DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION,
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CIRCULAR

Higher Education - Technical- Plan Budget 2026-27 - Research Initiatives - INSPIRE - INNOVATION SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR INITIAL RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS SCHEME - Invitation of Proposals for Faculties at various Government Engineering Colleges – Reg.

PLANNING SECTION

No. L5/9383/2026 Thiruvananthapuram, Dated: 13-11-2026

Read:- 1. State Plan Budget 2026-27
2. Note received from SJD ECS ,Dated - 30/10/2026

Keralam Government, as per the State Plan Budget 2026-27 read as (1) above, have provided an outlay of ₹ 613.00 Lakh under the umbrella scheme "Research Initiatives" (Head of Account: 2203-00-004-93) for the overall development of research activities, technical innovation, and infrastructural enhancement across technical education institutions in the State. Under this umbrella head, INSPIRE (Innovation Support Program for Initial Research Endeavours) is one of the established key programs for Faculties of Engineering Colleges under DTE.

Accordingly INSPIRE (Innovation Support Program for Initial Research Endeavours) is formulated as an early-career research support accelerator for newly appointed faculty members across Government Engineering Colleges in Kerala. The scheme provides seed grants to empower newly joined faculty to initiate innovative research projects, generate preliminary data, establish laboratory infrastructure, and lay a strong foundation for securing major external research grants (such as ANRF,MeitY, DST, SERB, AICTE etc) and long-term research academic careers.

2.Scheme Objectives.

To provide seed funding to newly joined faculty members for initiating high-impact research endeavors. To facilitate the generation of preliminary experimental results and proof-of-concept data required for national / International research grant applications. To strengthen research infrastructure, interdisciplinary collaboration, and publication outputs within state engineering colleges.

3. Eligibility Criteria Applicant Eligibility:

Regular faculty members appointed and who joined in Government Engineering Colleges under the Directorate of Technical Education, Kerala on or after 01/01/2019.

4. Financial Assistance & Permissible Expenditure Grant Amount:

Up to ₹ 3,00,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Only) per approved research project. Project Duration: 2 Financial Years .

5. Admissible Expenditure Heads:

Minor Equipment & Experimental Setup / Components (Up to 50%), Consumables, Testing & Analytical Characterization Charges (Up to 30%) Contingency, Software Licenses & Patent Filing Charges (Up to 15%) Technical Travel & Conference Publication Fee (Up to 5%)

6.Inadmissible Expenditure:

Salary/stipend to PI, capital infrastructure build-out, office furniture, standard laptops/desktop PCs, or routine departmental maintenance.

7. Application & Selection Procedure

1. Submission: Eligible faculty members must submit their research proposals in the prescribed proforma through proper channel to the Principal of the respective college.

2. Proposal Scrutiny: A Departmental Research Committee (DRC) headed by the SJD ECS, DTE will evaluate and shortlist proposals based on originality, feasibility, and alignment with national/state technological priorities.

3. Final Sanction: Shortlisted and recommended proposals forwarded by DRC will be processed for final sanction and fund disbursement.

8. Monitoring, Reporting & Deliverables.

1. Progress Report: A mid-term progress report shall be submitted at the completion of 6 months.

2. Deliverables: Every sanctioned project must result in at least one research publication in a peer-reviewed indexed journal (Scopus/SCI) or a patent application filing, alongside a major external research grant proposal draft.

3. Closure: Submission of final project completion report, audited Utilization Certificate (UC), and statement of expenditure at the end of the each financial year.

The expenditure on this account will be met from the Head of Account 2203-00-004-93-PLAN (Research Initiatives - INSPIRE).

The proposal soft copy should reach Planning Section, Directorate of Technical Education on or before 30/11/2026 3 PM through E-Office to L5 Section , CA to SJD ECS and soft copy of the same should be forwarded to planningdte@gmail.com,L5dtekerala@gmail.com. **No hard copies are required for proposal processing in this directorate.**

(Enclosed - Application format)

Dr JAYAPRAKASH P

DIRECTOR

To,

1.Head of Institutions (Principals of Concerned Engineering Colleges.)
2.Accountant General (A &E) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram
3. Superintendent, Finance A Section
4.C.A. to SJD ECS/SFO
5 Assistant Director (Projects)
6 Stock File & Office Copy

Digitally signed by
Jayaprakash P
Date: 13-11-2026
10:40:06

PROJECT PROPOSAL

FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER

INSPIRE - INNOVATION SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR INITIAL RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS

PROJECT TITLE

_____

_____

_____

SUBMITTED BY

_____

(Name of Principal Investigator(Faculty), Department)

_____

(Name of Co-Investigator (Senior Faculty), Department)

_____

(Date of Submission)

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL FOR SUPPORT UNDER INNOVATION SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR INITIAL RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS

CONTENTS

S.No	ITEMS	Page No(s)
1	Cover Sheet	
2	Contents	
3	Detailed Proposal	
4	Bio-Data of the Principal Investigator/ Co-Principal Investigator	
5	Budget Estimates	
6	Undertaking from the Principal Investigator	
7	Endorsement from Head of the Organization	
8	Summary Sheet	

2. Detailed Project Proposal

1. **Title of the Project:** "_____"

2. **Principal Investigators:** *(*Name, Designation and Affiliation)

	PI	**Co-PI**
Name:		
Designation:		
Address:		
Telephone No:		
E-mail:		
Date of birth:		

3. **Area of the Project :**

4. **Duration of the project (Max: 2 years):**

5. **Objectives of the Proposal** *(precise and preferably quantified process parameters/ product specification etc. in the bullet form)**:***

   5.1 Overall Development Objectives
   5.2 Intermediate Objectives (*corresponding to each milestone*)

6. **Critical Review of latest Status of the Technology (minimum 1 page each & with complete references) :**

   6.1. National Status Review
   6.2. International *Status Review*

7. **Justification with reference to current status** *(in terms of technical/ economic/ societal aspects)***:**

8. **Summary of the Project** (*with Schematics, where possible*; *Define the Problem and give technical details)*

9. **Methodology**
   (Please highlight how success in the project execution will be ensured)

10. Work Plan

a. (Provide a bar chart giving project activities)

11. **Expected Outcome in Physical Terms**

a. New/ Upgraded Product
b. New/ Upscaled Process
c. Any other

12. Targeted Specifications of the Expected Outcome

13. Deliverables of the Project *(precise and in bullet form including feasibility of patent, startups,etc)*

14. **Novelty/uniqueness of the proposal (not more than one page):**

15. **Gaps to be covered through proposed work with special reference to the proposal:**

16. Any other Information relevant to the Project Proposal and its Execution

3. BIO-DATA OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

(Note: Similar detailed bio data should also be filled up for Co-PI's)

1. **Name:**

2. **Gender: Male** ☐ **Female** ☐

3. **Date of Birth:**

4. **Designation & Affiliation**

5. **Postal Address**

6. **Phone Numbers:**

7. **E-mail ID:**

8. **Qualifications** *(starting from University Level)*

S.No.	Degree	Institution	Year

9. **Employment Experience**

S.No.	Position and Organisation	Nature of Job	Period

10. **List of Publications** *(strictly for the last 5 years only with complete references)*

10.1 Journal Publications
10.2 Conference Presentations

11. **Patents filed/granted with details** *(strictly for the last 5 years only with complete references)*

12. **Books published /Chapters contributed** *(strictly for the last 5 years only with complete references)*

13. Sponsored Research Projects *(strictly for the last 5 years only with complete references)*

S. No	Title	Sponsoring Agency	Period	Amount *(Rupees in lakhs)*	Achievements

14. Consultancy Projects *(strictly for the last 5 years only with complete references)*

S. No	Title	Sponsoring Agency	Period	Amount *(Rupees in Lakhs)*

Undertaking

I hereby affirm that the information provided are true to the best of my knowledge.

Place **Signature**
Date **Name**

4. Budget Summary (in ₹ lakhs)(limited to 3 lakhs)

	Item	1st Year	2nd Year	Total
1.	Consumables			
2.	Permanent Equipment			
3.	Contingency			
4	Other costs*			
	Total			

(*Outsourced work, Fabrication & Testing) Other Costs*

5. UNDERTAKING FROM THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Project Title: "_____"

1. I have carefully read the terms and conditions of the Interdisciplinary Research Project Scheme and I agree to abide by them.
2. I have not submitted this or a similar Project Proposal elsewhere for financial support.
3. I shall ensure that no item/equipment shown available in the Project Proposal from my Organisation, shall be purchased under the Project.
4. I undertake that idle capacity of the permanent equipment procured under the Project will be made available to other users.
5. I have enclosed the following :

   a. Endorsement from the Head of the Organization *(on letter head)*

   b. Project Proposal complete in all respect

Principal Investigator: Name

Signature

Date:

Place:

6. ENDORSEMENT FROM HEAD OF ORGANISATION

(On the official letter-head)

Project Title: "_____"

1. Affirmed that the Organisation welcomes the participation of Dr/Mr/Ms .....as the PI and Dr/Mr/Ms.....as the Co-PI for the Project and that in the unforeseen and legitimate event of discontinuation by the PI, the Co-PI will assume full responsibility for completion of the Project. Information to this effect, endorsed by me, will be promptly sent to DTE
2. Affirmed that the equipment and basic as well as other administrative facilities as per the terms and conditions of the award of the Project, will be made available to the Investigator(s) throughout the duration of the Project
3. The Organisation shall ensure that the financial and purchase procedures are followed as per the prevailing norms of the Organisation, within the allocated budget.
4. The Organisation shall provide timely the Statement of Expenditure and the Utilisation Certificate of the Funds under the Project as required by Directorate of Technical Education in the prescribed format.

(Head of Organisation)
Seal/Stamp

Date:
Place: