1. What is NCGSA Research Fund?

NCGSA has a provision of research fund of PKR 200 Million. The fund will cater for conducting research activities in the field of Space Science, Technology and Applications, particularly the Geographic Information Science (GISc.). This funding opportunity aims at fostering the transition from research and technology to integration and business. This shall help new space products, processes and solutions to reach the market.

2. Who can apply for NCGSA Research Fund?

a. Faculty members and researchers from Higher Education Institutes in Pakistan
b. Researchers from Research & Development Organizations.

3. Which documents are needed to apply for the research fund?

a. Project Proposal Form
b. Budget Form
c. Outputs & Outcomes Form
d. PI & PIO Form

4. What is the duration of the project?

The maximum duration of a project proposed can be 24 months, however projects less than 24 months may also be considered.

5. How much is the grant?

The maximum grant for a project proposal is 15 million PKR, however proposals may be put up for less than 15 million PKR.

6. What are the research domains in which proposals can be put up?

All research domains within the scope of GIS & Space Applications will be considered however they should not match with the already defined outputs of NCGSA, the detailed areas are also identified at *www.ncgsa.org.pk*

a. *Remote Sensing & Geographic Information Science*
b. *Small Satellite Technology*
c. *Positioning, Navigation & Timing*
d. *Astronomy, Astrophysics & Astrobiology*

      e. Space Popularization & Outreach
      f. Space Applications & Advanced Systems

7. Can contractual employees of HEI's or R&D Organizations apply for the research fund?

Contractual employees may also apply for the research fund; however, the proposed project duration must be less than the remaining contract period of the employee.

8. Is it mandatory for a proposed project to be sustainable?

Projects with sustainability will be preferred and will have a better chance of qualifying for the next stage of selection. In case the proposed project is not sustainable, it must have a considerable socio-economic impact for Pakistan.

9. Is it mandatory to have an industrial Partner for the proposed project?

It is not mandatory to have an industrial partner, however proposals with partner industry/ developmental organization contribution (in cash or kind) will be preferred

10. What is PIO? What are its roles?

PIO stands for Principal Investigator's Organization. PIO is responsible to provide necessary support to the proposed research against the overheads and utilities charges.

11. How do I submit my proposal?

You need to submit the proposal through online submission at www.ncgsa.org.pk, in addition to this you need to email all the proposal documents at researchfund@ncgsa.org.pk; ncgsa@ist.edu.pk; furthermore, you need to send a hardcopy of all the proposal documents via courier at:

<div align="center">

NCGSA Secretariat
Institute of Space Technology,
1, Islamabad Highway, Islamabad 44000
Phone: +92-51-9075799

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12. When will NCGSA Secretariat announce the list of selected proposals?

The selection process shall be completed in 3 steps. In first step, initial scrutiny shall be completed by the evaluation board, followed by a review by Subject Matter Experts. After this stage the

shortlisted proposals' Principal Investigators shall be notified for a presentation for final selection. The list of selected proposals shall be announced by June 15th, 2021.

13. What sort of research is well suitable for the research fund?

Research Fund aims to fund proposals which aim to develop hardware or software solutions, process or services in the domain of GIS & Space Applications. A good example can be an indigenously developed software or equipment which can be sold relevant industries to generate revenue.

14. What if we have no information or have not pursued patent at all?

You may leave section C2 blank while filling the proposal form

15. What are the requirements to be an industrial partner?

The industrial partner must be a developed company/firm/organization with complete company profile legally, working in the field of the proposed project

16. Is it necessary for the proposed project to address SDGs?

Yes, the proposed project must address at least 1 of 17 SDGs.

17. Can the proposed project have more than 1 PI or Co-PI?

The proposed project cannot have more than 1 PI, however the project may have more than 1 Co-PI

18. Is it necessary for the proposed project to be pitched by faculty members from a single HEI?

 The proposed project may have PI from one HEI and a Co-PI(s) from another HEI(s)

19. What is the business plan?

The business plan is your plan to commercialize your research or solution achieved as an output of the proposed project, such that you can generate revenue.

20. Is the PIO liable to provide support for the proposed project?

Yes, the project proposal must be submitted by the approval of Competent Authority of the PIO, therefore agreeing to provide necessary support to the proposed project including infrastructure, facilities etc.

21. Are the clauses for eligibility of PI apply to the eligibility of the Co-PI as well?

Yes, the Co-PI may be a contractual or permanent employee of an R&D organization or an HEI. The proposed project duration may also not be less than the contract period of the Co-PI.

22. Will the permanent items procured through the research fund remain property of the PIO after the project duration?

Yes, the permanent items procured through the research fund remain property of the PIO (HEI) and not the industry/R&D organization after the project duration, however NCGSA has the rights to use them for other research purposes if needed.

23. How will the NCGSA Secretariat monitor the progress of the approved projects under Research Fund?

NCGSA reserves the right to call an internal or external review at any point in time. In addition to this, monthly and quarterly progress reports must be submitted by the PI. Additional stock-taking reviews shall be undertaken by the NCGSA Secretariat. It is through these audits, reviews and monitoring that the biannual payments shall be released, delayed or terminated.

24. Will the re-appropriations in the approved budget heads be allowed to the approved projects?

Re-appropriations in the approved budget heads will not be allowed to the approved projects without prior approval from the NCGSA Secretariat.

25. Can PI, Co-PI or lab staff of the existing labs apply for the research fund?

NCGSA Labs' PI, Co-PI or lab staff may apply for the research fund, however PIs and Co-PIs will not be allowed to draw additional honorarium from the research fund. The lab staff may draw the honorarium for the extra time spent.

26. Who will define the eligibility criteria for the staff to be hired for the Research Fund's approved project?

PI will be responsible to define the eligibility criteria for the staff to be hired, in line with HEC guidelines and university rules or as approved in the project proposal.

27. What expenses can be met using the Contingency Budget Head?

Contingency grant may be utilized on spares for apparatus, photocopies, supporting services, stationary, postage, telephone calls, internet, fax and printing etc. needed in connection with the project.

28. What are the parameters on which the research shall be evaluated during the project execution?

The research shall be evaluated and judged on output and outcomes, financial and physical progress, compliance to time, scope and policies.

29. How often will the grantee report about the project's progress?

The PI shall be responsible to provide monthly, quarterly, biannual and finally the closure reports. according to the specified format.

30. What are the intellectual property guidelines for the research fund approved projects?

Any discovery made, patent, product/process carried out with this grant will be in the name of the PI and the university concerned. Any income accruing therefrom will be shared with NCGSA @ 5%. The remaining income will be shared among Project Team, PIO and Industry according to the formula to be established by the PIO's ORIC. Terms of licensing for the industrial share will also be decided by the PIO's ORIC.

31. Are the approved projects under Research Fund liable to publicize NCGSA through its publications?

Name / Logo / affiliation of NCGSA shall be clearly mentioned in all research outputs (reports, research papers, posters, articles and other publications etc.) and outreach activities (events, trainings, workshops, seminars symposiums and conferences etc.).

32. Can an industry / R&D organization representative be Principal Investigator?

An industrial/ R&D Organization's representative can not be a PI, however he/she can be a Co-PI and draw remunerations if applicable. This is in-light of the fact that PI must be from an HEI and hence responsible for the overall progress and completion of the project.

33. Can Industry/R&D Organization apply without University partnership?

An industry/R&D Organization cannot apply without university partnership, since the PI of the project must be from an HEI

34. Can international industry or university be a partner for the project?

Yes, national and international university / industry can be partners in the project. However, PI must be from an HEI in Pakistan

35. Can a researcher from international university or international industry be a Principal Investigator for project?

No, an international university or industrial representative cannot be a PI, however he/she may be a Co-PI and draw remunerations if applicable.

36. Can a capacity building initiative be pitched for the research funding?

Yes, a capacity building project with a national and significant socio-economic impact may be considered for the research funding.

37. Can a film production, animated cartoon series, book series / application or radio initiative be pitched for the research funding?

Yes, however the project proposal must define the socio-economic impact of such an initiative/project and must be linked with space science, technology and its applications.

38. Is a proposal for academic research without any product or commercialization potential eligible for research funding?

Yes, however proposals with products, commercialization potential, sustainability and/or socio-economic impact will be preferred.

39. Can a PI apply for research funding with more than 1 proposal?

Yes, a researcher from an HEI may apply with as many proposal as he/she desires. However, all proposals must be complete in all aspects to be considered.

40. Is there any limit to have certain percentage of expenditures in HR or Equipment?

Research funding of no more than PKR 15 million shall be granted to a particular project proposal, if accepted. There is no limit on the budget heads within the PKR 15 million bracket. However, NCGSA Secretariat reserves the right to rationalize the budget heads before the approval of the project with consent of the PI.

41. Are financial contributions from industry mandatory?

No, Industry/ R&D Partner may contribute in cash or in kind towards the project.

42. Can an industrial partner be a Co-PI for the project? Can he draw remunerations?

Yes, the industrial/ R&D representative may draw remunerations from the approved project budget if applicable.

43. Can Industrial partner keep hardware equipment after the project?

The industrial partner must handover all the equipment procured from the research funding to the HEI on completion of the project duration.

44. Can a startup apply for the research funding without any academic partner?

No, an HEI partnership is mandatory for a startup, industry or R&D organization willing to apply for the research fund.