



Application Guidelines for the UBLC Innovation Grant Under AHEAD Grant

Application Due: August 04th, 2023 (by 11:59 p.m. Sri Lankan Time)

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1. UBLC Innovation Grant Description

The University Business Linkage Cell (UBLC) is pleased to announce the availability of the UBLC Innovation Grant. This grant is designed to support innovative research projects conducted by SUSL researchers that have the potential for commercialization. The aim of the grant is to foster collaboration between academia and industry and promote the development of market-ready inventions and products.

The grant is open to SUSL researchers who have innovative projects with the potential for commercialization. Projects should meet Technology Readiness Level 4 (TRL 4) (Annexure 1), indicating that they have already developed a small-scale prototype and the technology has been validated in the laboratory. However, projects at TRL 3 may also be considered after careful evaluation.

1.1. Application Timeline and Review

- An Expression of Interest (EOI) along with a project proposal must be submitted and all eligibility criteria met to be considered for the proposal stage; otherwise, EOIs will be administratively rejected.
- EOIs and proposals will be reviewed by an independent panel of experts.
- Projects submitted with a commercial partner will be given more preference during the evaluation process. If your project involves collaboration with an industry partner, please provide the necessary details in your proposal.

Project Timeline

- The project timeline should be **three months (3 months)** from the grant approval date.
- **The deadline for submitting proposals is 04th August 2023.**

1.2. Applicant Eligibility (must be met at the time of submission):

- Applicants must be permanent academic staff members of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

2. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Technology Readiness Level (TRL): Projects should meet at least TRL 4.
- Market Demand and Trends: Proof of assess the potential market demand and commercial viability.
- Innovativeness: Consider the uniqueness and novelty of the proposed project.
- Contribution to UBLC's Objectives: Assess alignment with UBLC's objectives, IP Policy and potential for collaboration with industry.
- Commercialization Potential: Assess factors such as market size, target audience, competition, scalability, and potential for widespread adoption.
- Technical Feasibility: Evaluate the technical feasibility and readiness of the project.
- Budget and Resource Management: Assess the budget planning and effective utilization of grant funds.
- Collaboration with Commercial Partners: Preference will be given to projects involving collaboration with commercial partners.
- Intellectual Property (IP) Potential: Evaluate the potential for intellectual property protection.
- Presentation and Communication: Consider the clarity and professionalism of the proposal.

* The final decision regarding grant allocation is vested with the evaluation panel.

3. Budget

- The maximum grant amount awarded for a project with high commercializable potential is **Rs. 500,000.00**.
- Grant will be disbursed in three stages upon request from the grantees, based on the budgetary requirements.
- Grantees are required to submit requests for disbursement along with supporting documents, as specified in the grant agreement.

The grant can be utilized for the following purposes:

- Development of commercializable prototypes
- Obtaining third-party accredited lab reports
- Purchase of chemicals and other raw materials (not allowed for purchasing equipment)
- Marketing activities (logo, slogan, label development, market surveys)

4. Format for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Interested researchers should submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) in the following format:

4.1. Instructions

- a. Name of the researcher/s including team leader
- b. Department and designation
- c. Title of the project
- d. Technology readiness level (TRL)
- e. Brief description of the project (not exceeding 250 words)

5. Format for the Project Proposal

Researchers will be invited to submit a detailed project proposal along with the above EOI. The proposal should include the following sections:

5.1. Instructions

- a. Project title and abstract
- b. Technology readiness level (TRL) of the project.
- c. Description of the project, including its objectives, methodology, work plan and expected outcomes.
- d. Market demand and trends analysis, highlighting the potential commercial viability of the project.
- e. Details of any existing partnerships or collaborations with commercial entities.
- f. Budget breakdown, specifying how the grant funds will be utilized.
- g. Project timeline, indicating the key milestones and deliverables.
- h. Contact information of the lead researcher and their team members.
- i. Recommendation of the Respective Head of the Department
- j. Recommendation of the Dean of the Faculty

6. Application Submission Instructions

- The proposals should be submitted through the Dean of the Faculty and the Head of the Department.
- The hard copies of the Expression of Interest along with the Detailed Project Proposal should be submitted to UBL Cell.
- The deadline for submitting project proposals is **04th August 2023**.

7. Progress Reports and Financial Progress

- Invention Disclosure Forms (IDFs) should be submitted for each and every invention resulting from the project. Grantees are responsible for completing and submitting the necessary Invention Disclosure Forms promptly.
- The Principal Investigator should submit progress reports and financial progress reports on a monthly basis to the Director - UBLC.
- The reports should provide updates on the project's status, achievements, challenges, and financial utilization.
- Detailed reporting requirements will be communicated to grantees upon receiving the grant.

8. Accountability

- As the UBLC Innovation Grant utilizes public funds, grantees are expected to maintain the highest level of accountability.
- Grantees must adhere to financial regulations and provide accurate and transparent records of project expenditures.
- Auditing or monitoring procedures may be implemented to ensure proper utilization of funds.

9. Contact

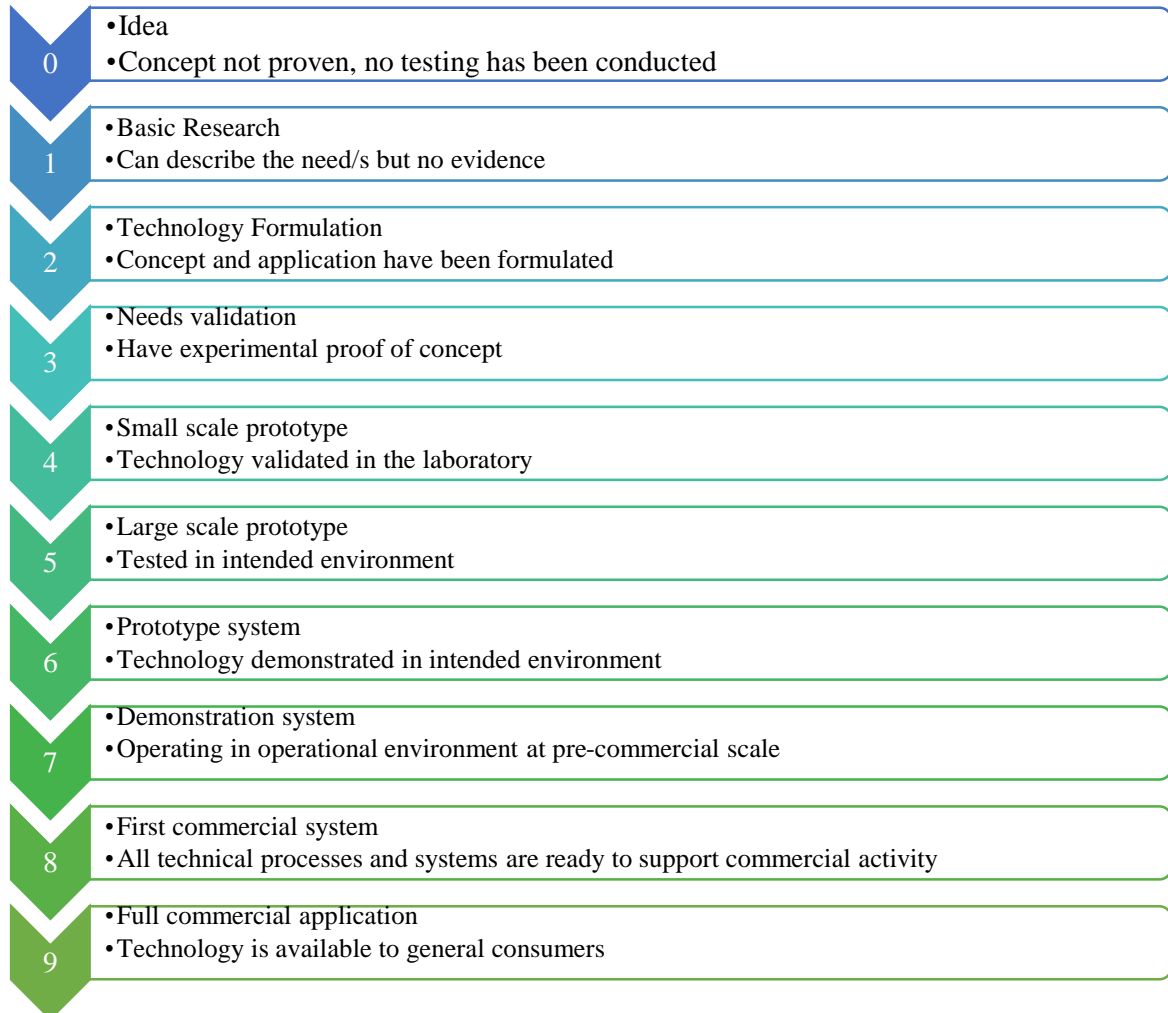
If you have any questions regarding the UBLC Innovation Grant, please contact

Director/UBLC - Prof. DAI Dayaratne: 071-4453427 / 045-2280193

Manager/UBLC - Ms. Taniya Rashmi: 071-3638066 / 045-2280193

Annexure 01

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation University Business Linkage (UBL) Cells Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)



TRL 0-3: Idea

TRL 4-5: Prototype

TRL 6-7: Validation

TRL 8-9: Production