

New UK-India med-tech programme to fight COVID-19

World news story

Innovative Indian med-tech start-ups are invited to apply by 31 August to be a part of the new ₹5.6 million manufacturing support programme.



The UK government and Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) have joined forces to plug the gap between the demand and supply of ventilators and essential medical equipment to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Selected start-ups will be hosted at AMTZ's MediValley incubation centre, receiving financial, technical and infrastructure support necessary to make their equipment market-ready. The programme is part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed recently between the UK government and AMTZ. The MoU aims to boost med-tech collaboration between the two countries by creating direct research and development linkages between UK companies and AMTZ's manufacturing and testing facilities, and to the wider Indian healthcare market.

Sir Philip Barton, British High Commissioner to India, said:

COVID-19 affects every human being on the planet and respects no border. The need for collaboration on science and innovation between nations has never been more important. The UK is already India's second biggest research partner, with joint research expected to be worth £400 million by 2021. Last month, we announced five new projects to tackle anti-microbial resistance.

I am delighted that this new med-tech programme takes our partnership even further. I look forward to seeing the life-saving solutions we can pioneer by bringing the best scientific minds from the UK and India together as a force for good in the world.

Dr. Jitendar Sharma, Managing Director and CEO, AMTZ said:

AMTZ is happy to sign a memorandum of understanding with the British High Commission for encouraging innovations in medical devices, particularly on those products that are necessary for fight against the global pandemic of COVID.

Through this partnership, British High Commission and AMTZ aims to encourage a number of innovators and provide them with technical, technological, financial, entrepreneurial and strategic hand holding enabling them to leapfrog from idea to innovation and from a start-up to an established enterprise. This is with an aim to serve the global innovation community.

Further information

1. The call for applications is open to all Indian start-ups, MSMEs and innovators. This includes those at prototype, development, pilot, validation, early traction, and scaling stages. The application form is available [here](#) and further details can be found on the AMTZ website and British High Commission's social media pages. The deadline for applications is 31 August, 2020.
2. Selected start-ups will be based in AIC-MediValley at AMTZ and they will have access to the state-of-the art infrastructure support, technical guidance from experienced mentors, domestic and international sourcing support, manufacturing scale-up support for successful start-ups, collaboration opportunities with the UK and Indian med-tech companies.
3. The MoU for the manufacturing support programme between the UK Government and AMTZ was signed on 31 July, 2020 under the UK-India Tech Partnership programme, which was established in 2018 to bring together the best tech minds from both countries to deliver high-skilled jobs and economic growth as well as to collectively tackle some of the world's biggest challenges.
4. AMTZ is an enterprise under the Government of Andhra Pradesh dedicated for medical device manufacturing. It has reserved 100,000 square feet rent-free manufacturing space for start-ups to facilitate quick commercialisation of successful solutions. It has been contracted by the Government of India for the manufacture of ventilators and other essential medical equipment such as masks, PPE, testing kits, etc. MediValley is the incubation and innovation arm of AMTZ, funded by NITI Aayog, as Atal Incubation Council.

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