

4/9/2024-9<sup>th</sup> EPC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Textiles  
National Technical Textiles Mission  
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Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> December 2024

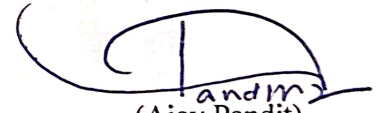
**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Revised operational guidelines of “Grant for research & Entrepreneurship across aspiring innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)” Scheme under National Technical Textile Mission (NTTM).**

The Competent Authority has approved Revised Operational guidelines of “Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)” Scheme under National Technical Textile Mission (NTTM), which are enclosed herewith for information of all stakeholders.

These revised guidelines shall be effective from 26.12.2024 on all proposals presented before Empowered Programme Committee.

Encl.: As above

  
(Ajay Pandit)

Joint Mission Director (R&I), NTTM

To

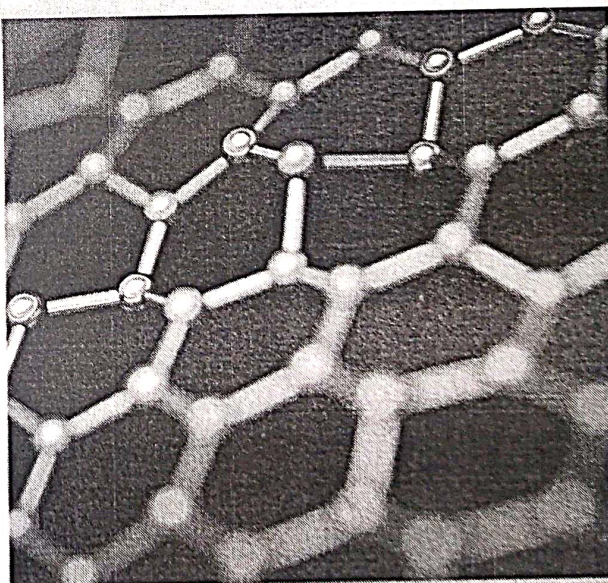
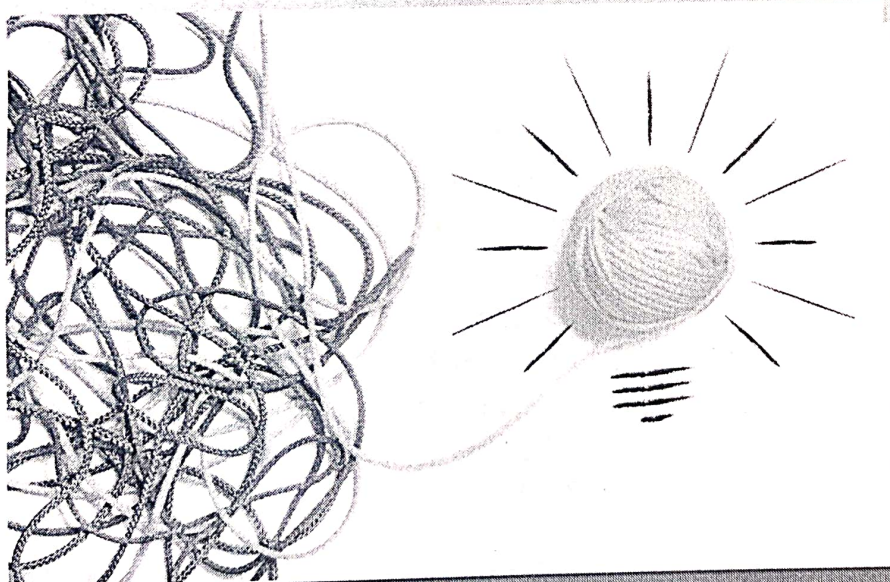
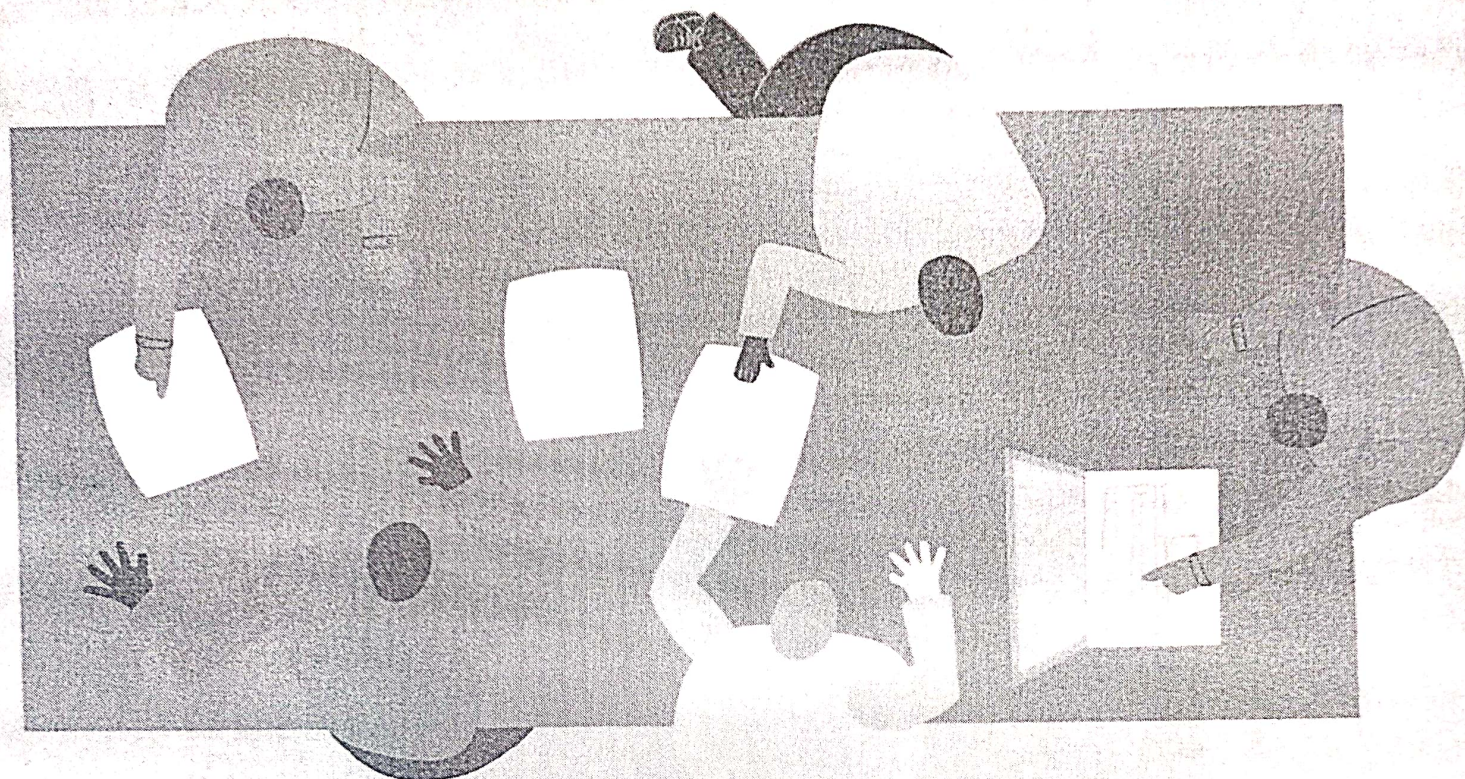
1. All the stakeholders
2. NTTM Website





वस्त्र मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**TEXTILES**

**The National Technical Textiles  
Mission, Ministry of Textiles,  
Government of India**



**General Guidelines for Grant for Research &  
Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in  
Technical Textiles (GREAT) - Revision 1**  
**December 2024**



## **1. Introduction**

**1.1** The Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) was launched in August 2023 under the Research, Development, and Innovation Component of National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).

**1.2** GREAT encourages young innovators, scientists/technologists, and startup ventures in the field of Technical Textiles to translate their ideas into commercial technologies/products and make India self-reliant. It supports individual entrepreneurs or start-ups for functional prototypes or commercialization of their technologies for Technical Textiles.

**1.3** Under GREAT, Ministry of Textiles (MoT) provides **grant-in-aid of normally upto INR 50 Lakhs for a period of 18 months.**

## **2. Objectives**



GREAT believes in utilizing the inexhaustive talent pool and expertise of India in Technical Textiles sector to bring innovative products/technologies to the market:

- i. Support young innovators/entrepreneurs in Technical Textiles to translate their prototypes to technologies/products.
- ii. Support commercialization of technologies developed by innovators/startups in Technical Textiles.
- iii. Bring forward a culture of rapid translation of ideas/prototypes to products through collaboration and association of different partners in the country and establishment of start-ups ecosystem in Technical Textiles.

## **3. Coverage and thrust areas for support**

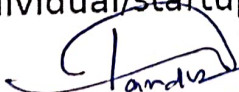
### 3.1 Coverage - All 12 segments of technical textiles.

### 3.2 Thrust Areas:

- Development of High-performance fibers like Meta aramids, para aramids, carbon fibre, glass fibre, high tenacity/super high tenacity nylon, high tenacity/super high polyester, high tenacity/super high polypropylene, high tenacity/super high viscose, ceramic fibre, Zylon, ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene, nylon 66.
- Development of High-performance composite fabrics for cement reinforcement.
- Development of Clean-room facilities using technical textiles, Membrane and Coating development.
- Plasma and Water-less technology in technical textiles.
- Bio-Degradable Technical Textiles; Innovative Methodology for disposability of Technical Textiles materials, Sustainable and Recyclable Textile materials etc.
- Integration of Technical Textiles with applied sciences that may include Engineering Smart Textiles through use of Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, 3D/4D Printing and Rapid Prototyping, Drones, HMI, Robotics, Sensors, etc., for Human Protection, Plant protection, Environment protection, and related disciplines to potentially facilitate transforming the technical textiles markets and application areas thereof in India.
- Development of Indigenous Machinery/Equipment/Instruments are also supported.

### 3.3 Note:

- i. Under GREAT scheme, basic Ideas /exploratory research projects and projects lacking novelty shall not be supported.
- ii. Also, GREAT is not a research fellowship programme. It cannot be used to support PhD or any other academic research.
- iii. GREAT support shall be provided only once to any individual/startup.


  
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## 4. Eligibility Criteria:

### 4.1 For individual applicant:

- i. The individual applicant should be an Indian citizen of minimum age of 21 years on the day of application (defined in section 11).
- ii. The primary applicant should be the Project Leader (as per Section 5) and shall be responsible for all communication and decision making related to the grant.
- iii. The applicant must be incubated in an Incubator. At the time of application, the applicant is expected to have identified an Incubator. Agreement with the Associated Incubator is required for the final approval by Empowered Programme Committee (EPC).
- iv. If the applicant is under formal employment/ associated (or a student/researcher) with an academic or research organization, then the applicant must produce a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the previous employer or head of institution as the case may be, clearly indicating that the applicant:
  - Is allowed to apply for the GREAT grant and there is no conflict with the current duties/obligations of the applicant and the scheme of GREAT grant.
  - Accept funding support (if successful) as an individual.
  - Manage the funds in individual capacity under Central Nodal Account (CNA) mechanism of Government of India.
  - Can create an Enterprise.
- v. Alternatively, the applicant needs to provide an Undertaking that he/she plans to terminate his/her association with the current employer and take up the project full time in the event of the grant approval. An approved resignation/ relieving/ retirement letter shall be required before the release of the grant.



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- vi. The individual must have a registered company/start-up before release of the grant.
- vii. If the applicant is formally employed with a for-profit Startup Company,
  - The application should be submitted under Startup Company; or
  - Alternatively, the applicant needs to provide an undertaking that he/she plans to terminate his/her association with the current employer and take up the project full time in the event of the grant approval (An approved resignation/ relieving/ retirement letter will be required before the release of the grant).
- viii. Individual who is a promoter/shareholder of a Technical Textiles' Startup Company shall not be eligible to apply as an individual, irrespective of the percentage of shareholding in the Startup Company. In such a case, the application can be submitted through Startup Company, if the Startup Company meets the required eligibility criteria as detailed below.

#### 4.2 For Startup Company:

- i. The Startup should be incorporated as a private limited company or registered as a partnership firm or a limited liability partnership with a turnover less than INR 100 Crores in any of the previous financial years.
- ii. The Startup should be working towards innovation/ improvement of existing products, services and processes and should have the potential to generate employment/ create wealth. An entity formed by splitting up or reconstruction of an existing business shall not be considered a "Startup"
- iii. The Company should be registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956/2013.
- iv. The incorporation date of the Company should not be greater than 5 years at the time of applying for GREAT call for application submission.



6

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- v. A minimum of 51% of the capital should be owned by resident Indian citizen(s) /or Indian companies which are ultimately owned and controlled by resident Indian citizen(s) to be qualified for the GREAT application.
- vi. Startup Company's application should be represented by a Project Leader (defined in section 5).
- vii. The Startup Company should have adequate and functional R&D facility to execute the project, or they must be associated/incubated at an incubator for the project.
- viii. If an applicant Startup Company, in which any promoter holding more than or equal to 20% of the shares, is a co-promoter or a partner of another ineligible Startup Company, then the applicant shall not be eligible.

**4.3** The verification of the Individual/Startup Company shall be undertaken by the Associated Incubator.

**4.4** National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), Ministry of Textiles may verify the documents at any time at its own discretion and if there is any discrepancy, the grant will be cancelled, and necessary deemed-fit action (s) shall be taken.

**4.5** All the guidelines of Government of India are applicable, and any new guidelines will be applicable retrospectively.

## **5. Project Leader:**

**5.1** Every proposal must have a Project Leader who shall take responsibility for the technical and managerial aspects of the project. The project leader shall be required for both individual applicants and startups.



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- i. The Project Leader must be technically qualified to undertake the project. The Project Leader must have completed basic undergraduate training in any discipline.
- ii. If the proposal is shortlisted for presentation in front of Selection Committee(s), then the Project Leader shall be required to present the proposal to the committee along with the associated incubator. On approval of the project, the PL should agree and submit the acceptance letter of terms and condition as stipulated in the approval letter.
- iii. Project Leader must be a majority equity/shareholder in the applicant Startup Company and should have decision making power.

## **6. Project Duration**


**6.1** The funding shall be provided for a period of up to 18 months. The project shall be implemented in a Milestone-based manner with at least Two Milestones.

## **7. Financial support**

**7**

### **7.1 For startup/individuals:**

- i. The funding support under GREAT shall be in the form of Grant-in-aid.
- ii. The extent of funding shall be normally up to INR 50 Lakhs. The funding amount should be in round figure.
- iii. The fund will be released as sanctioned by the competent authority.
- iv. The indicative fund allocation for two milestones shall be released in 3 installments:
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Installment:** After approval of the proposal by NTTM and signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/legal agreement between the start-up and the associated incubator: **40%**



8

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- **2<sup>nd</sup> Installment:** Completion of 1<sup>st</sup> Milestone (M1): **40%**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Installment:** Completion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Milestone (M2), including Completion of Project and submission of Project Completion Report: **20% on reimbursement basis**

v. Guidance related to planning and utilization of funds has been provided in Section 16.

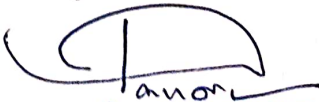
**NOTE:** The financial support to GREAT grantees (Individual/Startup Company) shall be channeled through the Associated Incubators (AI) only. AI are the incubators which are associated with the Individual/ Startup Company.

## 7.2 For Associated Incubators:

- i. 10% of the total sanctioned Cost (GOI Share) to the startup/individual shall be given to the associated incubator in proportion to the approved milestones-based funding pattern for the startup. (Illustration: If the total approved project cost to the startup is INR 50 lakhs (INR 45 Lakhs GOI share and 5 Lakhs startup share), then the total amount released by NTTM would be INR 49.5 lakhs, out of which INR 45 lakhs would be for the startup and INR 4.5 lakhs would be for the associated incubator. The release of fund done by the Ministry of Textile's will be in the ratio of 40:40:20. The release of fund of startup will be in 3 installments of INR 18, 18, 9 lakhs respectively and for the incubator it would be split similarly into INR 1.8, 1.8, 0.9 lakhs).
- ii. If an incubator is associated with multiple startups/individuals, separate funding shall be given to the associated incubator for each startup/individual.

**Applicant(s) can choose incubators from Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), National Institute of Technology (NITs), Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISERs), Textile Research Associations (TRAs), Centre of Excellence (COE), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), other such incubators recognized by IISc and Institutions associated/affiliated with Ministry of Textiles like National**

9

  
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Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), etc. The Incubators recognized and supported by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Atal Incubation Centers shall also include in the scheme.

## **8. Intellectual Property:**

**8.1** The intellectual property generated through the GREAT grant shall reside with innovator or startup or jointly shared by the startup and associated incubator as per their agreement.

## **9. Investment by the Start-up:**

**9.1** The startup is required to invest at least 10% of the total sanctioned amount in two equal installments or a one-time investment of the said amount.

**9.2** The first installment shall be made before release of the grant and the second installment after achievement of the 1st milestone.

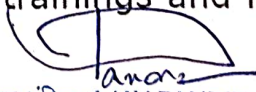
## **10. Obligations of the Associated Incubator:**

**10.1** The associated incubator shall promote the GREAT scheme, assist the applicants for submission of proposal.

**10.2** The associated incubator should disburse funds to the beneficiary startups after receiving from MoT as per the project sanctioned letter.

**10.3** The fund meant for the associated incubator shall be utilized for their administrative expenditure, due diligence, assistance, and monitoring progress of beneficiary startups.

**10.4** The associated incubator shall be required to provide technical and business mentoring, trainings and intellectual

  
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property, legal support and any other assistance required by the startup.

**10.5** A startup recommended by the associated incubator for assistance under this scheme shall not be charged any fees except for space and infrastructure including testing equipment(s).

**10.6** A formal agreement shall be executed between the startup/individual and the associated incubator before the final EPC meeting, outlining the terms and conditions of their partnership. This agreement will serve as a legally binding document that stipulates the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of both parties. The agreement will clearly define the scope of the associated incubator's support, including the provision of resources, mentorship, networking opportunities and royalty, if any. It will also specify the startup/individual's commitment to the associated incubator's program and its adherence to the associated incubator's guidelines.

## **11. Application Process**

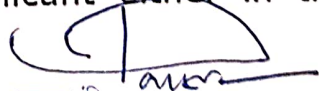
**11.1** National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), Ministry of Textiles shall invite applications under GREAT portal, link mentioned below for reference:  
<https://nttm.texmin.gov.in/StartupRegistration/StartupUserRegistration>

**11.2** Applicants are advised to fill-up and submit their applications along with the recommendation letter from respective associated incubators on Ministry of Textiles website early.

**11.3** Requests for changes in a proposal once submitted shall not be entertained.

**11.4** Providing incomplete or incorrect information intentionally shall be viewed adversely and legal action as deemed fit may be taken upon the applicant either in the form of

11

  
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disqualification or blacklisting. The applicant must ensure that all information submitted is accurate to the best of their knowledge.

**11.5** In case of proposal rejection, the applicant can apply again if significant improvement has been made to rejected original proposal.

**11.6** GREAT shall not support proposals which are intended towards expansion of production capacities.

**11.7** Compliance to Clause 4.2 (i), 4.2 (v), 4.2(viii) and 5.1(iii):- Compliance to all these four clauses of the GREAT guidelines should be supported by an Undertaking

**11.8** The National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) under the Ministry of Textiles reserves the right to terminate the project at any time if Ministry is convinced that false information/documents have been submitted, or funds have not been used for the purpose for which they were released. Appropriate action not limited to recovery of released amount shall be taken which may include blacklisting, debarring, and legal action.

**11.9** The proposed objectives and deliverables should not have received funding support from any other agency. An undertaking in this regard shall be submitted at the time of submission of the proposal.

## **12. Selection Process**

**12.1** GREAT selection process is a multi-tier process involving following steps:

- **Step 1: Examination & Eligibility Check by NTTM, Ministry of Textiles:** Post complete verification of applications and recommendation by the associated Incubators. NTTM, Ministry of Textiles shall further screen the applications for eligibility requirements as laid out in the scheme document and appropriateness.



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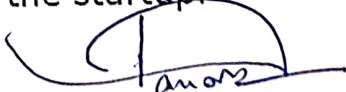
- **Step 2: Presentation and Review by EPC:** The Proposals recommended by NTTM, shall be reviewed by the Empowered Programme Committee (EPC), Ministry of Textiles.

### **13. Signing of Agreement, Fund Disbursement, Monitoring and Review Process**

- 13.1** Funds shall be disbursed through TSA model, under central sector scheme as upgraded/ modified from time to time.
- 13.2** After release of the first installment to the associated Incubators through CNA, the associated Incubators shall review and monitor the progress of the startup and submit quarterly report to the NTTM.
- 13.3** Installments shall be released to associated incubators upon submission of proofs of achievement of milestones as approved in the proposal by NTTM, Ministry of Textiles.
- 13.4** Subsequent disbursement shall be linked to the achievement of previously specified milestones as per agreement between the Startup and the associated Incubator.
- 13.5** Based on approved project milestones, the NTTM shall periodically monitor progress and review the project.
- 13.6** Feedback from the Industry/market experts or investors must be included in the final report. The associated incubator should facilitate the interaction as required.

### **14. The success of project will be judged based on following criteria:**

- 14.1** Prototype, product development, and field trials.
- 14.2** Market launch, investment from investors for further milestones.
- 14.3** Jobs creation and turnover of the startup.

  
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## 15. Indicative Evaluation Criteria


**15.1** GREAT Proposals should highlight the following points:

- i. Novelty.
- ii. Project plan
- iii. Market demand and commercialization strategies.
- iv. Challenges and the strategies to overcome them.
- v. Any other significant details.

## 16. Budget Planning

**16.1** The Budget heads typically involve the following:

- i. **Equipment:** Generally, equipment shall not be funded under this scheme, however, upon discretion of the review committee it may be allowed on case-to-case basis.
- ii. **Manpower:**
  - This head shall be considered for manpower/salary head/honorariums.
  - Scientific advisors/ mentors or academic partners shall be remunerated through honorarium only. The honorarium amount shall be as per the policy of the Institute or the associated incubator.
  - No team members of the Start-up shall receive salary/stipend/fellowship from two sources simultaneously (GREAT, NTTM and any other source).
- iii. **Consumables:**
  - All chemicals, raw materials etc. could be purchased from this head.
  - Office consumables shall be allowed only in contingency.
- iv. **Outsourced services:** Outsourcing may include:
  - Facilities not available with the associated incubator.
  - Use of pilot scale facilities.
  - Consultancy from industry/experts for specialized requirements.

  
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**v. Contingency:**

- Contingency includes expenses towards minor variations in any of the above budget heads, meeting expenditure towards unplanned activities.
- It may include project related expenses incurred for setting up of Startup Company during GREAT tenure, stationery charges, incidental expenses, travel, conference registration, etc.
- It may also include fee for patent drafting, filing, publication, examination, and related services.

**vi. AI fee<sup>1</sup>: AI fee can be used for:**

- Charges for services availed by the grantee at the associated incubator
- Rentals for incubation space or startup's R&D premises.
- The above guidelines shall be followed unless there is a specific exemption by, NTTM, Ministry of Textiles.

**17. Documents required during submission/after approval**

**17.1** Applicants shall be expected to show documentary evidence for verification by the Mission Directorate:


**i. Along with the application:**

- Letter of recommendation or MoU with the associated incubator.
- Evidence of access to unique sample(s)/ facility(ies) needed to execute the project.

**ii. After approval of the proposal and before release of the first installment of the Grant:**

- Formal agreements/ MoUs with other key facility(ies) providers/ suppliers

<sup>1</sup> AI fee is separate from the financial support to the Associated Incubator by NTTM, MoT as defined in section 7.2.

  
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- Any other due diligence documents requested on case-to-case basis by NTTM (e.g. technology in-licensing; IP rights clarification; NoC from Institute etc.)
- Undertaking by the applicant that the project with same objectives and deliverables has not received funding from any other agency.
- The individual must have a registered company/start-up before release of the grant.

## **18. Resolution of Disputes**

**18.1** In the event of any dispute between parties, in the first instance, the same shall be resolved by mutual discussion.

**18.2** In case the dispute does not get resolved mutually, Secretary Ministry of Textiles shall be empowered to nominate an arbitrator to decide the dispute. The award made by the arbitrator, shall be submitted to the Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, whose decision shall be binding on both parties.

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