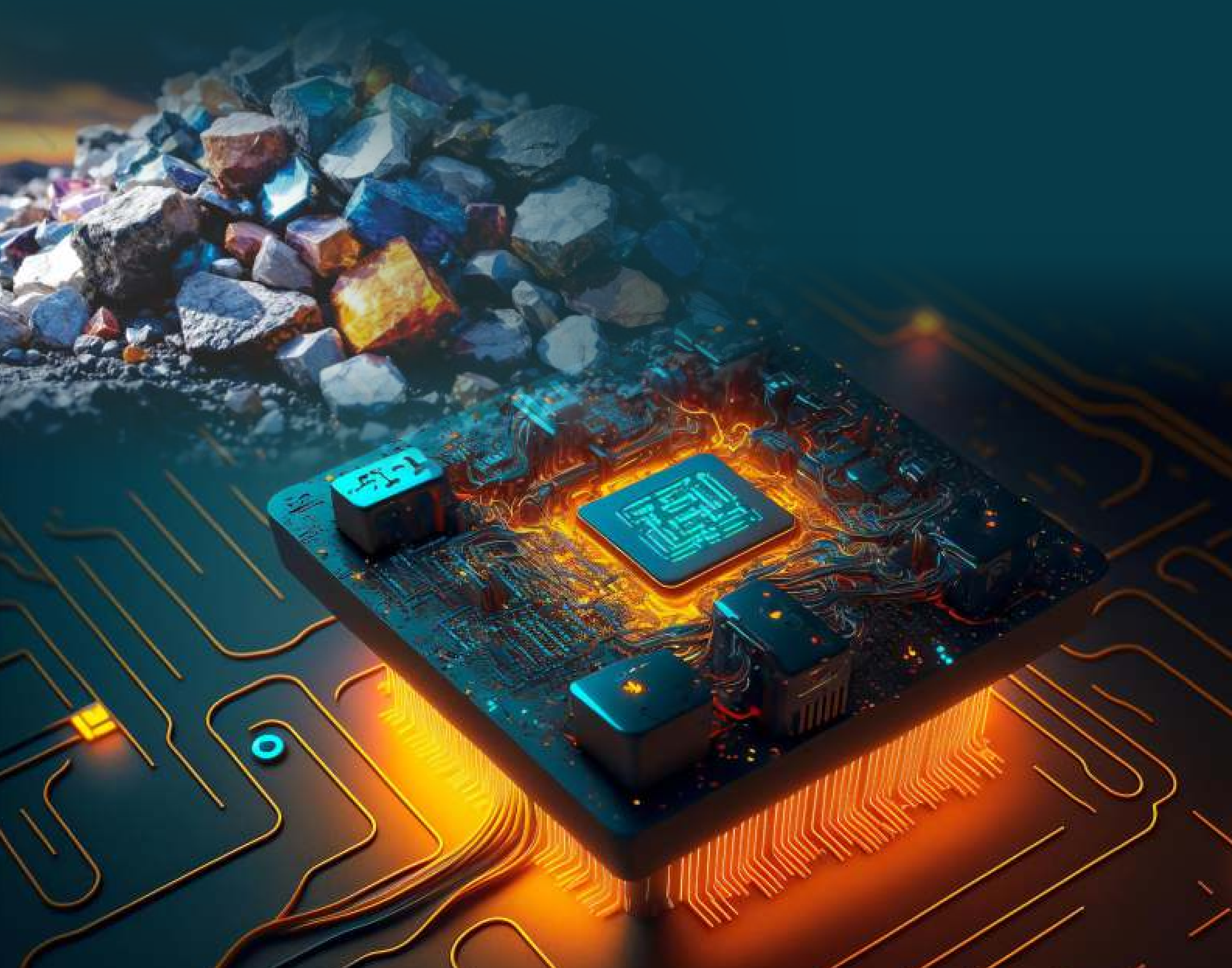
USISTEF
UNITED STATES - INDIA
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
ENDOWMENT FUND

IUSSTF
Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum

CALL FOR PROPOSAL

BUILDING U.S.-INDIA PARTNERSHIPS TO DRIVE INNOVATION IN CRITICAL MINERALS AND QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY



Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum

Catalyzing Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Cooperation for 25 years !

OVERVIEW

Drawing on their complementary strengths, India and the United States are deepening cooperation in critical and emerging technologies to drive innovation, enhance economic competitiveness and address shared global challenges. In alignment with the priorities of the **U.S.–India TRUST** (Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology) initiative and the **Pax Silica Framework**—which emphasize secure technology ecosystems, resilient supply chains, and strategic technology collaboration—the **United States–India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF)** announces a Call for Proposals on **"Building U.S.–India Partnerships to Drive Innovation in Critical Minerals and Quantum Technology".**

This call aims to foster bilateral partnerships that accelerate the development and commercialization of transformative technologies and solutions with significant societal and economic impact in the areas of Critical Minerals and Supply Chain Resilience, and Quantum Technologies.

ABOUT THE FUND

The Governments of the United States of America (through the Department of State) and India (through the Department of Science & Technology) established the United States–India Science & Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF) in 2009 for supporting promising joint U.S.-India entrepreneurial initiatives on co-developing products or technologies that are beyond the ideation stage, have significant potential to commercialization within 2-3 years and address critical societal challenge. USISTEF activities are implemented and administered through the binational **Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF).**

OBJECTIVE

Through a competitive grants program, the USISTEF selects and supports promising joint U.S.-India technology innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives that are commercially viable and socially relevant. These joint initiatives can originate from U.S. and Indian entities including startups, government, academic, or commercial endeavors, and any combination thereof provided they focus on applied R&D, incorporate a business plan and proof of commercial concept, and have significant sustainable commercial potential.

CALL THEME

Thematic Areas

- **Critical Minerals and Supply Chain Resilience**
- **Quantum Technologies**

These two thematic areas are of strategic importance to both nations. Critical minerals are essential for advanced manufacturing, clean energy technologies, semiconductor production, and resilient supply chains, making them fundamental to economic security and the global energy transition. Quantum technology, meanwhile, has the potential to revolutionize computing, communications, sensing, and cybersecurity, creating transformative opportunities across industries while strengthening technological leadership and national competitiveness. By fostering bilateral collaboration in these domains, the United States and India aim to advance breakthrough innovations, build trusted technology ecosystems, and contribute to long-term economic growth and global resilience.

Essential Considerations-The mandate of USISTEF is **"Commercializing Technologies for Societal Impact."** In line with this, preference will be given to:

- Technologies demonstrating advanced levels of innovation.
- Technologies having higher commercialization potential or technology readiness levels (TRL).
- Breakthrough technologies that address critical societal challenges.

NATURE OF SUPPORT

Grant-in-aid upto **INR 15 Million** (~ USD $1,65,000*) for each project.

Period up to **24 months**

*All grants are awarded in Indian Rupees (INR) only, subject to the prevailing exchange rate.

ELIGIBILITY

- Proposals must have at least one Indian and one U. S. partner for the complete duration of the proposed project. Primary partners from both sides must have significant and synergistic roles in the development and commercialization of technologies for the specific application described in the proposal.
- At least one of the partners must be an entrepreneurial entity (preferably a small or medium-scale enterprise) and the team may include any combination of the following:
  - Incorporated companies including start-ups; or
  - Non-incorporated entities; or
  - Academic, governmental and non-governmental research institutions or their consortia
- Subsidiaries/spin-offs of one partner in the other country are not eligible to apply.
- If one of the partners is an academic institution/government entity/research institution, a no-objection certificate approving the participation of the Principal Investigator in the project must be submitted at the time of the application.
- The relationship between the U.S. and Indian partners must be clearly defined, including ownership of intellectual property rights for the technology proposed to be developed and commercialized. A formal, signed **"Partnership Agreement"** must be submitted once the team is shortlisted for further review.
- The partners would need to agree to and sign the **"Terms & Conditions"** of the USISTEF Award and submit it once the team is shortlisted for further review.

Contact us

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