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Dr. Vinod Kumar
Director, Promotion Directorate
IN-SPACE

Sub: IN-SPACE Seed Fund Scheme: Announcement of Opportunities for innovation in Full Mission Virtualization for Smart Computing and Control
Dear Sir/Madam,

Greetings from IN-SPACE!!!

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) has been formed under department of space (DOS), to promote, enable, authorize and supervise non-government entities (NGE's) to undertake space activities. As mandated, IN-SPACE would like to promote the excitement and benefits of space applications and explorations to common man i.e., अन्त्योदय |

As Mandated, IN-SPACE in its endeavor to develop private space ecosystem in the country is pleased to announce exciting Seed Fund opportunities in the field of **Full Mission Virtualization for Smart Computing and Control**. The Seed fund Scheme is a pioneering program of IN-SPACE, that seeks to enable the aspirations of upcoming NGEs in the commercial space sector. Under this announcement of opportunities, we will provide the necessary resources, mentorship, and grant-in-aid to selected proposals to develop and scale solutions.

The detailed guidelines for the seed fund scheme are announced vide IN-SPACE/PD/SAO/08 dated July 24, 2025 (refer annexure I for details).

If you have innovative idea or project related to innovation in the area of **Full Mission Virtualization for Smart Computing and Control**, we encourage you to apply and join us in our mission to innovate and execute. To apply for this seed fund scheme online, please visit our website at www.inspace.gov.in.

Some areas of opportunity in the **Full Mission Virtualization for Smart Computing and Control** for space startups along with guidelines are provided in Annexure-II.



We look forward to your applications with innovative ideas that uses space technology to drive progress and improve the quality of life for people and communities around the world.

The last date to receive completed applications is **August 31, 2025**.



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24.07.2025

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निदेशक, संवर्धन निदेशालय/ Director, Promotion Directorate



**Indian National Space Promotion
and Authorization Centre**



Annexure-1

IN-SPACe/PD/SAO/08

July 24,2025

**Guidelines for IN-SPACe Seed Fund
Scheme for Indian Space Start Ups and
Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE)**



**भारत सरकार, भारतीय राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष संवर्धन और प्राधिकरण केंद्र
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**Government of India, Indian National Space Promotion and
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Headquarter, Bopal Ahmedabad -380058**

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Guidelines for IN-SPACE Seed Fund Scheme for Indian Space Start-ups Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE)

1. Introduction

As part of the reforms in the policy for commercial space activities, IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion & Authorization Centre) has been setup as a distinct agency within the Department of Space. As per the Gazette Notification dated 02.10.2021, IN-SPACE has the mandate to promote, enable, authorize and supervise Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) undertaking space activities. To fulfill the above mandate IN-SPACE has conceptualized “**IN-SPACE Seed Fund Scheme for Space Start-ups and Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE)**” to promote start-ups in Space Sector in India.

IN-SPACE acknowledges that the commercial space sector being a niche and nascent industry may have unprecedented challenges in raising financing, particularly for research and development activities. It is the vision of IN-SPACE, to enable the aspirations of upcoming NGEs in the commercial space sector by providing them access to funding in their early stages, to finance the research and development of novel technologies in the space sector. It is the hope of IN-SPACE that through this gesture, not only can startups in the commercial space sector benefit from the funding itself, but the implicit endorsement in the startup’s capabilities by IN-SPACE would lend credence to the startup’s business plan. In order to give shape to this vision, IN-SPACE has formulated this scheme.

The scheme shall be administered by the Promotion Directorate of IN-SPACE.

2. Objectives of the Scheme

The core objectives of the scheme are:

- i. to promote use of space technology by Indian industries
- ii. to facilitate new and innovative technologies development in the space sector
- iii. to create a framework to engage with space start-ups
- iv. to encourage a culture of technology co-creation in space Sector

3. Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for a start-up to apply under the “**IN-SPACe Seed Fund Scheme for Space Start-ups and Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE)**” shall be as follows:

- i. Only DPIIT registered Indian space start-ups and Micro & Small Enterprises (MSE)” registered with Ministry of MSME are eligible to apply.
- ii. Applicants must possess an innovative business idea to develop and demonstrate a product or a service with market fit in space domain. The product should have viability for commercialization with scope of scaling. In this regard, IN-SPACe reserves the right to call for and review the business plan in respect of such product and/or service and/or engage the services of any third party to review the same. Only if, in the discretion of IN-SPACe or any person so appointed by it, the business plan is viable and fulfils the requirements of commercialization or scaling or any other criterion that may be defined by IN-SPACe, will IN-SPACe consider taking further steps.
- iii. The applicants shall declare all the capital raised through grants, awards, equity or any other source at the time of application. IN-SPACe reserves the right to call for any other information from the Applicant as part of the process for evaluating an application.
- iv. Indian ownership in the NGEi should be at least 75% at the time of first disbursement and shall not fall below 60% anytime during the project execution. Additionally, a single block investment by the foreign investor should be less than 25%.
- v. Applicants should be using space technology as the core in its product or service.
The management of the Startups/MSEs shall not be associated with any other subsidiary or parent company in India or abroad working on the similar product/technology either directly or indirectly for which the company has applied for the funding support through IN-SPACe.
- vi. Promoters’ and angel investors investment in the start-up/MSE at the time of disbursement of the milestone grant must at least match the grant being disbursed by IN-SPACe.
- vii. Any additional criteria as may be decided by IN-SPACe in its sole discretion.
- viii. IN-SPACe reserves the right to accept or reject any application with or without assigning any reasons.

4. Nature of Financial Assistance

- i. A grant of up to Rs. 1,00,00,000.00 (Rupees One Crore only) would be provided to selected start-ups and MSEs on milestone-basis, in three or more instalments.
- ii. The exact quantum of grant and instalments for each selected applicant for the first installment will be recommended by the Experts Committee (EC). Subsequent, instalments shall be released to start up upon submission of proofs of achievement of milestones.
- iii. The quantum off first instalment may be up to 40% of total approved commitment.
- iv. The grant should be utilized fully by the start-up within a period of three years from the date of receipt of the first instalment of the assistance.
- v. The applicant receiving grant under this scheme will be required to maintain proper accounts and submit fund utilization certificate, which shall be subject to verification/ audit by IN-SPACE or IN-SPACE appointed agency.
- vi. Applicants shall submit final report and audited fund utilization certificate at the end of the project.
- vii. The IPR generated under the program shall be owned by start-up.
- viii. IN-SPACE reserves the right to impose any other terms and conditions as part of the grant and at the time of executing any agreement for providing such grant.

5. Application Submission and Selection Criteria

- i. *“Announcement of opportunities”* for the seed fund scheme will be made from time to time by IN-SPACE on IN-SPACE Digital Platform (IDP) viz. www.inspace.gov.in along with timeline for application submission and processing etc.
- ii. Please note that the application will be accepted through IDP only. Documents in support of the Application to demonstrate fulfilment of eligibility criterion will have to be uploaded through IDP only. Any document or information not submitted along with the application and/or not submitted through the IDP shall not be considered.
- iii. An Executive Committee (“EC”) will be constituted by the Chairman IN-SPACE, which will be responsible for the evaluation, selection of **IN-SPACE Seed Fund Scheme** Grantee. EC shall consist of members from IN-SPACE Board, IN-SPACE, Senior Government officials, industry and venture capitalists and/or such other persons as may be nominated by IN-SPACE in its sole discretion.

- iv. EC shall also recommend the number of the Grantees not exceeding three for each announcement of opportunities. However, IN-SPACe shall finalize the number of seed fund Grantees against each announcement.
- v. The EC shall evaluate the innovation and novelty of the proposal as per following broad guidelines:
 - a. The proposal should have potential to meet future or existing needs of society and Indian space sector
 - b. Development and commercialization of a new product/ process/ application through indigenous technology
 - c. Significant and quantifiable improvements in the existing product/ process/ application
 - d. Potential to scale up
 - e. Feasibility of the realization of the product and the service using space technology.
- vi. Progress of the proposals selected for grant-in-aid shall be further reviewed and monitored by Project Facilitation and Monitoring Committee (PFMC). PFMC shall consist of IN-SPACe Directors, Joint Secretary and Deputy Directors.

6. Monitoring & Evaluation

- i. PFMC will review the progress periodically.
- ii. The start-up will provide the reports as may be directed by the PFMC after evaluation.
- iii. In case of poor performance of any selected start-up, PFMC can recommend discontinuation of the seed fund support and can recommend further action as it may deem fit.

NB: In case of any dispute the decision of IN-SPACe board shall be final and binding.

7. Expected Outcome

Fostering innovation and technology development in space sector by engaging Indian start-ups.





**Indian National Space Promotion
and Authorization Centre**



Annexture-II

**Announcement of Opportunities in Full Mission
Virtualization for Smart Computing and Control**

July 25, 2025



**भारत सरकार, भारतीय राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष संवर्धन और प्राधिकरण केंद्र
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1 Introduction

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has been formed under department of space (DOS), to promote, enable, authorize and supervise non-government entities (NGE's) to undertake space activities. As mandated, IN-SPACe would like to promote the excitement and benefits of space applications and explorations to common man i.e., अन्त्योदय. IN-SPACe is pleased to announce the launch of a seed fund scheme to encourage and provide seed capital to start-ups and micro & small enterprises (MSE).

Space technology plays a multifaceted role in the development of a country in various ways, contributing to economic growth, national security, scientific research, and more. Some key areas where space technology has major role in the development of a country, viz Communication, Navigation, Earth Observation, Agriculture and Forestry, Weather Forecasting, Environmental Monitoring, National Security, Scientific Research, Resource Management, Disaster Management, Urban planning and Infrastructure Development, Telemedicine, Education and Research, International Collaboration and Economic Growth. One can develop new tools and strategies to solve real-world problems, by leveraging space data, applications, and advanced technologies. These solutions can also be the catalysts for economic growth and innovation in the country.

IN-SPACe acknowledges that the commercial space sector being a niche and nascent industry may have unprecedented challenges in raising financing, particularly for research and development activities. It is the vision of IN-SPACe, to enable the aspirations of upcoming NGEs in the commercial space sector by providing them access to funding in their early stages, to finance the research and development of novel technologies in the space sector. It is the hope of IN-SPACe that through this gesture, not only can startups in the commercial space sector benefit from the funding itself, but the implicit endorsement in the startup's capabilities by IN-SPACe would lend credence to the startup's business plan. In order to give shape to this vision, IN-SPACe has formulated this scheme.



2 Purpose of this Scheme

The start-up ecosystems in the space sector are growing, and during the initial stages, these start-ups require some sort of handholding and encouragement in terms of money, mentorship, access to facilities and transfer of technology from various agencies.

We are seeking proposals from start-ups and micro & small enterprises (MSE) who have innovative ideas in the development of novel spacecraft autonomous operation methodologies. Applicants will be evaluated based on the potential impact of their solutions, the strength of their team and business plan, and their ability to bring their ideas to market.

In order to realise the full potential of downstream applications in Near real time, it is necessary to automate the mission operations. To develop these capabilities IN-SPACe has come out with this unique Seed Fund scheme on Full Mission Virtualisation for Smart Computing and Control. The Full Mission Virtualization of Smart Computing and Control in satellite and launch vehicle technology is set to revolutionize the Space-tech industry. Smart computing systems combine artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), real-time data processing, and automation to improve performance, reduce human intervention, and increase mission success rates. This also allows satellites to perform autonomous operations, including monitoring their health, managing power systems, and controlling payloads etc. With the ability to process data on-board, satellites can filter and analyze large amounts of data in real-time, sending only the most relevant information back to Earth. AI-powered navigation systems have the potential for enabling satellites to adjust their orbits autonomously and navigate through space without manual interventions.

By leveraging AI, machine learning, and autonomous systems, space missions are set to become more efficient, safer, and cost-effective. Innovation in the domains of satellite control dynamics, sensors development, mission planning, orbital dynamics, onboard software, space situational awareness (SSA), Space robotics, communication and space traffic management (STM) is critical to the future of space exploration and satellite operations. As the space environment becomes increasingly congested, and the demand for advanced space-based services grows, there is an urgent need for novel solutions to ensure the sustainability,



efficiency, and safety of space missions. In order to use the untapped potential of the NGEs to solve the real-world problems and bring out the innovative solutions in the new age space management and space-flight dynamics, IN-SPACe announces the opportunities for Indian Start-ups and Small & micro enterprises for seed fund support for innovation in Full Mission Virtualisation in Smart Computing and Control.

2.1 Tentative List of Technology Development Areas

The tentative list of the domains in the proposed segment of Full mission virtualisation, for smart computing and Control are tabulated below but not limited to:

S.No.	DOMAIN	OPPORTUNITIES
1.	Mission planning, design, simulation and analysis	- Develop algorithms that enable autonomous spacecraft to adapt their missions in real time - Propose optimal deployment and maintenance strategies for large satellite constellations - Systems for tracking space debris and planning maneuvers to avoid collisions
2.	Space-flight mechanics	- Use advanced mathematical models to optimize trajectories - Methodologies for coordinating multiple spacecraft to work in conjunction
3.	Space based navigation	- Navigation technologies tailored for commercial applications, enhancing precision in industries like agriculture and logistics. - Navigation solutions for emergency response scenarios - Precise, absolute and relative orbit determination using GNSS, formation flying
4.	Sensors, Attitude estimation, dynamics, guidance and control	- Development and realisation of smaller, lighter and robust sensors - Novel algorithms for real-time attitude determination and control



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		- High fidelity modelling for satellites, - Modern attitude control techniques using novel sensors viz laser etc.
5.	Space systems on-board software development and cybersecurity	- Reducing software development time using cloud computing etc. - Spacecraft autonomous operations - Advanced simulation tools for testing autonomy algorithms in a virtual environment. - Resilient and secure coding practices and software architectures for protection against potential cyber threats - Systems that leverage edge computing principles to perform complex computations onboard,
6.	Space situational Awareness (SSA) and Space Traffic Management (STM)	- Research technologies and methods for removing space debris to ensure sustainable use of orbits. - Next-generation radar and optical systems for Multi object tracking, including smaller debris and satellites. - High-fidelity simulation tools for training operators in SSA and STM
7.	Space Robotics	- Development of algorithms and methods for using robotics for satellite control, manoeuvres and other novel techniques.
8.	Communication	- Software Defined Radios, Beam steering etc - Autonomous RF based precise pointing, tracking and control

However, proposals are not limited to the above-mentioned sectors. Proposals having innovative ideas pertaining to the announced area will be considered.

The following support shall be extended under each sector to the selected start-ups

- 1 Seed fund for transforming an ingenious idea into a prototype application and technology
- 2 ISRO facility support including experimental EO data for validation of the concept



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- 3 Mentorship support for the development of the concept
- 4 Access to the data algorithm as transfer of technology from the Department of Space

3 Proposal Submission and Eligibility Criteria

The application for this AO should be made, in the prescribed form available on IN-SPACe Digital Platform (IDP) viz. www.inspace.gov.in. Please note the application will be accepted through IDP only. Applicants are advised to submit the application as per the format, incomplete applications or applications not as per format shall be summarily rejected.

Please refer **IN-SPACe seed fund scheme for Indian space start-ups and small & micro enterprises (SMEs)**, for eligibility criteria, nature of financial assistance etc. The last date for proposal submission is [August 31, 2025](#)

4 Selection Criteria

An Expert Committee (EC) constituted by the Chairman IN-SPACe, consisting of the members from IN-SPACe Board, IN-SPACe officials, Senior Government officials, industry, and venture capitalists shall evaluate the proposals as per the following broad guidelines:

- a) The proposal should have the potential to meet the future or existing needs existing community and the Indian space sector with socio-economic benefits.
- b) Development and commercialization of a new product/ process/ application through **indigenous** technology and innovation.
- c) Significant and quantifiable **improvements** in the existing product/ process/ application.
- d) The proposal should have the potential for scale-up.

The shortlisted proposals will be recommended for seed funds as well as other support by EC. Shortlisted applicants need to submit the applicable application fee for obtaining support in terms of facilities including experimental EO data, ephemeris and orbital data, mentorship and transfer of technology.

The proposals recommended for the transfer of technology, by EC shall be evaluated by the IN-SPACe technology transfer committee, and need to pay the required technology transfer



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charges to New Space India Limited IN-SPACe if the technology is available and acceptable to the applicant.

5 Monitoring & Evaluation

The progress of the proposals selected against this AO shall be monitored by the Project Facilitation and Monitoring Committee (PFMC). PFMC shall consist of IN-SPACe Directors, Joint Secretary, Deputy Directors, and senior scientists from ISRO.

- a) PFMC will review the progress periodically.
- b) The start-up will provide the reports as may be directed by the PFMC after evaluation.
- c) In case of poor performance of any selected start-up, PFMC may decide to discontinue seed fund and other support.

NB: In case of any dispute the decision of IN-SPACe board shall be final and binding.

