
AICTE has launched a scheme for establishing AICTE-IDEA (Idea Development, Evaluation & Application) Lab in its approved institutions for encouraging students for application of Science, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fundamentals towards enhanced hands-on experience and learning by doing. As a common facility embedded in the institution, IDEA Lab facilitates the students to "engage, explore, experience, express and excel" as desired by the Hon’ble Prime Minister in the wake of release of National Education Policy 2020. These Labs are mandated to function 24x7 in the institutions selected and be available to the colleges, schools and industries around also.

By now, more than 90 institutions have already been identified to set up IDEA Labs spread over 22 states/ UTs across the country and are currently in various stages of development, several of which inaugurated also. The Labs have been organizing series of activities for faculty and students, from colleges, polytechnics and schools and offering them impactful hands-on experience. Based on the roaring success of the Scheme, AICTE has been receiving requests from colleges across the country for allowing them also to establish an AICTE-IDEA Lab in their campus.

AICTE intends to increase the number of these Labs and invites online proposals from institutions (i) in existence for 10 years and (ii) running at least one course with live NBA accreditation as of January 2022 or live accreditation of NAAC, to set up AICTE IDEA Labs using funds of their own (i.e. management/ industry/ affiliating university/ government agencies/ alumni etc). AICTE would like to see these Labs characterized by intense industry-academia interaction and hence, other things being equal, weightage/preference will be given to proposals backed by significant quantum/proportion of funds contributed by industries. The commitment to sustain the Lab beyond two years (in which the Lab has to be made fully functional) will be key determinant in selection of institution.

The institutions selected will have to set up the Lab in 6 months with significant equipment there and show their utilization by conducting activities/events identified in the Scheme Document in another 6 months. For a year, they will be given provisional status and based on the satisfactory performance data of which shall be collected, AICTE will regularize them after evaluation otherwise the provisional status will be withdrawn. They will enjoy the benefit of mentoring, networking and monitoring like all others in the Network. Also, IDEA Labs will have the privilege of registration on Indian Science Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM), which allows institutions to share their facilities and in a reciprocal arrangement access those available in institutions registered on the portal [https://www.istem.gov.in]; also, they have free access to software's like COMSOL, MATLAB, LABVIEW etc.

The institutes desirous of establishing AICTE-IDEA lab and finally selected under the Scheme:

a) Must provide a built-up furnished space of at least 3000 sq. to house the IDEA Lab (2000 sq ft for Lab & 1000 sq ft for student activities; and procure equipment/tools/consumables worth Rs. 80 lakh & conduct activities/events costing Rs. 30 lakh in 2 years (as per Scheme Document);

b) Must send its Faculty Coordinator, Faculty Co-coordinators and at least 4 faculties/technicians (Tech Gurus) to undertake FDPs organized specially for AICTE-IDEA Lab

c) Must have a separate savings bank account for this project, so that expenditure incurred and quantum of revenue generated, aimed at self-sustenance of the Lab is known clearly.

d) Must abide by Terms and Conditions (except financial assistance clause) and observe Code of Conduct for AICTE – IDEA Lab, both given in the scheme document

Interested institutes can visit the AICTE IDEALNET website (https://idealnet.aicte-india.org/) to get more details about the Scheme. We also recommend visiting some of the existing Labs.

For this round of Call for Proposals, the Scheme Document (on the website) shall be read mentioned with the provisions/stipulations in the round.

Please note: The IDEALNET portal for submission of proposal will be opened on 01.01.2023 and last date of submission of proposals is 15.02.2023 up to 05:00 PM

In case of any query, please feel free to contact on the following E-mail/Phone Number – Email: idealab@aicte-india.org.

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Member Secretary