AICTE – Idea Development, Evaluation and Application (IDEA) Lab Scheme 2022-23 (Self-financed)

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, 72 institutions spread over 20 states/UTs across the country have been identified to set up Idea Lab which are currently in various stages of development, several of which 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 success of 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 add 150 Idea Labs during 2022-23 and invites online proposals from AICTE institutions- (a) in existence for last 10 years; and, (b) running at least one course with live NBA accreditation (as on January 2022), to set up AICTE IDEA Labs by managing funds on their own (from 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 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 have to be mandatorily provided), AICTE will regularize them after assessment, otherwise the provisional status will be withdrawn. While having a provisional status, they will enjoy the benefit of mentoring, networking and monitoring like all other existing Labs. Also, IDEA Lab will have the privilege of registration on Indian Science Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM) portal, an initiative of the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India 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 will have access to software’s like COMSOL, MATLAB, LABVIEW etc. at no cost, facilitated by I-STEM.

The institutes finally selected under the Scheme for establishing AICTE-IDEA Lab:

a) Must provide a built-up furnished space of at least 3000 sq. ft to house the IDEA Lab (2000sq ft for Lab & 1000 sq ft for student activities; provide equipment/ tools/ consumables worth Rs 80 lakh; and, 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; and,

d) Must abide by Terms and Conditions given in the Scheme Document and observe Code of Conduct for AICTE – IDEA Lab, also 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 and also apply after registration on the website. For this round of Call for Proposals, the Scheme Document (on the website) shall be read appropriately modified with the provisions/ stipulations in the round.

The last date of submission of online proposals is September 30, 2022, portal (https://idealnet.aicte-india.org/) for which shall open on September 1, 2022.

In case of any query, please feel free to contact on the following- Email: idealab@aicte-india.org; Phone Number 011-29581313 / 011-29581310.

Adv. No. IDC/IDEA Lab/03 Dated: 24.08.2022

Member Secretary