and Russia using special forms identified by FASIE, DST and FICCI.

Indian Applicants can apply at <http://www.indiarussiainnovate.org/apply.html>

Russian Applicants can apply at <http://fasie.ru/press/fund/russia-india-2020/>

19.Can the application be edited?

Once registered, the application can be saved and edited using the user-ID and password. However, once you do the final submission, the application cannot be edited.

20.How will I know my application has been successfully submitted?

Once an application has been submitted, an auto-generated E-mail confirming the successful submission will be sent to your registered E-mail address.

21.What is the last date to submit the application?

The deadline for application submission is 30th September 2020.

22.What is the total application and evaluation cycle?

The application cycle is open for a period of 2 months approximately (Deadline: 30th September 2020). The evaluation and final selection process would take approximately 3 months after the closing of applications, wherein all applicants will be notified of the result via email.

23. How many application cycles are planned under the programme?

The programme comprises of two annual cycles and five projects will be funded under each cycle.

24. In case of any general or technical queries, whom do I get in touch with?

In case of any queries, you can drop us an E-mail at info@indiarussiainnovate.org.

You can also get in touch with the respective partners at the E-mail IDs mentioned at <http://www.indiarussiainnovate.org/contact-us.html>