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भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

Institute Innovation and Startup Policy

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1. Objective of the Policy

National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP) for Students and Faculty was released by the Government of India in 2019 as a guiding framework for Higher Education Institutions (HEI). It aims to enable the institutes to actively engage students, faculties and staff in innovation and entrepreneurship (I & E) related activities. IIT Hyderabad already has many initiatives aimed at encouraging I&E objectives. The objective of the current policy is to synchronize these various initiatives and mould the rules and procedures of IIT Hyderabad to fit the NISP framework, thus enabling creation of a robust innovation and startup ecosystem.

(Note: While *innovation* is wide and multifaceted, in the context of this document, it is used to refer to research which will lead to technological commercialization through entrepreneurial ventures)

2. The Entrepreneurship Journey and Enabling Ecosystem

The entrepreneurial journey can be divided into the following five stages:

1. Germination: where interest in entrepreneurship as a career option is created along with problem discovery
2. Pre-Incubation: work the concept, do the feasibility study, build the prototype, access product-market fit etc.
3. Incubation: create a minimum viable product, develop the process, build a team, secure funding etc.
4. Acceleration: focus on establishing a customer base and revenue model.
5. Maturing/Scaling: turning the startup into a mature and stable successful company

IITH aims to support the entrepreneur through all these stages with the help of various enabling cells and centres. The following is the mapping of the role of these various units in the growth journey:

Stage	Nature of Activity	Unit	Target/ Eligible Group	Point of Contact / Responsibility	Role
Germination	Orientation activities	Incubation Cell, Academics, IPFC etc	All (Students, Staff, Faculty)	FIC, Incubation	Conduct events for creating awareness about I&E ecosystem of IITH
	Entrepreneurship courses	Dept of Entrepreneurship and Management	UG & PG Students	HoD, EM	Offering courses on subjects related to I&E.
	Mini-Projects	Respective departments	BTech Students	Respective departments (via Senate oversight)	Allowing students to pursue research within the framework of credited academic activities
	Minor in Entrepreneurship	Dept of Entrepreneurship and Management	BTech Students	HoD, EM	Running a Minor in Entrepreneurship for BTech students
	Student events	e-cell	UG & PG Students	e-cell in-charge (via student gymkhana)	Conduct student driven activities like workshops, hackathons, e-summits etc
	Lecture series (like	Dept of Entrepreneurs	All (Students, Staff, Faculty)	HoD, EM	Events, talks etc related to Entrepreneurship

	Entrepreneurship talk series)	hip and Management			
Pre-Incubation	Internship	Respective departments	BTech Students	Respective departments (via Senate oversight)	Allowing students to pursue internship in a startup (as part of the 6 th sem internship).
	Build-project	BUILD Project Monitoring Committee	UG & PG Students	FIC, SA	Financial support student ideas
	Techno-Entrepreneurship Dual Degree	Dept of Entrepreneurship and Management	BTech Students	HoD, EM	Five year dual degree option for 6 th semester students
	Fellowship programs	iTIC	UG & PG Students	FIC, Incubation	Offer financial support for prototype building and sustenance under various Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) schemes.
		CfHE	PG Students	Head, CfHE	Flagship one year fellowship scheme on Healthcare innovation
TiHAN		UG & PG students	PD, TiHAN	Offer financial support for prototype building and sustenance under various Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) schemes in the area of Autonomous Navigation	
Incubation	Formal startup journey	iTIC	UG & PG Students (see 5.3 for eligibility), Staff, Faculty.	FIC, Incubation	Providing mentorship, sitting space, basic business facilities, VC funding etc (in exchange for equity)
		CfHE	Staff, Faculty	Head, CfHE	Same as above + focus on healthcare domain
		FabCI	Staff, Faculty	Head, FabCI	Same as above + focus on electronics domain
		TiHAN	UG & PG Student, Staff, Faculty	PD, TiHAN	Same as above + focus on

					Autonomous Navigation
	IP Licencing	iTIC, IPFC, Dean R&D	All (Students, Staff, Faculty)	FIC, Incubation	Licence institute IP to the startups
Acceleration	Sustainability journey of a startup	iTIC	All (must have registered as Startup)	FIC, Incubation	Providing growth support, particularly on VC funding, revenue increase etc.
		FabCI	All (must have registered as Startup)	Head, FabCI	Same as above + focus on electronics domain
		TiHAN	All (must have registered as Startup)	PD, TiHAN	Same as above + focus on Autonomous Navigation
Maturing/ Scaling	Commercial operations of a stable startup	Research Park	All (must have registered as Startup/ Company)	FIC, TRP	Provide professional working environment via rental space in the TRP building etc.
Other facilitation entities	Setting the overall vision	Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs)	All (Students, Staff, Faculty)	Convener: Dean R&D	Setting the overall vision of the institute for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem of institute
	Reach out points	Innovation Mentors	UG & PG Students	Innovation Mentor of respective department	Act as primary reach out points for any queries or support needed for I&E related items.
	Use of institute facilities	R&D Office	All (Students, Staff, Faculty)	Dean R&D	Facilitate the technology licencing, consultancy participation, paid use of institute facilities by startups etc
	Patent filing	IPFC	All (Students, Staff, Faculty)	FIC, IPFC	Assist in IP related activities like patent filing, technology transfer etc.

Note: While this table attempts to collate the various centres and cells active in encouraging Innovation and Entrepreneurship at IITH, it is a dynamic list with more and more active cells coming in regularly.

3. Enabling Academic Initiatives

The academic curriculum is intended to be tuned to ensure exposure of students to innovation and entrepreneurship activities at their early stage and to support the pathway from ideation to innovation to market. The objective is to integrate education activities with enterprise-related activities. This can be divided into two aspects viz (1) enabling the student to carryout research activities around the entrepreneurial idea (2) familiarizing the student with the business aspect of making a successful startup. The former are handled by the individual departments as part of the curriculum and the latter is championed by the Department of Entrepreneurship & Management. While the research and innovation thrust are by default ingrained into the curriculum, the intent here is to give conscious encouragement to topics with entrepreneurial prospects without diluting the academic standards and pedagogical goals. Based on the academic unit responsible for handling them, these academic initiatives can be categorised as follows:

3.1. Respective Departments

- (A) IEP Projects: As entrepreneurial ideas are often interdisciplinary in nature, student should be given a choice go beyond the respective department's research themes. To facilitate this, in every semester, the student has an option of choosing a 3-credit IEP (Innovation and Entrepreneurship Project). The IEP will be pan-institute with a common evaluation committee approved by Senate (typically from the Innovation Mentor pool). This can be registered as part of (1) Free Elective credits of curriculum or (2) Core Elective credits of the curriculum or (3) Additional registered credits. This IEP will also be reflected in the grade card of the student in the respective category. While no approval is required for registering in free electives or additional credits categories, the approval of DUGC is mandatory for registering it under Core Elective category. There is no upper limit on the number of IEP credits a student can register in the complete course of study; but the rules related to the respective course categories must be adhered. As with any research activity, the student is expected to also find a mentor/guide for undertaking the IEP. This mentor can be either a faculty of the institute or an industry expert (IEP committee will enlist and create a mentor pool for the student to choose from). The participation of the mentor being voluntary in nature, it is the student's responsibility to identify and obtain consent from the same. Routine engineering/developmental project work lacking novelty is to be strictly discouraged as part of IEP activity.
- (B) Sixth Semester Internship: The IITH curriculum allows BTech students to take up industrial internship in the sixth semester. This rule will also cover startups (including one's own) in addition to established industry. To avail this, the student can either (a) take up internship at a startups incubated at IITH (external startups not allowed) or (b) register with iTIC with

himself/herself as the (co-) founder of a startup. If option-A is availed, then it is interpreted as internship in an Industry and the rules and procedures pertaining to it will be applicable. If option-B is pursued, the student has to register his/her startup at iTIC and grading will be done by IEP committee. The more details on the norms related to case-B, refer to the section on "Startup norms for Students".

- (C) Semester Internship in Other Semesters: For BTech students, the curriculum is designed to facilitate internship in Sixth semester. However, if a student wishes to pursue the internship option in a different semester (say 8th semester), one may be allowed to do so if she/he provides a satisfactory roadmap of completing the coursework within the course of study duration. This is usually encouraged in the senior years, but can be also allowed in the early years in exceptional cases. All the procedures and rules mentioned in above point (ie., Sixth Semester Internship) will be similarly applicable; a satisfactory course plan is additionally expected to be provided by the student; this course plan must be approved by the DUGC.
- (D) Semester Leave: Semester Leave indicates a situation in which a student is permitted to take one or more semesters off for industrial internship or startup assignment with prior approval and planning. At present, JEE-entry (BTech, dual degree and double major) students are allowed one extra semester for completion of the program for every semester leave. Such students are permitted a maximum of two semesters of leave. The full-time 2 year MTech/MSc students are permitted a maximum of one semester leave. These semesters will not be counted towards the maximum permitted time period for completion of the degree. To avail this semester leave, the applicant has to make the request at least one month before the commencement of the semester. The application is to be routed through his/her advisor / program coordinator and evaluated by committee chaired by Dean Academics and having HOD of the student department, FIC Incubation as members. For granting the leave, the committee should be satisfied that (a) there is a sound proposal and commitment from the student to pursue startup activity (b) inclusive of the period of withdrawal, the student is likely to complete all the requirements for the degree within the maximum allowed years of admission to the program.
- (E) Deferred Placement Option: In the time close to graduation, the student instead of sitting for placements, can pursue his/her entrepreneurial dream after the graduation. In such situations, the student can opt for deferred placement where the student will be eligible for participating in the placement opportunities of the subsequent year. This is intended as a safety net for the aspiring students so that they can confidently plunge into their entrepreneurial journey. To be eligible for this option, the student (a) must not have appeared in the regular placement season (b) must have registered for a startup or enrolled with an incubation centre.

3.2. Department of Entrepreneurship & Management

- (A) Free Electives: The institute offers a plethora of courses on innovation and entrepreneurship. These can be credited by the student in the form of Free Electives or Additional Courses. Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Climate Change Entrepreneurship Skills, Innovation Management, Design Creativity and Innovation etc are examples of few such courses currently running at IITH.
- (B) Minor in Entrepreneurship: BTech students at the end of fourth semester can opt for Minor program in Entrepreneurship. In this Minor program, the student is expected to do three additional credits in every semester for 5th to 8th Sems. In the end, having done 12 additional credits, the student is considered to earn Minor in Entrepreneurship; it will also be reflected in the Degree Certificate of the Student.
- (C) Techno-Entrepreneurship Dual Degree: The students who are entering into 4th year BTech can opt for the Dual degree MTech in Techno-Entrepreneurship. By opting for this Dual Degree, the student will get a BTech degree in the native branch and an MTech in Techno-Entrepreneurship. In this program, the student is expected to carryout his/her Thesis on ones' entrepreneurial pursuit. For applying to the program, the student should have atleast CGPA of 8. Students who have already registered for Minor in Entrepreneurship will also be allowed to convert and the credits earned so far under the "Minor in Entrepreneurship" for the Dual degree program.

3.3. Common Activities at Institute Level

- (A) Build Project: Bold Unique Idea Lead Development (BUILD) is a unique program where the any student of IITH can pitch their idea and obtain financial support for developing it. There are no academic prerequisites or approvals needed to participate in this project; all ideas from any UG, PG, PhD etc student can be considered. The focus of this program is to give financial support for the development of the idea; no credits or grades are involved.

4. Startup Norms for Faculty

4.1. Motivation & Path Way

Faculty members of IITH carry out a large number of R&D activities in several cutting-edge science and technology areas. It is important for these research outcomes to get translated into commercial products, benefiting the society in general. Towards this end, IITH encourages interested faculty members to incorporate startups to engage in the businesses that are direct result of the research and development activities of the faculty member of IITH.

For a faculty driven startup, the startup is required to be incubated in the Institute at one of its incubators (iTIC or CfHE or FabCI). However, in exceptional cases, the institute may allow a faculty member to open/operate/incubate the Company outside the institute if sufficient justification is provided.

4.2. Types of Engagements with Startups

The role of the faculty in startups could be of four kinds:

- [Role-A] Faculty as promoter (ownership)
- [Role-B] Faculty on the board of a startup (holding shares without promoter)
- [Role-C] Faculty as mentor (volunteer service)
- [Role-D] Faculty as a consultant (paid service)

The current policy does not apply for Roles (C) & (D), where the faculty does not hold any equity in the startup and his/her participation is only as a mentor/consultant. This participation will be guided by the consultancy norms of the Institute (essentially, whether the faculty is providing consultancy/advisory services to a large company or a small startup, there is no differentiation in the consultancy norms).

Roles (A) & (B), where the faculty is an equity holder will be guided under this policy. This engagement maybe single or together with other faculty or together with student(s) of home Institute; the faculty startup norms apply to all these scenarios.

4.3. Role of Faculty Member

Once approved for incubation, a faculty member is expected to form a startup company. Such a startup must pursue businesses that are a direct result of the research and development activities of the faculty member of IITH. In such cases, the faculty member(s) will be known as a founding member(s)/ promoter(s) of the Company.

In this startup, the faculty can engage in technology development, technology commercialization and scaling-up activities. In the early stages of the startup, the faculty

member is also allowed to hold executive position like CEO, COO etc. However, this role has to be in the form of a consultant or advisor or honorary employee (not as salaried employee). Consultation income from IITH incubated startup is not subjected to standard IITH industrial consultancy norms during the incubation period of the startup. In all scenarios, it is to be safeguarded that the faculty member does not spend more than 20% of office time on the startup. If any faculty member wishes to go beyond the terms mentioned here, one may do so by taking a sabbatical and/or leave without pay.

4.4. Usage of Institute Resources

As stated earlier, the faculty members are only allowed to incorporate startups whose business objectives build upon the technologies developed at IITH. Here, it is imperative that the Institute recovers the expenses involved in development of the technology by tracking the usage and involvement. However, from practical perspective, such categorization of day-on-day research activities is near impossible. Hence, an additional equity model is adopted here. As the IP and know-how is developed by (partial) use of Institute resources, the startup may seek exclusive licensing by paying an additional equity to the incubator. If a startup gives X% equity to the Incubator for incubation, a faculty-startup is expected to give X%+Y% equity to the Incubator. It is understood that the additional Y% equity is towards the engagement of Institute resources and IP (see IP licencing for more details). Having thus paid additional value, the startup may be permitted to use the laboratory and other such facilities to which the founding faculty member(s) is entitled. The startup may also use other facilities of the Institute on payment basis as per the prevailing norms.

4.5. Best Practices to avoid Conflict of Interest

- Faculty must separate and clearly distinguish on-going Institute research from work being conducted at the startup.
- Faculty must limit engagement for the company to a maximum of 20% of the office time.
- Faculty must make all efforts to balance their academic responsibilities while assuming the entrepreneurial role.
- It is expected the startup is involved in technology development. Merely providing consultancy services is not permitted and such activity must be taken up through Technology and Consultancy norms of R&D section.
- Faculty must not involve research staff or other staff of institute in activities at the Startup and vice-versa.
- While a student may choose to work on the research part of Startup activities, a Faculty must not involve students in the non-research part of the company activities. If a student wishes to participate in the wider activities of the startup, it may be channelled via Startup options for students (next section).

- At all times, the faculty member must ensure that the startup/company he/she is associated with is compliant with all the norms of the Government of India. Non-compliance by the faculty member shall have no bearing on IITH.
- To avoid any conflict of interest, the faculty must not engage in activities like internal/external committees related to the objective of the startup. A disclosure is to be made where a possibility of overlap exists.
- Once the startup is formed, scenarios may arise where there is an overlap between the goals of sponsored research taken up by the faculty and the startup objectives (by the same faculty), the following recommends are made:
 - In case the faculty takes up private or govt sponsored research whose aims overlap with the startup activities, the faculty shall take necessary precautions to avoid IP contamination and conflicts of interest. In specific cases, if the sponsor agency agrees to assign the IP resulting from such activities to the startup, the parties may enter into a separate IP licensing agreement.
 - In case of grant-in-aid projects where the sponsor allows IITH to retain the IP rights, this IP can also be licenced to the startup within the Y% additional equity framework elaborated in the section on IP.

4.6. Incentives for Participating Members

In order to attract more participation, institute should develop academic and non-academic incentives and reward mechanisms for all stakeholders that actively contribute and support entrepreneurship agenda and activities. Participation in startup related activities needs to be considered as a legitimate activity of faculty in addition to teaching, R&D projects, industrial consultancy and management duties and must be considered while evaluating the annual performance of the faculty.

5. Startup Norms for Students

5.1. Motivation & Path Way

The motive of this startup norms and policy for students is to ensure exposure of maximum students to innovation and pre incubation activities at their early stage and to support the pathway from ideation to innovation to market. This will allow the students to meaningfully engage in innovation and entrepreneurship activities while their tenure as a student at the institute. The intent is to facilitate and empower the students, with a clear goal of promoting entrepreneurial spirit, and yet not diluting the academic standards and pedagogical goals of the involved individuals, which constitute the core essence of the institute.

Students can undertake innovation and entrepreneurship activity by following two distinct modes, as per their choice and situation:

- [Mode-A] Through credited academic means. This may be either by opting for independent projects or semester internships or minor etc. These are activities where a student is undertaking work which is NOT amounting to registering any startup.
- [Mode-B] By registering for pre-incubation/incubation in the IITH Incubators. These are activities where there are no direct academic-credits involved and wherein the student takes up the role of a signing authority in the management of the startup (or a would-be startup).

It is generally expected that Mode-A is foundational in nature, providing the base for the students' entrepreneurial journey. Mode-B presupposes that the student at this stage is clear on the exact topic and business model he/she is planning to work. It may however be noted that these two modes are not mutually contradictory: a student may register for incubation and may as well credit a few academic entrepreneurship initiatives.

For means and rules for Mode-A, one may refer to Section-3: Enabling Academic Initiatives; they are not duplicated here. The startup norms explained in this section and subsequent sections pertain to Mode-B.

5.2. Procedure for Registering a Student Startup

Once a student wishes to formalize (and legalize) the startup theme he/she is interested to work on, an application is to be made to any of the incubators of IITH (for a currently enrolled student, incubation is allowed only at one of the incubators of IITH). This can be either for basic incubation schemes or specific programs (like NIDHI Prayas, Tide 2.0, NICE etc). The incubators have their respective means of shortlisting/selecting the applicants. If the student is selected, before the on boarding process starts, the student has to provide a No-Objection-Certificate from the Academic Section. For undergraduate students, this is approved by the

DUGC and for PG students, it is to be approved by the Guide. To obtain the NOC, the student has to clearly justify how registering the startup sync with his/her pedagogical objectives and how he/she will ensure that one's academic performance will not be effected by this initiative.

Based on this NOC, the incubators will further onboard the student-startup. It is also desirable that a faculty member is identified as a mentor by the student (note: the involvement of the faculty member will be advisory in nature; if a startup has a student & faculty as founders/equity holders, then it will be considered a faculty-startup).

5.3. Balancing of Academic and Entrepreneurial Commitments

A student may work on the early part of the entrepreneurial journey as part of academics using the IEP credits. In this stage, his/her entrepreneurial activities can go on together with the other academic commitments. However, once a student reaches the Mode-B, ie., having a formal entity, then it is considered to be a full time commitment. Hence, following are the scenarios in which a BTech student is permitted to engage in Mode-B of entrepreneurship journey:

- if the student is in the last semester of study (or)
- if the student opts for semester internship (or)
- if the student opts for semester leave

For a Masters or a PhD student to be eligible:

- he/she must have completed all the coursework (and comprehensive + RPS too for PhD students)
- the research topic should be in sync with the startup theme

5.4. Rights and Obligations of Student Startups

- Rooted in IIT, naturally, the topic and theme involved by the student for startup must be technology centred. Businesses with no technological role are not supported.
- It is understood that these activities are over and above the regular academic activities of the students. In addition, there are financial and legal implications associated with registering Startup. Non-compliance by the student member shall have no bearing on IITH.
- In those cases where the innovation and entrepreneurship work, and related research and development activities proposed by a student or a student group, are in continuation of any previous work/project/thesis/knowledge generated by any other person, mentor(s), faculty member(s) or any previous student(s), who is either presently registered at the institute, or has completed his/her studies/tenure and has left the institute, then, an explicit NOC or a MoU with all such stakeholders of the existing intellectual property will be required.

6. IP Rights and Ownership

The IP rules are interpreted based on two criteria viz.,

- affiliation with IITH (as current-student, faculty, staff etc)
- enlistment of startup (via founding a formal startup)

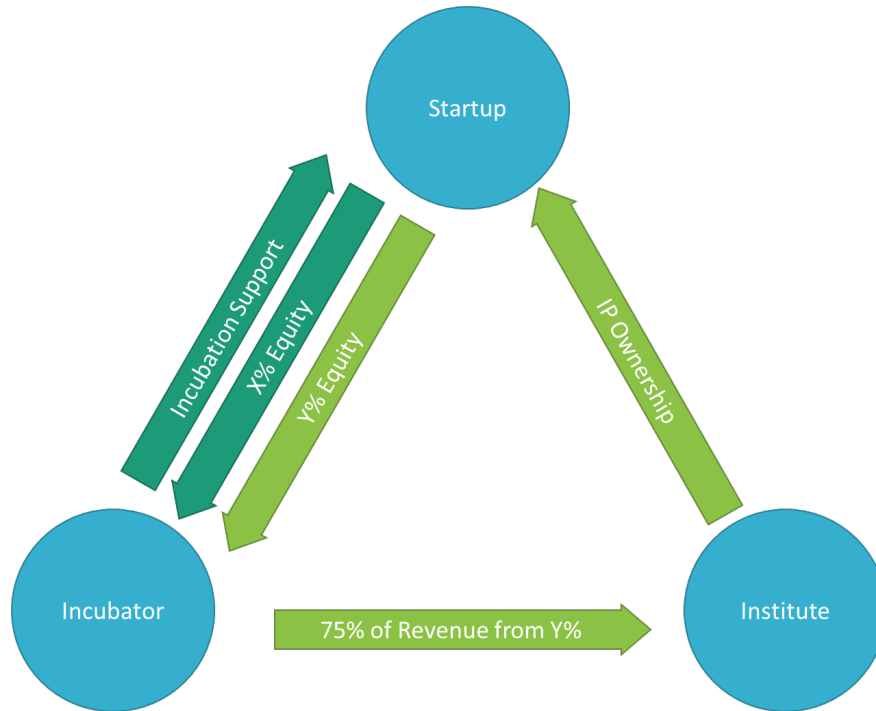
Based on these two criteria, the following are the three possible scenarios:

- [Scenario-A] where the entrepreneur is affiliated with IITH, but has not formally enlisted the startup. In this scenario, the entrepreneur can be said to be only in exploring stage with his/her primary identity being just a student/faculty. In this situation, the default IP rules applicable to students/faculty of IITH are applicable.
- [Scenario-B] where the entrepreneur has enlisted the startup after graduating from IITH. In this scenario, the entrepreneur is deemed to be a private individual and there is no role for this policy. However, the IP ownership for any development work done (full or partial) during one's stay at IITH remain with IITH. The enlisted startup can approach IITH for technology transfer of the same using the default technology transfer route of IITH (via R&D Office; refer to Section VI: Commercialization of IITH IP Policy for details).
- [Scenario-C] where the entrepreneur enlists the startup during his/her stay at IITH. The current policy addresses this scenario and is based on exclusive licencing of IP to the startup in return for equity.

In the Scenario-C, there are three players viz., (i) Faculty/Student owned Startup (ii) Incubator where the Startup is enlisted (iii) Affiliating institute (IITH) providing the resources for technology development. The Institute and Incubator provide the necessary nurturing, mentoring and resources (and possible funding) for the growth of the Startups. In return, the Startup is expected to give equity to the Incubator. The equity given by Startups to the Incubator has two components, say X% and Y%. The X% is in lieu of the incubation support provided by the Incubator (working space, business mentorship, funding avenues, VC connect etc). The Y% is in lieu of the technology licencing, use of institute resources during the development etc.

Although the services for the Y% are provided by the Institute, the incubator takes this equity on behalf of the institute. This is necessitated as the Institute being an academic entity cannot trade in equity. If and when the Incubator monetizes this equity, 75% of the revenue from the Y% shares is transferred to Institute. The remaining 25% of the revenue is retained by the Incubator towards meeting the expenses for technology commercialization and monetization. The Startup in return for the Y% of additional equity, is given exclusive licencing of the IP. IITH provides exclusive, worldwide, sub-licensable, irrevocable, and transferable license to the startup. It may be noted here that as the technology transfer is happening to the inventor-

associated Startup, the royalty sharing model of the IP policy does not apply and all the revenue belongs to the Institute. Also, if there are any co-inventors in the IP who are not part of the Startup, it is the responsibility of the Startup to obtain a NoC from them on terms mutually worked out between Startup and Co-Inventor.



The key advantage of this mechanism is that all the three entities: the startup, the incubator and institute are invested in the success of the venture and benefit from its advancement. There is an ambiguity free ownership for the Startup and a higher probability of revenue generation from technology commercialization for the Institute; the Incubator acts as a via media facilitator. For Incubation at iTIC, the values of X% and Y% currently stand at 3% and 2%; for CfHE, they are 5% and 2% respectively.

7. Governing Laws and Dispute Resolution

Applicability and Governance

This policy is applicable to all full-time faculty and enrolled students of IIT Hyderabad. The academic related matters will be handled by the Dean Academics. The IP licencing and matters related to usage of Institute resources will be handled by Dean Research & Development. Startup registration and equity holding will be handled by Faculty-in-Charge, Incubation, Innovation & Startups.

Startup Definition

For an entity to be considered a Startup under this policy, it must conform to the description of Startup as defined by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry Of Commerce and Industry.

Incubation Agreement

In addition to the terms mentioned in this policy, the engagement of student/faculty/startup with incubator in the pre-incubation or incubation or other programs will be guided by respective agreements between the mentioned parties. The respective norms for selection will also applicable for applicants wishing to pre-incubate/incubate. As a norm, the startup may choose to incubate from any of the incubators available at IIT Hyderabad. However, in exceptional cases, Director, IIT Hyderabad may allow to open/operate/incubate the startup outside the institute if sufficient justification is provided.

Dispute Resolution

Clarification on the applicability, interpretation and implementation of any of the clauses contained herein may be obtained from Faculty-in-Charge, Incubation, Innovation & Startups. In case of any disputes arising from the administration of this policy or any matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, conciliation would be attempted under the directions and aegis of the Director to settle the same in the best interests of the parties and in sync with the credo of IITH. Director, IIT Hyderabad may also establish an independent committee to investigate further. Resolution of disputes that remain unresolved even after conciliation efforts, maybe attempted by arbitration under the provisions of Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996. As a policy, all agreements to be signed by the Institute will have the jurisdiction of the courts in Hyderabad, Telangana and shall be governed by appropriate laws in India.


Effective Date

This policy will come into effect from 16th February, 2022 and all Student and Faculty Startup enrolments henceforth will be guided by this policy. The Startups already enrolled will have an option of choosing between (a) the new equity transfer model or (b) earlier model of IP

licencing from IITH to an external entity via a IPEC (Intellectual Property Evaluation Committee). These prior stakeholders should express their choice within six-months of the date of effectiveness of the policy. If no explicit preference is expressed within the six-month timeline, the terms and conditions of the present policy will be applicable.

List of Abbreviations

BUILD Project	Bold Unique Idea Lead Development Project
CfHE	Center for Healthcare Entrepreneurship, IITH
Dean Academics	Dean of Academic Programs, IITH
Dean R&D	Dean Research and Development, IITH
DUGC	Department Under Graduate Convener
e-cell	Entrepreneurship Cell, Student Gymkhana, IITH
EM	Department of Entrepreneurship and Management, IITH
FabCI	Fabless Chip Design Incubator, IITH
FIC, Incubation	Faculty-in-Charge, Incubation, Innovation & Startups
FIC, IPFC	Faculty-in-Charge, Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre, IITH
FIC, SA	Faculty-in-Charge, Student Activities, IITH
FIC, TRP	Faculty-in-Charge, Technology Research Park, IITH
HoD	Head of the Department
I&E	Innovation and Entrepreneurship
IEP	Innovation and Entrepreneurship Project
IIC	Institution Innovation Council
IITH	Indian Institute of Technology - Hyderabad
IP	Intellectual Property
IPFC	Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre, IITH
iTIC	IITH Technology Incubation Center
NISP	National Innovation and Startup Policy
PD, TiHAN	Project Director, TiHAN, IITH
PG	Post Graduate
Senate	Academic Senate of IIT Hyderabad
TiHAN	Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation, IITH
TRP	Technology Research Park, IITH
UG	Under Graduate



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