

No. O-15012/35/24-Research
Government of India
NITI Aayog
(Research & Networking Division)

Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001
Dated January 31st, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Request/Invitation for Expression of Interest (REoI) for Research Projects -reg.

1. NITI Aayog hereby requests/invites expressions of Interest (EoI) for conducting research/study from institutions/organisations of repute (including university/deemed university) for undertaking a Research Study on **"Identifying a framework for increasing access to technology to various MSMEs and reforming the apex MSME Government body."** The details of the studies are placed in **Annexure I** to this Request for Expressions of Interest (REoI). The detailed Research Scheme of NITI Aayog-2024 (RSNA-2024) guidelines and its amendments, if any: read with this REoI will govern the process and may be seen at NITI Aayog's website at <http://www.niti.gov.in/guidelines>.
2. All the institutions/organisations are requested to go through the Guidelines of the **Research Scheme of NITI Aayog 2024 (Guidelines/RSNA-2024)** before responding to this public notice, especially to satisfy themselves that they fulfill all the eligibility criteria for availing of a grant under the said scheme and also that they can conduct the research study project as per the Guidelines.
3. No Applicant or its Associate shall submit more than one Application for the Consultancy. An Applicant applying individually or as an Associate or as part of the consortium shall not be entitled to submit another application either individually or as a member of any consortium, as the case may be. Applicants are advised to provide sufficient details in their applications to allow for an informed and fair evaluation/review.
4. The hard copy of EoI as per the format prescribed in **Annexure- II** along with the undertaking as per **Annexure -III** must be submitted by hand or by Registered post to Sh Sanchit Jindal, ASO (R&N) **Room No 435**, NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001 by the interested applicants. The EoI must be sent in envelopes superscribed with the words "EoI on (name of the topic as mentioned in the corresponding Annexure)" and the same must reach the NITI Aayog within 21 days of the notified date of Public Notice i.e before 4:00 PM of 21st February, 2025. EoI through E-mail may be sent at the address pdresearch-niti@gov.in.
5. For any query in this regard, Sh Sanchit Jindal, ASO (R&N) may please be contacted over email at pdresearch-niti@gov.in.



(Dr Banusri Velpandian)
Sr. Specialist, Law (R&N)

Subject: Proposal to undertake a Research Study on identifying a framework for increasing access to technology to various MSMEs and reforming the apex MSME Government body.

1. Background

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in India possess immense potential to become competitive enough so as to integrate themselves into both domestic and global value chains for promoting ease of business facilitation for MSMEs in India. MSMEs contribute close to 41% towards India's total manufacturing GVA.

Technology stands out as a key determinant of MSMEs competitiveness, integration of which by MSMEs in their operations, from supply chain management to human resources, can help in streamlining workflows and enhance their overall efficiency thereby heralding a new era of business facilitation.

An additional aspect which could improve the growth of MSME led business in India is studying the need for reforming the current apex Government body for MSMEs which is DC MSME in order to ensure that it serves as an independent body at the national level for the promotion and development of MSMEs by becoming the single point of contact for facilitating everything related to them from policy related matters to providing finance and even ensuring procurement of raw materials as well as marketing of MSME products.

2. Objective of the Study

The purpose of this research study is to identify the key challenges faced by MSMEs in India while accessing technology related services for the growth of their business while also understanding the role of DC MSME in promoting the growth of MSMEs in India and proposing appropriate reforms within the apex body to ease business facilitation for MSMEs in India. The study will focus on the following key objectives-

- Technology adoption framework for MSMEs
 - Key challenges faced by MSMEs while adopting technology for ease of business facilitation
 - Understanding the existing institutions who can share their technologies within the Government and private ecosystem
 - Developing the relevant infrastructure and framework for dissemination of technology to MSMEs especially micro and small enterprises in India
 - Analyzing the current levels of penetration of technology utilization by SMEs in India
 - Devising methodologies for sustainable utilization of technology by SMEs
 - Key infrastructural reforms required for improving technology penetration levels amongst MSMEs in India

○ DC MSME Reform

- Assessment and review of the existing structure of the apex MSME body and evaluating the current framework for policy implementation undertaken by them
- Develop comprehensive reform solution to make the DC MSME better aligned with the evolving needs of the MSME ecosystem
- Develop a roadmap for migration to the new model as well as clear monitoring and evaluation metrics

3. Terms of References (ToRs) of the Study:

- (i) Detailed analysis of the Indian MSME sector and its mapping with global trends/benchmark
- (ii) Analyzing the current data related to technology adoption by MSMEs in India with a classification of the data amongst micro, small, and medium enterprises in India
- (iii) Map the availability of existing technology solutions for MSMEs in India and understand the role of technology in ensuring the growth of micro-enterprises and small enterprises into small and medium enterprises respectively
- (iv) Identification of various Government and private stakeholders having expertise in technology creation and development within India
- (v) Assessment of the current infrastructure available for disseminating technology to MSMEs and providing key measures required for increasing technology penetration levels among SMEs
- (vi) Developing a model/framework for the creation of a technology-sharing ecosystem for MSMEs in India with the help of identified stakeholders
- (vii) Identify countries with successful open-source technology ecosystem for MSMEs and study the role of governments and private sectors in supporting technology dissemination
- (viii) Assessment of the role of the apex MSME body in devising and implementing MSME-related policies
- (ix) Recommend strategies and interventions to overcome significant challenges plaguing the MSME sector in India and identify a clear roadmap for restructuring of MSME apex body with clearly outlined performance monitoring and evaluation metrics for the apex MSME body

4. The scope of this research study will encompass the following aspects:

- (i) Analyzing the future trends in the Global MSME sector and India's position in this regard
- (ii) Identifying the various sectors which have the maximum number of MSMEs and their growth in these sectors
- (iii) Identifying the key challenges faced by MSMEs while accessing technology in India for improving technology penetration levels amongst them in India
- (iv) Assessing the existing technology infrastructure needs and requirements of MSMEs in India across various sectors
- (v) Compare India's MSME technology adaptation and facilitation mechanisms with global counterparts and recommend ways to adopt best practices in the Indian context
- (vi) Identifying global best practices regarding the institutional framework governing MSMEs
- (vii) Assessing the role of the apex MSME body in promoting the growth of MSMEs in India
- (viii) Developing recommendations and strategies to overcome technology adoption challenges for the MSME sector and identifying best practices regarding the apt national institutional framework for MSMEs in India

5. Duration and expected team strength

- (i) The estimated timeline for completing this research study is 5 months, including research work, analysis, and report writing.
- (ii) The organisations should fulfil the following criteria for the purpose of applying for this EoI document-
 - Experience in handling project work related to the MSME sector in the past 10 years with a minimum individual project cost of INR 30 Lakhs. Preference shall be given to those organisations who have specific experience of executing such projects for Central Government Ministries, Departments or State Governments.
 - The Principal Investigator (PI)/Project Lead (PL)/Project Manager (PM) should possess a Doctorate degree in Economics, Public Policy, Artificial Intelligence, or Technology Innovations from a recognised university which has been ranked among the top 50 universities as per NIRF or amongst top 20 global universities as per QS rankings in 2024 along with a minimum of 15 years of expertise in aspects related to MSME sector. Similarly, the Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) should possess a Masters in Economics, Public Policy, Artificial Intelligence, or Technology Innovations from a recognised university which has been ranked among the top 50 universities as per NIRF or amongst the top 20 global universities as per QS rankings in 2024 along with a minimum of 10 years of expertise in aspects related to MSME sector.

Format of Expression of Interest (EoI)

Respondents Ref No.:

Date:

Name-

Designation-

----- Vertical,

NITI Aayog,

Sansad Marg, New Delhi

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: RESPONSE TO – EOI FOR _____

We, the undersigned, offer the following information in response to the Expression of Interest sought by you vide your Notification No. _____, dated _____

1. Scope of work and organisation

- (i) The broad scope of work or service (briefly in about 100 words -Remember to tailor the content to the specific project or opportunity you're expressing interest in.)
- (ii) Type of Inputs to expected be provided by NITI Aayog on the subject
- (iii) Eligibility of the Applicant(s) for the EoI/study (Lead Applicant as applicable):

Type of organisation	Address of Organisation	Registration details	Single or Joint or collaboration (Name of all organisations)	Whether blacklisted by Govt of India/ State Govt/any Other department

2. Required Documents:

- (i) Copy of Registration Certificate of the Institution/Organisation **OR** Articles of Association {Copy of the Constitution/MOA (Memorandum of Association) of the Institute/ Any letter issued by UGC if University }
- (ii) Registration number (Copy) in NGO-Portal “Darpan” of NITI Aayog, if applicable.
- (iii) Photo copy of PAN card of the organisation.

3. Undertaking: As per **Annexure – III** [To be given separately on A4 size letter head of the Applicant/ Lead Applicant)

4. Information of PI and Organisation

Details of Bidder	
1.	Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
2.	Address of PI
3.	Status of the Organisation (Public Ltd./ Pvt. Ltd./ NGO/ Society/Trust/ University/ Autonomous Body/ Deemed University)
4.	Status as per Registration certificate/ Act

5.	Name and Designation of the contact person:	
	Telephone No. (with STD code)	
	Mobile Number	
	Email of the Contact/ key person	
	Fax No. (with STD code)	
	Website:	
6.	Particulars of associate applicants/ JV members/ consortium members/ sub-contractors/collaborators	

- A. We have examined and have no reservations to the EoI Document including the self-declaration or any addendum that may be issued by NITI Aayog.
- B. We are duly authorized to represent and act on behalf of all collaborating applicants, which shall include jointly and severally / JV/ consortium/ sub-contractors as applicable.
- C. Our response is valid till _____ (Minimum validity is of three months from the submission deadline)

Yours sincerely,

(Sign)

NAME OF THE ENTITY

NAME OF THE AUTHORIZED PERSON

DESIGNATION

NATURE OF AUTHORISATION- BOARD RESOLUTION/LETTER OF AUTHORITY/ MOA/OM/POA
DATE

OFFICE SEAL/STAMP

SELF-DECLARATION FORM (to be printed on the applicants letter head)

----- hereby declares to NITI Aayog that:

1. In the last three years, we, the lead applicant or any of our Associates / partners/ consortium members have neither failed to perform on any contract, as evidenced by imposition of a penalty by an arbitral or judicial authority or a judicial pronouncement or arbitration award against the Applicant, nor been expelled from any project or contract by any public authority nor have had any contract terminated by any public authority for breach on our part.
2. We as Respondent(s) do not have any Conflict of Interest in accordance with the scope of the EOI in terms of projects or studies or assignments either ongoing or completed: having competing interests or constituting the same key personnel, during the preceding 3 (three) years as on the deadline of EoI submission.
3. We have not directly or indirectly or through an agent engaged or indulged in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, coercive practice, undesirable practice or restrictive practice, in respect of any tender or request for proposal or convicted by a Court of Law or indicted or adverse orders passed by a regulatory authority which would cast a doubt on our ability to undertake the Consultancy for the Project.
4. In regard to matters relating to security and integrity of the country, we have not been charge-sheeted by any agency of the Government or convicted by a Court of Law for any offence committed by us or by any of our Associates.
5. We are solvent and **are not** having our management affairs administered by the Courts or IBC. We are in the position to continue being sustainable in connection to performance of the obligations for this Consultancy procurement action.
6. We shall abide by all the conditions of the REoI and the terms in respect of any matter arising out of the detailed RFP Document if to be submitted on being shortlisted or concerning or relating to the Selection Process including the award of Consultancy.

Yours sincerely,

(Sign)

NAME OF THE ENTITY

NAME OF THE AUTHORIZED PERSON

DESIGNATION

NATURE OF AUTHORISATION- BOARD RESOLUTION/LETTER OF AUTHORITY/ MOA/OM/POA

DATE

OFFICE SEAL/STAMP