

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (15th Floor)
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www.sicip.gov.bd

**Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Bangladesh Industry Research
Development & Innovation (BIRDI) Grants**

No. FD/SICIP/BIRDI/149/2024/1871

Date: 14 August 2025

1. The Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, is implementing the Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP) with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The program aims to develop a skilled workforce through advanced technical and competency-based training across the country. SICIP seeks to establish a robust quality assurance mechanism, enabling effective collaboration between training institutions and industries to foster human resource development in priority industry sectors.
2. Under output-2 of Scheme 1 (Advanced Technical Skills, Managerial Capability, and R&D-Driven Innovation Capacity Development for Priority and Emerging Industries) of SICIP Bangladesh Industry Research Development & Innovation (BIRDI) Grants has been introduced to support industry-oriented research, development, and innovation.
3. The BIRDI Grants are designed to:
 - Promote applied, industry-driven R&D for innovative solutions to create value added products, improved industrial processes and environmentally friendly technologies.
 - Establish industry and academia partnerships for collaborative innovation and advanced skill development.
 - Facilitate technology transfer and inclusion of global best practices in industrial production
 - Support to enhance industry capacity for innovation to increase productivity and global market competitiveness.
 - Increase participation of industries in RDI activities and to accelerate integration of green technology and climate resilient practices for sustainable development.
4. Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must fall under one or more of the following categories:
 - An academic entity or training institutions based in Bangladesh.
 - A student team within any academic entity based in Bangladesh and comprehensively supervised by an academic faculty.
 - An industry entity based in Bangladesh.
 - An individual endorsed by industry and preferably by a registered educational/ research/ training institutions based within Bangladesh.

Applicants fall under any of the following category shall not be eligible to apply:

- Unregistered business entity or academic institution
- A defense related or aligned institution or industry (including supplies)
- Not compliant with laws of Bangladesh, including required licenses, permits

5. SICIP now invites eligible applicants to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) using the standard EOI template available on the official BIRDI website: <https://birdi.sicip.gov.bd>. Only online submissions via the BIRDI website will be considered for evaluation. (Detailed BIRDI Guidelines may be viewed from <https://sicip.gov.bd/resources/birdi/>)

6. EOIs will be shortlisted based on the following key factors:

- Clear definition of the industry problem and the proposed R&D-based solution (visual aids optional).
- Description of academic and industry partners, including background and history of collaboration.
- Demonstrated value to industry in terms of efficiency, competitiveness, and economic impact.
- Commitment to ethical practices and sustainable development principles.
- Concrete plans to generate higher-skilled employment within the target sector.
- Anticipated long-term impact on research, academic curricula, and academia-industry collaboration.

7. The deadline for submission of EOIs is 4:00 PM (Bangladesh time), 10 September 2025. It is important to note that there will be a workshop on EOI submission. The details of the workshop will be available upon registering in the BIRDI portal. EOI submission will be activated after the workshop. SICIP will not be responsible for any costs associated with the workshop participation, preparation or submission of EOIs. SICIP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason.

For further information, please contact:

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