



## Guidelines for the HackTheHurdle – A Hackathon by STBI

**Organized by:** [Savli Technology and Business Incubator (STBI), DST-Govt. of Gujarat]

These guidelines outline the structure, eligibility criteria, and operational of the hackathon and the subsequent incubation program.

### 1. Eligibility Criteria

#### ❖ For Innovators/Applicants

- Researchers, innovators, students, entrepreneurs, and employed individual (with NoC from current Employer, allowing him/her to physically work at STBI or any other Incubation Centres recognized by GoG/GoI for atleast 02 months) from any domain are eligible.
- Applicants may apply individually or as part of a team.
- Innovators must identify a real-world problem statement by engaging directly with industries.
- A letter or email confirmation from the industry validating the problem statement must be submitted along with the application.
- Solutions must be technology-led, innovative, feasible, and impactful in addressing the identified problem.
- Solutions should align with industry needs and demonstrate commercialization potential.

#### ❖ For Teams

- A single team leader must be designated as the primary point of contact.
- Teams should provide details of all members and their roles in the application.

### 2. Incubation Program Requirements

#### ❖ Duration of Incubation

- Selected innovators/teams will undergo a 4-month incubation program at STBI **free of cost**. However the charges beyond lab space i.e. instrumentation will be chargeable as per the Start-up category rates.
- These innovators/ teams will be considered the beneficiaries of the Idea Doodle Program of STBI

#### ❖ Mandatory Onsite Presence

- Innovators must work at STBI or any of the Incubation Centres recognized by GoG or GoI for at least 50% of (i.e., ~8 weeks (2 months) during the incubation period of 4 months).

#### ❖ Facilities Provided During Incubation

- Access to coworking spaces, laboratories, and specialized equipment.
- Guidance from mentors, domain experts, and industry representatives.
- Networking opportunities with stakeholders, including investors and ecosystem enablers.



#### ❖ Mid-Program Review

A progress review will be conducted after the first 2 months. Teams must present:

- Updates on solution development.
- Resource utilization
- Challenges faced and mitigation strategies.

### 3. Grant Utilization Norms

#### ❖ Grant Disbursement

- Grants will be disbursed in **three tranches**: 01) First tranche at the start of the incubation period; 02) second tranche upon successful completion of pre-defined milestones & utilization of 90% of the funds of first tranche and 03) rest amount on reimbursement basis
- The total grant amount for each selected team/innovator will be determined based on the problem complexity and resource requirements. The upper limit of the fund will be Rs. 1,00,000/- per innovator or team.

#### ❖ Allowable Expenses

- Procurement of raw materials and consumables.
- Prototyping and testing expenses.
- Equipment usage charges.
- Travel related to fieldwork or validation with industries.
- Any other, with prior approval of STBI

#### ❖ Prohibited Expenses

- Personal expenses.
- Office rent (if outside STBI premises).
- Marketing and promotions.
- Any expenses not directly related to the project without prior approval.

#### ❖ Documentation

Detailed expense reports with receipts must be submitted for grant fund disbursement and final settlement, as and when asked by STBI or every two-weeks, whichever is earlier.

### 4. Program Rules and Obligations

- **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**: The innovator/team retains ownership of the IP generated during the program. However, linked-Industry may have the first Right of Refusal for in-licensing of Technology/IP.
- **Progress Reporting**: Regular progress updates must be submitted every two weeks and reviewed by mentors.
- **Compliance**: All participants must adhere to STBI's policies, including ethical conduct, confidentiality, and safety guidelines.
- **Program Exit**: Teams failing to show satisfactory progress may be asked to exit the program, and unused grant funds must be returned.



### 5. Post-Incubation Support

- Teams/ Innovators demonstrating significant progress may receive extended incubation support further as per STBI policy on chargeable basis. However, no further grant may be necessarily committed by STBI during the extension period. The grant should be utilized during the months of incubation.
- Assistance across the project life-cycle including funding, commercialization, industry partnerships, etc.
- A demo day/ poster presentation will be organized at the end of the incubation period to showcase solutions.

### 6. Contact Information

**For further details or clarification, please contact:**

**Savli Technology and Business Incubator (STBI)**

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