

Technology Readiness Level Booster (TRLB) : A Scheme to enhance the TRL of Technologies developed in the campus

Background:

Commercialization of technologies is needed for enhancing the impact of our research in the corporate world.

Just like we have made a significant improvement in the filing of patents, we now need to also focus on the monetization of these technologies.

For this to happen, we need to enhance the technology readiness level (TRL) of the technologies developed in the Institute.

Technology Readiness Level: TRL is an indicator to assess the maturity level of a technology. In practice, TRLs are measured from 1 to 9. A survey of different technologies protected by the IPR Cell of the Institute has found that 60% of the technologies are at TRL 4, 5 and 6 and less than 4% technologies are at TRL9. Therefore, there is an urgent need to provide support to the innovators of technologies which are levels 4, 5 and 6 so that their TRL can be taken to 7 and 8 when it will become possible to commercialize them.

Funding Scheme to improve the TRL: In order to boost the TRL of our technologies, it is proposed to help the inventors with the following two stage scheme:

Stage 1: Assessment of Commercial Potential (Market Feasibility) of the Technology: Inventors will be connected to the interested students of MIM / MBA programs for the commercial assessment of the technology. The students will prepare a report on the market prospects of the technology under consideration. The report will be prepared on the basis of the size of market for the technology, possible number of industries interested in the technology, and the level of interest these industries/companies may show in adopting the technology.

Stage 2: Financial support for boosting the TRL: A financial support of up to Rs 15 lakh will be provided to boost the TRL of the technologies which have market potential. The financial support will be available with the following conditions:

1. The support will be available to a faculty member of the Institute who is the principal innovator of the patent filed by the Institute.
2. The financial support will be considered if support from the funding agency of the sponsored research is not available. There should not be a conflict of interest issue with the funding agency.

3. The present TRL of the technology should be between 4 to 7 and the expected output level should be either TRL 8 or 9.
4. It is desirable that all the researchers involved in the original research are part of this booster scheme proposal.
5. Duration of the funding will not be more than one year.

A maximum of Rs 15 lakh for 1 year can be provided for boosting the TRL as per following breakup:

(a) Prototype development or/and testing of prototype in a real environment:	Up to Rs 10 lakh
(b) Proving the technology in real environment:	Up to Rs 3 Lakh
(c) Miscellaneous Expenses	: Up to Rs 2 lakh

Note: Under this support, computer or its peripherals etc. cannot be purchased.

Travel can be undertaken with the prior permission of Dean SRIC.

Generally, fresh manpower should not be hired using this fund. However, a token honorarium as per SRIC rules can be paid to existing PhD students. Appointment of research staff of the original project can be extended to achieve objectives of enhanced TRL.

Implementation and Monitoring:

A faculty member (PI) of the Institute can apply for support under this scheme after filing the patent. The proposal should mention the present TRL of the technology and a clear roadmap to enhance the TRL. The PI will propose a panel of six experts including three experts from the industry. ADII will recommend a panel (TRL Assessment Committee) of 3 experts from this list which will be approved by Dean SRIC. Dean SRIC will be the Chairperson of the TRLAC. The committee will make its recommendation on the basis of the report of market potential and the presentation of the PI.

For preparing a report on the market potential, ADII will identify a pool of students from the MBA/MIM programs. Once a proposal is received from a PI, ADII will assign the task of preparing the market feasibility report to a group of 2-3 students from the pool. They will be given honorarium as per SRIC rules and reimbursement of travel expenses. They need to submit the report to ADII within 1 month. The group of students who will prepare the report will also be present during the presentation made by the PI in front of TRLAC.

Deliverables of the scheme is a higher TRL. The PI will request an intermediate review (not later than six months from the project start date) of the project. The remaining approved budget will be released after the intermediate review. During the second half of the project duration, the PI will work closely with the IPR cell for the marketing of the technology.