CPS – PROMOTING AND ACCELERATING YOUNG AND ASPIRING INNOVATORS AND STARTUPS

CPS-PRAYAS

IIT Mandi iHub & HCi Foundation
Technology in Harmony with Human Needs

IIT MANDI IHUB AND HCI FOUNDATION
North Campus, IIT Mandi

IIT Mandi iHub & HCI Foundation

Section 8 Not-for-Profit Company
Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)

Regd. Office: Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, VPO Kamand, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, India – 175075

Introduction

IIT Mandi iHub and HCI Foundation is a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH). It is focused on Human- Computer Interaction (HCI). The Hub was incorporated on 24th September 2020. It is set up by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi under India's National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber- Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). The vision of iHub is to be an internationally recognized hub that nurtures HCI research, enables technology translation for industry, and scales skill development.

PRAYAS program is focused on the Idea-to-prototyping journey of young startups/innovators. The program is designed to attract a large number of young innovators and entrepreneurs to come forward to try out their ideas. Eventually, such an approach would bring in a large number of potential ideas into the incubation programs, thereby increasing the flow of quality incubator to the incubator.

While there are support and mechanisms available for research and development and commercialization of ideas, there is a deficiency of support in early-stage prototyping. Many innovators and startups leave their journey in the absence of this critical support. There is a clear need to address the gap in the very early-stage idea/ proof of concept funding. The PRAYAS program focuses on addressing this idea-to-prototype funding gap.

Objective of PRAYAS Program

- To enable the translation of an innovative idea to a hardware or software prototype.
- To provide a platform for faster experimentation and modify approaches in the idea to prototype journeys.
- To attract a large number of youths who demonstrate problem-solving zeal and abilities to work on their technology/knowledge/ innovation-based ideas.

Focus Areas

The PRAYAS program will focus on supporting ideas related to solving problems related to human-computer interaction across domains. These domains may include but are not limited to, the environment, healthcare, information technology (IT), and defence and security, which form important sectors of the Indian economy.

Target Audience

- The PRAYAS grant can be given to individual innovators or start-ups that are in the idea- prototype stage. The grant is not meant for start-ups that are already in the commercialization phase.
- Individuals with innovative ideas and a strong desire to become an entrepreneur.
- Students in full-time programs in educational institutes can apply with a NOC from their institution. The permission should state that:
  - The applicant has been permitted to apply for this program.
  - The institution will extend sufficient time for the applicant to work on the project.
  - The IP generated would vest with the innovator.

Benefits

- The start-up or innovator under this scheme can be provided with a maximum grant of INR 5 Lakhs. The duration of the engagement can range from 6 months to a maximum of 18 months.
- Access to IIT Mandi's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, intellectual and physical resources.
- Guidance on product development, commercialization, business concepts, and market strategy.
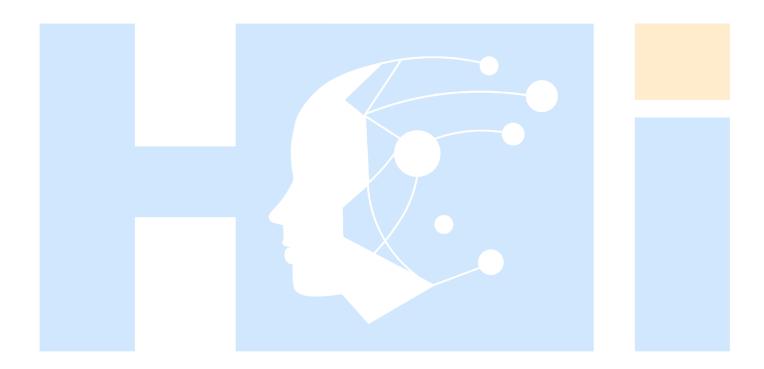- Access to workspace, based on availability and as per the norm of the incubator.

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Expected Outcome

- It is expected that at least 50% of the supported candidates/startups will have a working prototype at the completion of the support from the incubator.
- Innovators/startups are expected to progress towards filing intellectual property rights.
- Innovators/startups are expected to raise further funding/Investment for product development and commercialization.
- Innovators/startups are expected to receive expressions of interest from prospective customers and partners.