



Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser
to the Government of India



Linking Researchers and Resources

Expression of Interest for ACMC

Expression of Interest (Eoi)

For Participation in the Accreditation Catalyst Model Centre (ACMC) Network

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ACMC institution : [Click here](#)

ACMC industry/startups : [Click here](#)

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FOREWORD FROM THE COO

“The ACMC is designed not merely as a facility upgrade, but as a ripple-effect initiative to transform India’s innovation ecosystem. By bridging academia, industry, and governance, ACMC Centres ensure that every dormant piece of equipment becomes a productive, accredited resource serving MSMEs, startups, and researchers nationwide. The model moves beyond one-time interventions, creating a self-sustaining cycle of innovation, capacity-building, and regional economic growth.”

Dr. Harilal Bhaskar
COO / National Coordinator
I-STEM

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Executive Summary: Expression of Interest (Eoi)

Objective

The ACMC initiative revitalizes idle/dormant scientific infrastructure into NABL/ISO-accredited Testing-as-a-Service (TaaS) hubs. These Centres foster regional innovation, strengthen academia–industry partnerships, and create sustainable revenue models.

Strategic Pillars

1. Revitalize Existing Labs – Refurbish and accredit idle equipment.
2. Build Tier-II & Tier-III Innovation Hubs – Extend accredited services to underserved regions.
3. Reinforce with Revenue Reinvestment – Sustain operations and expansion via reinvested service income.

Stakeholder Roles

- Academic Hosts: Ensure at least 95% uptime, maintain accreditation, and report utilization.
- Industry Partners (Investors): Fund refurbishment, AMC, operator costs; commit at least 60% usage.
- Industry Users (Non-Investors): Access accredited labs on pay-per-use basis.
- Investors (CSR/Impact/Govt): Minimum ₹25 lakh per ACMC; align with CSR/SDGs.
- Governance (JEMB): Oversight, compliance audits, utilization dashboards.

Submission Requirements

- Equipment inventory/demand letter.
- Accreditation roadmap & readiness note.
- Regional demand research note.
- Governance participation declaration (JEMB).
- Completed survey receipts.
- Submit consolidated PDF to catalyst-centre@istem.co.in with subject line: 'EOI | APMC | Stakeholder name (Institution/Industry/Investor/) | Org Name | District, State'.

Evaluation & Timelines

Evaluation Criteria (100 points):

- Infrastructure & Readiness (25)
- Accreditation Plan (15)
- Governance (15)
- Sustainability (15)
- Regional Relevance (15)
- Utilization Commitment (15)
- Shortlisting Threshold: 70 points | Fast-Track Onboarding: 80 points.

Timeline:

- EOI Release: 12-Sep-2025
- Survey Window: 12–24 Sep 2025
- Shortlist: 01-Oct-2025
- Interviews/Due Diligence: 03–10 Oct 2025
- MoUs & Onboarding: by 15-Oct-2025

Contact

Queries: catalyst-centre@istem.co.in | 1800-425-3281

Section I: Invitation of Expression of Interest (Eoi)

I-STEM invites Expression of Interest (Eoi) from eligible academic institutions, industry partners, investors for participation in the Accreditation Catalyst Model Centre (ACMC) initiative. ACMC is a national program designed to revitalize underutilized scientific infrastructure across India.

The initiative aims to deliver Testing-as-a-Service (TaaS) via NABL/ISO-accredited facilities, foster regional innovation, and create sustainable revenue streams for academia and industry. Interested entities are requested to submit their proposals in the prescribed format by 24/09/2025.

The Eoi document outlines eligibility criteria, governance structure, submission requirements, and evaluation parameters. For any queries, please contact: 1800-425-3281 / catalyst-centre@istem.co.in

Section II: Letter Inviting Expression of Interest

To: Whomsoever it may concern

From: I-STEM Team

Subject: Invitation to Submit Expression of Interest for ACMC Participation

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to invite your esteemed institution/organization to submit

an Expression of Interest (Eol) for participation in the Accreditation Catalyst Model Centre (ACMC) initiative, a national program under I-STEM aimed at revitalizing idle scientific infrastructure through strategic partnerships.

The ACMC model offers a unique opportunity to:

Transform dormant equipment into accredited, revenue-generating assets.
Collaborate with industry and investors under a transparent governance framework.

- Serve as a regional innovation hub supporting MSMEs, startups, and academia.
- Contribute to national missions such as Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, and the National R&D Roadmap.

The Eol document enclosed provides detailed information on participation criteria, governance expectations, and submission guidelines. We encourage your institution/company to review the document and submit your proposal by 24/09/2025.

We look forward to your active participation in this transformative initiative.

Warm regards,

I-STEM Team

Section III: About ACMC

The Accreditation Catalyst Model Centre (ACMC) is a transformative initiative under I-STEM. It aims to repurpose idle scientific infrastructure by refurbishing and accrediting equipment, enabling certified testing services and collaborative innovation.

ACMC centres serve as regional innovation hubs, supporting MSMEs, startups, and academic institutions. The model is designed to be scalable, sustainable, and aligned with national missions.

The Accreditation Catalyst Model Centre (ACMC) is built on three strategic pillars:

1. Revitalize Existing Labs – Refurbish and accredit idle equipment to provide certified testing services.
2. Build Tier-II & Tier-III Innovation Hubs – Enable regional access through shared, accredited labs.
3. Reinforce with Revenue Reinvestment – Reinvest service income into AMC, accreditation renewal, and expansion.

Governance Backbone: Joint Equipment Management Board (JEMB) comprising academia, industry, and NABL experts. It ensures at least 95% uptime, transparent financial audits, technician response in at most 48 hrs, and quarterly utilization dashboards.

Section IV: Stakeholder Roles & Responsibilities

Each stakeholder is bound not only by MoU but by national responsibility to ensure that public scientific assets yield measurable socio-economic returns.

A. Academic Institutions (Host Centres)

- Provide infrastructure and technical staff.
- Provide accredited infrastructure in line with ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 9001, and ISO 45001 for safety.
- Maintain NABL/ISO accreditation and compliance and ensure at least 95% uptime
- Serve as the statutory invoicing entity, issuing GST-compliant invoices and maintaining auditable records.
- Retain custodianship of equipment with revenues ring-fenced exclusively for AMC renewals, operator salaries, and continuous accreditation.

B. Industry Partners

Investment Partners

- Undertake financial responsibility for refurbishment, AMC, calibration, and operator deployment.
- Guarantee at least 60% utilization commitment (through own supply chain or referrals).
- Participate actively in governance, contributing to pricing, performance reviews, and accreditation readiness.

Non-Investment Users

- Access facilities on a pay-per-use basis via I-STEM digital dashboard.
- Submit demand forecasts to support resource planning.
- Sign binding compliance declarations covering IP, confidentiality, and safety adherence.

C. Pure Investors (CSR, Impact Funds, Govt)

- Commit minimum ₹25 lakh per ACMC or ₹1 Cr across multiple centres.
- Ensure alignment with national development priorities (SDGs, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India).
- Accept transparent annual reporting on impact metrics, ROI, and societal outcomes.

D. Governance Bodies (JEMB, Accreditation Boards, I-STEM Council)

- Joint Equipment Management Board (JEMB) shall serve as the apex custodian of trust.
- Quorum: At least 5 of 7 members present, including Chair or nominee.

Responsibilities:

- Approve pricing and revenue allocations.
- Ensure AMC, calibration, and uptime compliance.
- Commission quarterly financial audits and annual third-party accreditation audits.
- Serve as the first arbiter for IP ownership and conflict resolution.

Section V: Eligibility Criteria (Stakeholder-Specific)

A. Academic Institutions (Host Centres)

Criteria	Requirement	Supporting Documents
Legal Status	Recognized public academic or research institution	Government notification or UGC/AICTE recognition
Infrastructure Readiness	Availability of idle/dormant equipment and lab space	Equipment inventory and floor plan, must show evidence of idle equipment, available accredited space, and willingness to meet ISO/IEC 17025 compliance within 12 months.
Accreditation Commitment	Willingness to pursue NABL/ISO accreditation	Accreditation roadmap or past certifications
Operational Capacity	Ability to nominate/hire technical staff and manage lab operations	HR policy or staffing plan
Governance Participation	Willingness to join JEMB and comply with SOPs	Letter of Intent (LoI) or MoU draft
Regional Relevance	Demonstrated demand from local MSMEs/startups	Primary/secondary research or industry letters

B. Industry Partners

Investment Partners

Criteria	Requirement	Supporting Documents
Legal Entity	Registered company or LLP in India	Certificate of Incorporation
Financial Capacity	Minimum turnover of ₹5 Cr in any 3 of the last 5 years	Audited financials or CA certificate
Utilization Commitment	Minimum 60% usage commitment (own or supply chain)	Utilization plan or MoU
Accreditation Support	Willingness to fund NABL/ISO processes	Funding commitment letter
Governance Role	Participation in JEMB and compliance with SOPs	Signed governance declaration
Sectoral Relevance	Alignment with lab domain	Company profile or product portfolio

Non-Investment Users

Criteria	Requirement	Supporting Documents
Legal Entity	Registered MSME, startup, or industry body	Udyam/MSME certificate or company registration
Usage Intent	Demonstrated need for certified testing services	Letter of interest or demand forecast
Compliance	Agreement to follow I-STEM booking and lab protocols	Signed user declaration

C. Pure Investors (CSR, Impact Funds, Govt/PSU)

Criteria	Requirement	Supporting Documents
Legal Status	Registered CSR entity, impact fund, or government body	CSR registration, SEBI license, or government order
Investment Scope	Minimum ₹25 lakh commitment per ACMC or ₹1 Cr across multiple centres	Funding proposal or MoU
Impact Alignment	Alignment with SDGs, national missions, or CSR	CSR policy or impact framework
Governance Participation	Willingness to join JEMB strategic sessions	Letter of participation
Transparency	Agreement to receive and review I-STEM reports	Signed reporting agreement

D. Governance Bodies (JEMB, Accreditation Boards, I-STEM Council)

Criteria	Requirement	Supporting Documents
Institutional Mandate	Statutory or delegated authority for oversight, accreditation, or platform governance	Government notification or board resolution
Compliance Oversight	Capacity to conduct audits and enforce SOPs	Audit protocols or compliance charter
Conflict Resolution	Ability to arbitrate disputes among stakeholders	Governance framework
Transparency	Commitment to publish performance and revenue reports	Reporting policy or dashboard access plan

Section VI: Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- Note: All stakeholders are mandated to submit the necessary documents supporting their eligibility for participation.
- Submit your EoI by filling out the survey.
- Organizational profile and infrastructure details.
- Legal registration and audited financials.
- Equipment inventory and lab readiness note.
- Accreditation roadmap (ISO/IEC 17025, NABL).
- SLA undertakings: turnaround at most 5 working days; expedited at most 48 hrs.
- Calibration & uptime logs, with penalties accepted for breaches (at most 90%).
- Data & IP Policy Declaration: The client will own the raw data, while the institute will retain archival custodianship. Intellectual property will be jointly shared unless a waiver is specified in the MoU.
- Governance Declaration: The institute expresses its willingness to join the JEMB and to abide by the agreed audit cadence.
- Regional demand mapping and letters of support from MSMEs/startups.
- Include all required document and submit consolidated PDF to catalyst-centre@istem.co.in with subject line: 'EOI | APMC | Org Name | District, State'.
- Ensure the proposal is complete, signed, and paginated.
- Late submissions will not be considered.

Section VII: Evaluation Parameters

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

Parameter	Weightage	Benchpoints
Infrastructure & Readiness	25	Accredited space, idle equipment, operator plan
Accreditation & Safety Plan	15	ISO/IEC 17025 roadmap, HSE compliance logs
Governance & Compliance	15	JEMB participation, quarterly audit adherence
Financial & Operational Sustainability	15	Breakeven clarity, GST invoicing, revenue model
Regional Relevance	15	Demonstrated MSME/startup demand
Utilization Commitment	15	Atleast 95% uptime pledge, at least 60% utilization plan

Shortlisting Threshold: 70 points.

Fast-Track Onboarding: 80 points.

Section VIII: Process Timeline

Phase	Description	Timeline
Eol Release	Public announcement	Sep 12, 2025
Survey submission	Structured data collection	Sep 12, 2025 to Sep 24, 2025
Shortlisting & Interviews	Based on readiness and governance	Oct 01, 2025 to Oct 10, 2025
Strategic Collaboration	Onboarding of selected partners	Oct 15, 2025

Section IX: Validity of Offer

The submitted Eol shall remain valid for a period of six (6) months from the date of submission.

Section X: Conflict of Interest

- Applicants must disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.
- Where there is any indication that a conflict of interest exists or may arise, it shall be the responsibility of the participant to inform I-STEM, detailing the conflict in writing as an email.
- I-STEM will be the final arbiter in cases of potential conflicts of interest. Failure to notify I-STEM of any potential conflict of interest will invalidate any verbal or written agreement.
- A Conflict of Interest is where a person who is involved in the process has or may be perceived to have a personal interest in

ensuring that a particular participant is successful. Actual and potential conflicts of interest must be declared by a person involved in the process.

Section XI: Condition under which EOI is issued

- The EOI is not an offer and is issued with no commitment. I-STEM reserves the right to withdraw EOI and or vary any part thereof at any stage.
- I-STEM further reserves the right to disqualify any participant, should it be so necessary at any stage.

Section XII: Contact for Clarifications

catalyst-centre@istem.co.in | 1800-425-3281

GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
ACMC	Accreditation Catalyst Model Centre; A national initiative under I-STEM to refurbish and accredit idle scientific infrastructure into certified Testing-as-a-Service (TaaS) hubs.
AMC	Annual Maintenance Contract; A service agreement for maintaining lab equipment, often funded by industry partners or investors.
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility; A form of investment from companies aligned with social and developmental goals.

GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
Eol	Expression of Interest; A formal submission by institutions or companies to participate in the ACMC initiative.
Governance Bodies	Includes JEMB, Accreditation Boards, and the I-STEM Council responsible for oversight, audits, and scalability.
JEMB	Joint Equipment Management Board; A governance body comprising academia, industry, and NABL experts overseeing ACMC operations.
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding; A formal agreement between stakeholders outlining roles, responsibilities, and commitments.
NABL	National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories; A body providing accreditation for testing labs.
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals; Global goals aligned with CSR and impact investments in ACMC centres
TaaS	Testing-as-a-Service; The core service model of ACMC centres, offering certified testing to various stakeholders.