



Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Government of India



Indo-US Science and Technology Forum



PACEsetter Fund

Early-stage grant funding to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy products, systems, and business models

A fund to support the "Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy" (PEACE) track of the U.S.-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)

**Second Funding Round
Call for Expressions of Interest
August, 2016**

www.pacesetterfund.org

Background

Energy access is crucial for improving the quality of life for India's citizens and their economic conditions, and 24/7 energy availability remains a priority for the Indian government. Off-grid, clean energy technologies, combined with innovative financing models, market-based solutions, and policy alignment, have tremendous potential to become a transformative agent of economic opportunity and rural development.

In 2013, the Governments of the Republic of India and the United States of America launched **Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy (PEACE)** as a new track under the U.S.-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE), alongside the existing research (PACE-R) and deployment (PACE-D) tracks. PEACE aims to harness commercial enterprise to bring clean energy to individuals and communities un-served and underserved by the electricity grid. In June 2015, these governments established the PACEsetter Fund, a new joint fund to support the PEACE initiative by providing early-stage grant funding to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy products, systems, and business models.

The PACEsetter Fund

The PACEsetter Fund is a INR 50 crore (USD 7.9 million) fund jointly capitalized by the Governments of the Republic of India and the United States of America.

The Fund will award grants for direct support of innovative technology, business models, and programs including but not limited to: rural energy services companies (full scale integrated operators); rural distribution companies/franchisees; operations/maintenance companies; technology implementers/ system integrators; and enterprises.

The Fund will also consider awarding grants for product development, studies, research, capacity building and technical assistance, as long as this will provide significant support to the companies and organizations that provide small scale (under 1 MW) clean energy access solutions to individuals and communities with no or limited access to grid connected power.

Grant decisions are made by a Steering Committee composed of representatives from the Governments of India and the United States. The Steering Committee will be advised by an Executive Committee comprised of governmental and non-governmental experts from both countries. The bi-national Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF), New Delhi, India is the Administrator of the Fund.

Information about the fund, including this Call for Expressions of Interest, can be found on the PACEsetter Fund's website: www.pacesetterfund.org.

Overview of Second Funding Round

This Call for Expressions of Interest launches the second funding round of the PACEsetter Fund. Up to \$2 million will be made available for this round, with grant sizes ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000.

The application process will have two stages:

- **Stage 1:** All applicants are invited to submit an Expression of Interest, following the guidelines outlined below.
- **Stage 2:** From these initial submissions, the PACEsetter Fund Steering Committee will identify a short list of applicants who are invited to submit a detailed proposal. Guidelines for the detailed proposal will be provided at that time.

The planned timeline for this process is as follows:

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs)	August, 2016
Last date for submission of EOIs	12 October, 2016

Note: Further timeline and process will be updated in due course of time.

This information is subject to change. Please check www.pacesetterfund.org for updates.

Project Eligibility

To be eligible, projects must be focused on improving the viability of off grid renewable energy businesses and organizations, under served individuals and communities in India without access to grid connected power or with limited or intermittent access less than 8 hours per day using small scale (under 1 megawatt) clean energy systems.

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Projects on general public awareness, stand-alone seminars and workshops, research and development projects without a clear path towards implementation, will not be considered for funding through the PACEsetter Fund.

Funding Priorities

The following priorities will receive strong consideration in grant-making decisions:

- **Innovation:** The PACEsetter Fund prioritizes innovative technologies, business models, and programs.
- **Early-stage funding:** The PACEsetter Fund is focused on accelerating the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy solutions by providing early-stage grant funding that allow for the development and testing of innovative solutions.

How to Apply

To apply for funding in this second round, submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) (attached as Annex I) by the deadline stated above. All EOIs must be submitted on the PACEsetter Fund EOI form, available at www.pacesetterfund.org.

General Guidance on Proposals

The below guidance is not exhaustive, but is designed to help interested organizations to develop proposals.

- Proposed projects should be innovative and transformational. Proposals should make clear how they are adding value and not duplicating an existing solution; multiple forms of innovation are eligible and will be considered. Proposals should also clearly illustrate how the work proposes to overcome fundamental economic, social, or technical barriers to off-grid electricity access.
- Proposed projects should be in the early stages of development, defined broadly as the critical transition phase between concept and scale-up, where access to conventional forms of investment is limited and support from the PACEsetter Fund would be most impactful.
- Proposals should demonstrate how they could be scaled up to have wider impact.
- Proposals should demonstrate that the project has sufficient buy-in from all stakeholders to deliver the desired outcomes.
- Proposals should specify if they also have funding from other sources.
- The maximum life-cycle of a project should not exceed 24 months.
- The Fund places strong emphasis on evidence-based results. Proposals must clearly define the indicators of success in the application form to demonstrate progress during the project lifecycle.
- The Fund also places a strong emphasis on sharing the results. Organizations will be required to submit progress reports on regular intervals or on the achievement of key milestones for the duration of the project, and submit a project completion form within three months of the project conclusion along with the audited fund utilization certificate.

For More Information

For more information please contact pacesetter@indoustf.org.

ANNEX 1: Expression of Interest

PACEsetter Fund –Second Funding Round Expression of Interest Form

All applicants MUST use this form to apply

Instructions

1. Do not exceed the word limit where specified.
2. Use 11 point font.
3. All questions should be answered. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.
4. Submit the completed EOI to pacesetter@indoussstf.org
5. Application deadline: 12th October 2016.
6. By submitting this EOI, you are certifying that the answers to the questions are accurate to the full extent of your knowledge.

Section A: General Information

Project Title	
Project Type Delivery of energy services/ Technology or product development/ Training & capacity-building/ Business development support/ Research/Other	
Project Location/s (District/State/Village)	
Stage of development (initial concept/ proof of concept/ demonstration/scale-up)	
Total Funding Request (INR or USD)	
Lead Implementing Organization	
Other Partnering Organization	

Section B: Project Information

Project Description (max 500 words)		
<p>Expected Outcomes (max 200 words)</p> <p>Describe the short and long-term outcomes of the project</p>		
<p>Expected duration of project</p>	Years	Months
<p>Advantages of the approach (max 250 words)</p> <p>What are the existing competing solutions that seek to address the same challenge as your project? What makes your project distinctive in comparison with the competing alternatives? Why is it a game-changing intervention?</p>		
<p>Results Indicators</p> <p>List specific results and indicators you will use to measure success of this project towards achievement of outcomes. Examples are given here, you may develop additional indicators as needed that best reflect project goals and performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased renewable energy capacity added • Increased access to energy services for un- or under-served populations • Increased energy savings achieved • Increased number of innovative clean energy tools, technologies, and methodologies developed, tested, and/or adopted • Increased number of clean energy enterprises with improved business operations • Quantity of greenhouse gas emissions reduced, measured in metric tons of CO₂ • Increased number of beneficiaries with relevant skills in clean energy technologies, business models, etc. 	
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation approach (max 150 words)</p>		
<p>Project sustainability and long-term viability</p> <p>Describe how the project is scalable and sustainable in the long-term? (max 200 words)</p>		

<p>Project Risks (maximum 200 words)</p> <p>What are the risks and challenges in the execution of the project (market risks, regulatory risks, financial risks, business model risks, etc.)?</p>	
<p>Benefits for women and other vulnerable populations (max 150 words)</p>	

Section C: Budget

Total Budget (INR or USD)	
<p>Budget Details</p> <p>Describe the specific activities to be supported under this grant; include cost estimates under each task for which PACEsetter funding shall be used (max 250 words)</p>	
<p>Has the applicant received U.S. Government/Government of India funding in the past for this or a similar project? (if yes please specify the name of donor, amount and year)</p>	Yes/No
<p>Other sources of funding for the project, if any</p>	

Section D: Applicant Details

Name of the Organization	
<p>Address</p> <p>Please include phone numbers, fax, emails and website</p>	
<p>Applicant Type</p> <p>Private/non-governmental entity/ Academic or research institution/ Private individual/ Other</p>	
<p>Primary Point of Contact</p>	<p>Name: Title: Email address: Telephone: Social Media: Twitter/Facebook</p>

Secondary Point of Contact	Name: Title: Email address: Telephone:
Information on lead implementing organization (maximum 250 words) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and mission • Relevant experience and track record • Project team (key personnel, skills & experience) • Provide up to 3 past performance references that can speak to your ability to implement a project of this magnitude and complexity 	
Partner Organizations	
If applicable, and what skills and experience they will contribute to the project:	

Nodal Offices for the PACe setter Fund Program:

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————— *For more information about the PACe setter Fund Program, please visit* —————

www.pacesetterfund.org