

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

FOR

“Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions (FIST)” GRANT.

In recent years, scientific community has expressed great concern about the lack of infrastructure facilities for imparting good quality of higher education and conducting research in emerging fields of science and engineering. Several efforts have been made in past to strengthen research as well as teaching in carefully identified areas and university departments. These departments are now in a stage for further strengthening of their infrastructure to enhance their visibility both nationally and internationally. It has also become necessary to extend such infrastructure support to other higher technical and medical educational institutions.

Keeping all these factors in mind, a new scheme entitled “Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions – (FIST)” has been initiated.

The Terms and Conditions:

- The grant being released under the scheme is for strengthening infrastructure of the identified department for teaching and research and shall be spent exclusively for this purpose. The Department shall constitute a “**Project Implementation Group**” with 2-3 Faculty Members including younger faculty members under the overall supervision of the Head/ Chairman/ Dean of the Department. The **Project Implementation Group** would be responsible and accountable to DST for all aspects of implementation of such project during its 5 years project duration. The Department shall inform FIST Program Secretariat on the composition of the **Project Implementation Group** before releasing of funds etc.
- Facility created under FIST support shall not be kept with the custody of an individual faculty member in the Department and shall be made accessible to all the faculty members all the time.
- There should not be any deviation from the Budget Heads as approved by DST. In case, if it is very necessary, a request can be made to the DST for consideration.
- The grants-in-aid for “**Networking and Computational Facilities**” being released under the scheme should be utilized for creating a “**Central Computer Lab**” in the identified Department/ Centre for teaching and research with the following guidelines / norms:
 - a. Internet Connectivity (to be provided by Institution)
 - b. Server + Hub + Modem
 - c. Several PCs or Net-Computers proportional to number of students enrolled
 - d. UPS
 - e. Access for Students and Faculties in the Department

The Institution should also make sure that this grant is not meant for just providing PCs to each of the Faculty members in the Department.

- The grants-in-aid under “FIST” are to provide infra-structural facilities for research and teaching in the department. Therefore, **no provision of Overhead Charges** is admissible. **Please note that the scheme does not allow any provision for building/ construction and recruitment of staff** etc.

- All the assets acquired from the grant will be the property of the Government of India and should not, without the prior sanction of the Department, be disposed off or encumbered or utilized for purposes other than those for which the grant has been sanctioned.
- All efforts should be made to procure the equipment and other items at the earliest to avoid cost escalation due to foreign exchange fluctuation and should abide all procedures laid out by the grantee institution. In case it is found that the Department is not able to use the funds within two years of its release, the Department of Science & Technology shall have the right to withdraw the project from the Department/ University.
- The Institute will furnish to Department of Science & Technology, Utilization Certificate and an audited Statement of Accounts (in DST format) pertaining to the grant (along with Progress Report) within three months following the end of each financial year.
- After receiving the grant by the Department/ Centre, Department of Science & Technology will review the technical & financial progress including utilization of the grant on an annual basis with an appropriate mechanism. The Department reserves the right to terminate the support at any stage if it is convinced that the grant has not been properly utilized or appropriate progress is not being made.
- A register of the permanent/semi-permanent assets acquired wholly or mainly out of this grant should be maintained in the prescribed form and a copy thereof furnished to this Department. Such register of assets and the accounts maintained shall be available or open to scrutiny by Audit.
- Any unspent amount sanctioned would be surrendered to the Government as a Demand Draft in favour of Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi. Any carry forward of funds to the next financial year may be considered only with the specific approval of the Department.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, at his discretion, shall have the right to access to the book accounts for this support. **The Department shall open an interest earning Bank account for operation of funds being transferred by DST. The interest thus earned should be reflected appropriately in the Financial Statement of each year submitted to the Department of Science & Technology and will be adjusted against further transfer of installment of the grant.**
- In order to give visibility to the identified department, the department may be called as **“DST-FIST Sponsored Department”**. This may be suitably displayed.

Signed by

Signed by

Head of the Department/ Centre

Head of the University / Institute or Principal of College