

IMPacting Research, INnovation and Technology – Round IIC

IMPRINT IIC

1st Announcement – Call for Proposal

IMPacting Research, INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT), a unique technology development initiative of the Government of India through the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) for translation of research knowledge into viable technology (products and processes) was launched in November 2015 by the Honorable President and Prime Minister of India. IMPRINT addresses all engineering challenges in 10 broad technology domains.

In IMPRINT Round I, the 2612 initial proposals submitted on line were rigorously reviewed to eventually recommend 259 projects and select 142 projects for funding with 50% support from MHRD and the remaining 50% from a partner Ministry/Department. The progress of these 142 projects was recently reviewed in Aug 2018 and output from a selected few of them will soon be displayed in an exhibition in Feb 2019 to showcase the most promising prototype or products which may graduate into a viable technology.

Encouraged by the widespread enthusiasm and interest about IMPRINT I among the academic community across the country made MHRD launch the next edition, named IMPRINT II with sharper focus, smoother functioning and simplified mechanism of funding, partnering with the Department of Science & Technology (DST). IMPRINT II is steered by Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) and can continue for up to 3 years spanning 4 financial years (FY 2018-19 to FY 2021-22). In IMPRINT II, while individual expert any MHRD funded academic institution may lead as the PI, collaborators from any other institute, institute (private/PSU), R&D units and strategic agencies are allowed to join as Co-PI/partner. Projects with industry support were given preference.

Call for submission of preliminary proposals under IMPRINT II fetched 2145 applications out of which 1625 were found eligible. Rigorous scrutiny in two stages reduced the number to 549 after preliminary and 122 in the final round of selection. Thus the selection of projects under IMPRINT II was even more stringent with a steep success rate of less than 5%. Subsequently, the Steering Committee advised the PACs to re-examine some of the discarded proposals and explore if a few of them can be recommended for funding as an extension of the just concluded IMPRINT IIA and call it say, IMPRINT IIB.

While projects are IMPRINT I and IMPRINT IIA/B certainly addresses a wide range of engineering challenges enumerated under 10 domains, it is felt that a fresh initiative is warranted to devote energy toward specific societal mission areas like pollution, waste utilization, potable water, cyber physical systems, alternative energy resources and some more which can make a huge difference to the lives of million in this country, if successful.

In view of the above, MHRD and DST is happy to launch the next round of IMPRINT II, called IMPRINT IIC (Societal Mission Projects) in Dec 2018 with an aim to seek proposals related to very specific 20 specific technology themes of major societal benefit, selected from the proposals sent by partner ministries. The scope, mandate, timeline, eligibility, format and deliverables of IMPRINT IIC scheme are available in the website: www.imprint-2.in or www.serbonline.in. **The last date for submission of preliminary proposal is January 21, 2019.**