NCAM's Technology Research & Innovation Program in Additive Manufacturing (TRIPRAMan - 3) - Application Guidelines

This program is designed to support and nurture highly innovative entrepreneurs and startups in additive manufacturing (AM) technologies across the value chain, i.e., software, technology, design, materials, hardware and applications. It is intended for serious entrepreneurs who can dedicatedly work on his/her product idea and to come up with a market viable prototype in 24 weeks.

Selection Criteria

The selection of entrepreneurs will be based on the recommendation of an expert committee specifically set up for the purpose. The criteria for acceptance are the following:

1. The business activity proposed is in the AM technology area. The company must meet the definition of a "technology-based company" (An organization which pursues commercial applications of science/technology-based innovations; employs a high percentage of technicians, engineers or scientists; or requires extensive R&D to produce new products or services).

2. The venture can be a corporation, partnership, LLP or sole proprietorship. It need not be a registered entity at the time of application, but must register after selection in the incubation program.

3. Must not be older than 2 years from the date of registration/ company incorporation

4. Its annual cash in-flow in terms of funding/grants/revenue from sales or operations (as defined in the Companies Act, 2013) in any preceding financial year must not exceed INR. 1.0 Crore in any year.

5. Startup should not have received more than Rs 10 lakh of monetary support under any other Central or State Government scheme for the same. This does not include prize money from competitions and grand challenges, subsidized working space, founder monthly allowance, access to labs, or access to prototyping facility

6. Must not be formed by splitting up, or reconstruction, of a business already in existence.

7. Demonstrate a need for incubator services.

8. Demonstrate capability for business viability and growth.

9. The business plan submitted by the entrepreneur is sound.

10. The entrepreneur will submit a proper business plan to NCAM, which will be reviewed by the expert committee before final acceptance.

11. The business proposed should have significant technology content / employment potential / revenue generation potential / export earning potential.

12. First-time entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply. They should have the requisite aptitude in driving the venture. The expert committee will assess this through personal interview, review of past activities, background check, references etc.

Selection Process

i) Determination of eligibility by NCAM based on preliminary application.

ii) NCAM and the entrepreneur will sign a mutual nondisclosure agreement (NDA)

iii) Submission of complete application package:

a) Copy of the entrepreneur's business plan

b) Entrepreneur's tax returns for prior three years if applicable.

c) Details of the company's corporate structure, bylaws, ownership, etc.

iv) NCAM sets up an expert committee to evaluate the application.

v) The expert committee reviews the application based on but not limited to the following criteria:

a) Merit of the business proposal

b) Background and experience of the entrepreneur

c) Financial viability

d) Status of the business plan, market research and feasibility studies

e) Growth potential

f) Applicant's commitment-both financial and personal time-to the venture

g) Business references

h) Composition of the management team

i) To what extent is the entrepreneur developing technology, or using technology for a unique business purpose?

j) How effectively does the entrepreneur demonstrate an understanding of the environment facing the venture in its target markets, and a reasonable strategy to achieve stability and growth?

k) How clear is the entrepreneur's need for the types of services that the incubator offers?

l) Is the venture product or service-based? Product-based ventures, by their nature, have a greater potential for significant economic impact, but innovative service businesses will also be considered for the program.

m) Market knowledge and experience (market definition, markets serviced, competition, SWOT analysis etc.)

vi) The entrepreneur gives a presentation of the business plan to the expert committee and clarifies all the questions.

vii) Due diligence by the expert committee (including background and credit check of entrepreneur)

viii) Decision by expert committee.

ix) if the company is found to be not following the due diligence norms or has produced false data, it will be disqualified.

Duration of Incubation Program

The duration of agreement to operate in the incubator program shall be for a term of 6 months, not extendable*. These entrepreneurs shall move out of incubator at the end of the license period whether they have graduated* or not.

The entrepreneur has to submit a formal application to the expert committee highlighting all factors responsible for the delays in the plan. The application should show the strategies adopted by the venture in overcoming the problems faced by the company.

Graduation

The venture shall graduate from the incubation program when any one of the following conditions is fulfilled.

i) The entrepreneur/startup builds a market viable product.

ii) Expiry of the period specified in the license agreement.

If any of the above events takes place the venture will be treated as graduated from the incubation program and the agreement with the incubator will be discontinued.