

Indo-U.S. Virtual Networked Joint Centers

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What are the types of Joint Centers that are supported by IUSSTF?

Knowledge R & D Networked Centers aims to encourage joint project implementation on focal areas of thematic and knowledge research through networking thus, paving way to sustainable interactions by promoting excellence and developing long term relationship based on synergy of activities. Networked Centre may also provide opportunities for integrating research with education.

Public-Private Networked Centers enable to foster academia-industry partnership by promoting pre-commercial R & D activities having potential towards applied research and product development. These Centers are aimed to best capitalize on the scientific and technological innovation and entrepreneurship in translating ideas from bench to market place.

2. What would be the review process for the submitted proposal?

The Proposal received would be reviewed on basis of extensive peer-reviews conducted both in India and United States towards Award. The final shortlisting takes several factors into consideration in addition to peer review, such as encouraging new groups as well as topics, background of Indian and US investigators as well as proposed speakers, perceived advantage(s) for both Indian and US sides, potential for developing mutually advantageous collaboration, etc. The selected proposals are announced on the IUSSTF website and the PI's are also informed via electronic mail.

3. Since the R&D Network Center follows 2+2 Model should there be minimum 2 partners from USA and 2 from India? Also, in case an Industry partner from each side (India and USA) is interested, can they participate too? Or both the partners from each side has to be from public research/academic institution?

Each proposed center should have a minimum of 2 Indian and 2 US Partners. There can however be more than two partners on each side as well. If interested, Industries can participate too (this center would then fall under the ambit of "Indo-U.S. Public-Private Networked Centers" Program).

4. Is there any guidance on fund sizes and durations for the projects?

Program Duration: Two Years

Monetary Allocation: Calculated according to the Guidelines. However the maximum budget should be under INR 50 Lakhs for a two-year center.

5. What is the maximum budget a potential center applies for? How much of it can be allocated for carrying out the actual R&D (as opposed to the travel budget head?)

The budget majorly caters to the component of connectivity among the partnering institutions i.e. largely the exchange of faculty and students. The funds would include travel of partners including air tickets, accommodation and a moderate per diem towards meals and out of pocket expenses (within prescribed limits).

The following guidelines should be considered while drafting the budget:

Rate of Subsistence Allowances for visits under IUSSTF supported virtual Joint Centers

(A) Indian Participants visiting USA

Heads	Visit up to 14 days		Visit more than 14 days	
	Faculty	Student	Faculty	Student
Perdiem	US \$ 75.00 Per day	US \$ 50.00 Per day	US \$ 50.00 Per day	US \$ 35.00 Per day
Accommodation	US \$ 150.00 + Tax per day	US \$ 130.00 + Tax per day	US \$ 100.00 + Tax per day	US \$ 75.00 + Tax per day
Associated Cost	US \$ 150.00 Per visit	US \$ 150.00 Per visit	US \$ 150.00 Per visit	US \$ 150.00 Per visit

(B) American Participants visiting India

Heads	Visit up to 14 days		Visit more than 14 days	
	Faculty	Student	Faculty	Student
Perdiem	Rs. 3,000.00 Per day	Rs. 1,000.00 Per day	Rs. 2,000.00 Per day	Rs. 1,000.00 Per day
Accommodation	Rs. 4,500.00 Per day (Guest house/ 3 Star Hotel)	Rs. 1,500.00 Per day (Guest house only)	Rs. 3,000.00 Per day (Guest house)	Rs. 1,000.00 Per day
Associated Cost	US \$ 150.00 Per visit	US \$ 150.00 Per visit	US \$ 150.00 Per visit	US \$ 150.00 Per visit

6. What is Budget ceiling-for each partner? What does “Proof of project funding available with respective partners” refer to? Does this refer to project funding for same application or does it refer to all on-going projects funding available under the specific investigators.

The Budget ceiling for contributions from each partner is left to the discretion of the partnering institutions – there is no specified ceiling/floor for this amount. Proof of Project funding refers to the contribution agreed upon by the Partnering Institutions, specifically towards the proposed center.

7. If funded, could the funding be used for setting up a lab for the Centre?

The JC funding does not support laboratory infrastructure of any kind. It is purely meant for connectivity i.e. movement of faculty/scientists and students between partnering institutions.

8. All the participating institutes have to submit the letters of institutional support stating commitments of the partnering institutions. Do we have a specific format? What should be explained in the letter?

There isn't any specified format for the letter of support from the partners. However, it should be a brief letter from the Partner Institution outlining the Investigator's support to the center, financially or for the manpower involved.

9. Can a Co-PI with an existing center participate in a new proposal? Are there any conflicts or rules about the number of proposals one can be part of?

Since it takes about a year or so for the necessary project approvals and its clearances from concerned Indian government agencies; if by then the earlier awarded project concludes, one may be consider participating in the proposed proposal.

10. Can one show a whole Industry consortium as a single partner Industry or they have to identify a specific Industry partner only?

A whole Industry consortium can be considered. The composition of the consortium along with the roles and responsibilities of each partner should be clearly outlined in the proposal.

11. Would the airline ticket costs disbursed to the University or Principal Investigators will need to request the tickets, or a reimbursement is possible?

The ticketing is taken care by IUSSTF Travel Desk. The PI's need to contact the Travel Desk (traveldeskt@indousstf.org) at least 2 months before the date for travel. The tickets would be booked accordingly. No reimbursements are permissible.

12. Which lead Institution the funds are disbursed to?

The funds are released only to the Indian Nodal Institution.

13. Would the funds cover indirect costs regarding reimbursement of administrative expenses?

No such indirect costs are covered under the funds allocated. The award would only include travel of partners including air tickets, accommodation and a moderate per diem towards meals and out of pocket expenses (within prescribed limits).

14. We understand the proposal should be no more than 25 pages. However, what is the word limit for the individual headers?

There aren't any specified word limits, but the proposal should be restricted to minimum words. The proposal should be well defined and concise.

15. What about the protection of intellectual property (IP)?

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are subject to Annex I- Intellectual Property (IPR Annex) of the Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of India (S&T Agreement,2005), the respective standard IPR provisions of the Parties to the extent it is not in contravention with the IPR annex.

16. How actively would be funding organization be involved throughout the research?

The Funding Agency (IUSSTF) would be actively involved in the progress and monitoring of the project. The Awarded Joint Centers are required to submit a detailed progress report annually.

17. How should the proposal be submitted?

The proposal needs to be submitted by either the U.S or Indian PI to IUSSTF (virtual.center@indousstf.org) with a copy to the other PI and Co-PI's.

Please note that IUSSTF reserves the right to adapt its policies and priorities over time, depending on circumstances. Revisions to these FAQs may be posted at a later date.