



NFSU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL

(A company Registered u/s 8 of
Companies Act, Established by National
Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar)

CIN: U80301GJ2021NPL128074

Expression of Interest (Eoi)

Empanelment of Startups for Research, Innovation, Product Development, Cyber Range Integration, and Capacity Building

Date of Issue: 10th February 2026

Background

1. National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), an Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is dedicated to advancing education, research, and innovation in forensic sciences, cybersecurity, digital investigation, and emerging technologies of national relevance.
2. The Research & Innovation Council (RIC) serves as the University's nodal platform for applied research, indigenous technology development, incubation, and academia–industry collaboration. To strengthen the innovation ecosystem and accelerate deployment-ready solutions, NFSU proposes to empanel credible and high-potential startups through this Expression of Interest (Eoi).

Objective

3. The objective of this Eoi is to:
 - 3.1. Create a vetted pool of technically competent startups
 - 3.2. Enable rapid collaboration for research, pilots, and deployments
 - 3.3. Promote indigenous product design and development
 - 3.4. Support cyber range–based learning and simulations
 - 3.5. Enhance SaaS-enabled scalable solutions
 - 3.6. Strengthen national capacity building and skill development

Scope of Empanelment

4. Empanelled startups may be engaged in one or more of the following domains:

4.1. Technology & Products

- 4.1.1. Cyber Security solutions (SOC, red teaming, threat intel, secure systems)
- 4.1.2. Digital Forensics tools and DFIR platforms
- 4.1.3. Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- 4.1.4. Cryptography and secure communications
- 4.1.5. Quantum technologies / post-quantum security
- 4.1.6. Blockchain/Web3 investigative tools



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4.1.7. Other emerging/deep-tech security solutions

4.2. Platforms & Services

4.2.1. SaaS / Cloud-native cybersecurity or forensic platforms

4.2.2. Managed services / technical consulting

4.2.3. Product engineering and customization

4.3. Cyber Range & Simulation

4.3.1. Cyber Range content, labs, scenarios, attack–defence simulations

4.3.2. Red/Blue/Purple team exercises

4.3.3. Training modules and virtual environments

4.3.4. Digital forensic simulation environments

4.4. Capacity Building & Training

4.4.1. Specialized training programs

4.4.2. Skill certification support

4.4.3. Workshops, bootcamps, and labs

4.4.4. Joint curriculum and lab development with NFSU

Nature of Engagement

5. Engagements may include:

5.1. Joint R&D projects

5.2. Proof-of-concept and pilot deployments

5.3. Product testing and validation

5.4. Technology incubation

5.5. Student internships and live projects

5.6. Cyber range integration

5.7. Training and capacity building assignments

5.8. Consultancy or specialized services

6. Empanelment does not guarantee work allocation.

Eligibility Criteria

7. Applicants should:

7.1. Be registered startups/companies/LLPs/incubated entities

7.2. Possess demonstrable technical capability in relevant domains

7.3. Have at least one functional prototype/product/service

7.4. Have a qualified technical team



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7.5. Not be blacklisted by any Government agency

7.6. Preference may be given to:

7.6.1. DPIIT-recognized startups

7.6.2. Indigenous IP ownership

7.6.3. Prior Government/LEA/Defence deployments

7.6.4. Research-oriented or deep-tech innovation

Submission Requirements

8. Applicants shall submit:

8.1. Company profile and registration documents

8.2. Technical capability statement

8.3. Product/service portfolio

8.4. Deployment/use cases

8.5. Details of cyber range or SaaS offerings (if applicable)

8.6. Team credentials and key personnel CVs

8.7. IP/Patents/Research outputs

8.8. Proposed collaboration areas with NFSU

8.9. Contact details

9. Submission Mode: Email: nidhish.bhatnagar@nfsu.ac.in

10. **Submission Deadline: Within 10 days from the date of issue of this EoI**

Selection Process

11. The selection shall be undertaken through the following stages:

11.1. Stage 1 – Preliminary Screening

11.1.1. Eligibility and completeness check

11.2. Stage 2 – Technical Evaluation

11.2.1. Detailed evaluation by a committee constituted by NFSU–RIC

11.3. Stage 3 – Presentation/Demonstration

11.3.1. Shortlisted startups may be invited for:

11.3.2. Technical presentations

11.3.3. Product demos

11.3.4. Cyber range or SaaS walkthroughs

11.4. Stage 4 – Final Approval

11.4.1. Recommendation and issue of Letter of Empanelment



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Evaluation Framework

Criteria	Weightage
Technical capability & innovation	25%
Product/solution maturity	20%
Team capabilities, expertise & credentials	25%
Relevance to NFSU use-cases	20%
Research/IP/indigenous value	10%

Timeline (subject to change)

Activity	Timeline
In-principle approval	Day 0
Issue of EoI	Day 1
Receipt of responses	Day 10
Screening of applications	Days 11–13
Presentations/demonstrations	Days 14–17
Final selection & issue of Letters of Empanelment	Days 18–20

Terms & Conditions

12. Following are the terms and conditions:

- 12.1. Empanelment does not imply financial commitment
- 12.2. Engagements will be need/project-based
- 12.3. NFSU may conduct due diligence
- 12.4. Separate agreements will govern confidentiality and IP
- 12.5. NFSU reserves the right to accept/reject applications without assigning reasons
- 12.6. Empanelment validity: [1–3 years or as decided]



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Contact Details

13. Mr. Nidhish Bhatnagar

Professor of Practice
Research & Innovation Centre (RIC)
National Forensic Sciences University
Sector-3, Rohini, Outer Ring Road, New Delhi
Email: nidhish.bhatnagar@nfsu.ac.in

Conclusion

14. Through this EoI, NFSU seeks to establish a transparent and credible startup ecosystem that accelerates innovation, strengthens indigenous capabilities, enhances cyber range-based learning, and supports national technology capacity building.



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Application Form for Empanelment of Startups (To be submitted on company letterhead)

General Information

Particulars	Details
Name of Startup/Company	
Registered Address	
Operational Address (if different)	
Year of Incorporation	
Registration No.	
CIN/LLPIN/GST (if applicable)	
DPIIT Recognition No. (if applicable)	
Website	
Contact Person Name & Designation	
Email	
Mobile	

1. Domain of Expertise (tick all applicable)

- Cyber Security
- Digital Forensics
- AI/ML
- Cryptography/Secure Systems
- Quantum Technologies
- SaaS/Cloud Platforms
- Cyber Range/Simulation
- Capacity Building/Training
- Other (specify): _____

2. Type of Engagement Sought (tick all applicable)

- Product Development
- Research Collaboration
- Cyber Range Integration
- SaaS/Managed Services



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- Consultancy
- Training & Capacity Building
- Internship/Academic Collaboration

3. Brief Profile (max 300 words)

(Overview of organization, mission, strengths)

4. Key Products/Services

Product/Service	Description	Deployment Stage
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5. Past Experience / Deployments

Client/Organization	Project	Year	Outcome
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6. Team Strength

Category	Number
Total Employees	
Core Technical Team	
Researchers/Engineers	
Trainers/Consultants	

7. Proposed Areas of Collaboration with NFSU

(Brief description)

Authorized Signatory

Name:

Designation:

Signature & Seal:

Date:



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Annexure – B

Technical Capability Statement Template

Applicants may provide the following details:

1. Technology Stack

- 1.1. Platforms/Tools/Frameworks used
- 1.2. Architecture overview
- 1.3. Deployment model (On-prem/Cloud/SaaS/Hybrid)

2. Product/Solution Maturity

- Concept
- Prototype
- Beta
- Production
- Deployed at scale

3. Cyber Range Capability (if applicable)

- 3.1. Lab scenarios available
- 3.2. Red/Blue team exercises
- 3.3. Simulation environment
- 3.4. Remote/virtual capability

4. D. SaaS/Cloud Offering (if applicable)

- 4.1. Hosting model
- 4.2. Security compliance
- 4.3. Multi-tenant support
- 4.4. Scalability

5. Capacity Building/Training Experience

- 5.1. Courses conducted
- 5.2. Audience served (Govt/LEA/Academia/Corporate)
- 5.3. Certifications offered

6. Intellectual Property

- 6.1. Patents
- 6.2. Copyrights
- 6.3. Publications
- 6.4. Research outputs

7. Differentiators / Unique Value Proposition



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Annexure – C

Self-Declaration & Undertaking

(On company letterhead)

1. I/We hereby declare that:
 - 1.1. All information provided in this application is true and correct.
 - 1.2. The organization has not been blacklisted/debarred by any Government or public authority.
 - 1.3. The organization agrees to abide by the terms and conditions of the EoI.
 - 1.4. Empanelment shall not be construed as guarantee of award of work or financial commitment.
 - 1.5. Confidentiality and intellectual property terms shall be governed by separate agreements, if required.
 - 1.6. We agree to participate in presentations/demonstrations when called upon.

Authorized Signatory

Name:

Designation:

Signature & Seal:

Date: