



Ministry of IT & Telecom  
DIGITAL PAKISTAN

**Ignite**  
NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FUND

# Challenge-driven Innovation Fund (CIF)

Powered by Ignite



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Ignite was established with the goal of supporting breakthrough technologies and game-changing innovations in key enabling technologies with the potential to scale up and become market leaders.

The Challenge-driven Innovation Fund aims to stimulate collaborative interdisciplinary research within the strategic priority areas of relevance to present or future Pakistan-based industry and society. The objective is to ask the innovators to help solve the problems facing the country. A consortium of (applicants from) universities, industry and/or research organizations will be eligible to submit research proposals. Project participation from industry, public authorities or other relevant organizations will be considered a merit.

### PRIORITY THEMES

- ▶ Transport & Smart Mobility
- ▶ Health & Well-being
- ▶ Smart Cities & Communities
- ▶ Digital Industry
- ▶ Climate Change & Environment
- ▶ Education & Learning
- ▶ Digital Life
- ▶ Connectivity & Interoperability
- ▶ ICT- enabled Agriculture
- ▶ Smart Energy
- ▶ Safety, Security & Reliability

### EVALUATION PROCESS

Grant awards will be made through an open, rigorous, transparent, competitive and merit-based process consistent with international standards for funding research and innovation projects.

**DURATION** ▶ 2 – 3 years

**ANTICIPATED FUNDING** ▶ Starting from  
**Rs. 10 million per project**

Proposals must be submitted online  
on the prescribed form, available on website

<https://ignite.org.pk/CIF>

Last date to submit  
the project outline is

**August 7, 2022**





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## About CIF

The CIF aims to build on new, cutting-edge directions in information and communication technology to disrupt a field and a market or create new opportunities by realizing innovative technological solutions grounded in high-risk/high-gain research and development. With each specific challenge, the Ignite will establish a portfolio of projects that explore different perspectives, competing approaches, or complementary aspects of the challenge.

The objective is to ask the innovators to help solve the problems facing the country. A consortium of (applicants from) universities, industry and/or research organizations will be eligible to submit research proposals. Project participation from industry, public authorities or other relevant organizations will be considered a merit.

## Priority Themes

- ▶ Transport & Smart Mobility
- ▶ Health & Well-being
- ▶ Climate Change & Environment
- ▶ Education & Learning
- ▶ ICT enabled Agriculture
- ▶ Smart Energy
- ▶ Smart Cities and Communities
- ▶ Digital Industry
- ▶ Digital Life
- ▶ Connectivity and Interoperability
- ▶ Safety, Security and Reliability

## Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ The CIF supports collaborative research and innovation from consortia. The proposal must be submitted by the coordinator on behalf of the consortium that includes at least two independent Pakistan-based legal entities (i.e., university/research organization and industry).
- ▶ International collaborations are encouraged when the international partner brings a unique added value to the project team.

## Duration

The project duration is 2 – 3 years.



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## Evaluation Process

The selection of grant awards will be made through an open, rigorous, transparent, competitive, and merit-based process consistent with international standards for funding research and innovation projects. The evaluation process consists of three sequential steps:

- ▶ **Project Outline (PO) Review**  
Administrative review will be undertaken by the Ignite to ensure that PO is eligible to submit a full proposal. Subsequently, each PO will be assigned to a review panel which will determine whether the proposed research concept would lead to a substantive contribution to addressing the socio-economic development issues of Pakistan.
- ▶ **Desk Evaluation of Full Project Proposal (FPP)**  
FPP will be evaluated by at least two members of the Panel consisting of teams of experts including international academic leaders and subject matter experts.
- ▶ **Presentation before Expert Panel**  
The core team of shortlisted proposal will pitch their idea/solution to a panel of experts including international academic leaders and subject matter experts. The Expert Panel will assess each proposal according to a scoring rubric and recommend the proposal for final approval.
- ▶ **Final Selection**  
The Project Management and Appraisal Committee (PMAC)/Board of Ignite will make the final decision.

## Anticipated Funding

Starting from Rs. 10 million per project. Co-financing including in-kind and cash contributions by industry partners will be considered a merit and is an indicator of industry support. The following benefits will be admissible:

- ▶ *salaries*
- ▶ *travel costs*
- ▶ *patents*
- ▶ *equipment*
- ▶ *institutional overheads etc.*

## How to apply?

Proposals must be submitted online on the prescribed formats, available on Ignite website <https://ignite.org.pk/CIF>.

- ▶ **Project Outline (PO) Submission**  
Duly filled PO on the prescribed format along with required documents must be submitted online.
- ▶ **Full Project Proposal (FPP) Submission**  
FPP are accepted only from PIs of shortlisted POs.

**Ignite – National Technology Fund**

Ministry of IT & Telecommunication  
Government of Pakistan

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, TF Complex, Mauve Area, G-9/4, Islamabad  
Tel: (051) 910 7441 – 46 | Fax: (051) 910 7447