Trust Lab Grant 2023

Call for Proposals

IIT Bombay Trust Lab: Making the Digital World Trustworthy

IIT Bombay Trust Lab has a vision to be a leading contributor to the enterprise of making our digital environment trustworthy, through research, resource development, educational and awareness activities, and by creating a space for exchange of ideas and knowledge.

About the Trust Lab Grant

The **Trust Lab Grant** is designed to further the Trust Lab's vision by helping IIT Bombay faculty make impactful contributions in the broad area of digital trust. The grant will fund relatively short-term proposals dealing with research, teaching or resource development activities.

The grant will target innovations/research in various areas related to Digital Trust **including, but not limited** to the following:

- Systems Security (Cloud/Network/OS/Architecture/Hardware Security)
- Theory and Applications of Cryptography
- Privacy
- Formal Verification for Security
- Emerging Applications (including IoT, Blockchains, DeFi, Digital Identity)
- Quantum Cryptography
- Trustworthy AI and Adversarial Machine Learning
- Trust in HCI
- Policy for Digital Trust
- Education and Awareness about Digital Trust

Proposals that **synergistically combine expertise** from multiple domains are encouraged.

Funding Structure

Each Trust Lab grant can be up to **Rs. 20 lakhs**. The proposed project duration may range from **6 months to 2 years**. The grant amount will be released in stages, on completion of the milestones as defined in the project proposal. It may be utilized under the following heads:

- **Recurring Expenditures** such as those related to:
    - Support for research manpower
    - Travel (domestic and international) for student/researcher mobility
    - Contingent expenditures such as stationery, incidentals, etc.
    - Field/Pilot demonstration

- **Non-Recurring Expenditures** including the purchase of equipment or software, travel expenses, etc. Please note that the procurement of new equipment must follow the relevant IITB norms. Researchers are encouraged to make use of existing facilities and equipment, including the Trust Lab infrastructure, to the greatest extent possible.

In addition to the monetary support, the selected projects will get access to the Trust Lab infrastructure including lab space/offices, high-end servers, *etc*. The Trust Lab will also facilitate exchange of ideas among the personnel of all the projects selected for funding and the Trust Lab members.

Proposal Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Trust Lab Grant, a proposal must satisfy the following criteria:

- The Principal Investigator must be a faculty member at IIT Bombay.
- The proposals should be aligned with the primary vision of the Trust Lab, that is, to be a leading contributor to the enterprise of making our digital environment trustworthy.
- The proposal should be likely to have demonstrable results in the form of publications, products, resources, deployment, etc., by the end of the grant period.

For more details, please refer to the application form.

Proposal Assessment Criteria

The submitted applications will be evaluated and scored based on the following by a selection committee appointed by the Trust Lab:

- Novelty, significance and potential impact of the work proposed,
- Viability and feasibility of the milestones proposed,
- Synergy with the strategic direction of the Trust Lab,
- Track record of the applicant,
- Any other aspects deemed appropriate by the selection committee.

Evaluation Process

The proposals will be critically evaluated by an expert committee constituted by the Trust Lab, over two phases. The first phase evaluation will shortlist the proposals based on the criteria mentioned above. In the second phase the committee members will interact with the PIs of the shortlisted proposals. The final selection will be done by the Trust Lab Executive Committee based on the recommendations by the expert committee.

Important Dates

Submission of the Proposal	15th February 2023
First Phase Evaluation (Shortlisting of the Proposals)	24th February 2023
Second Phase Evaluation (Interaction sessions)	1st - 4th March 2023
Final Assessment by Executive Committee	15th March 2023
Announcement of Results	20th March 2023

Submission of Project Proposals

All the proposals may be submitted at trustlab@cse.iitb.ac.in in the enclosed format. Please visit https://trustlab.iitb.ac.in/ for more details about the Trust Lab. In case of any queries, contact mukul@cse.iitb.ac.in

Trust Lab Grant 2023: Application Form

Part 1 – Proposal Summary

i.	Project Title	
ii.	Duration in months	*Please note that the total duration cannot exceed 2 years (24 months)*
iii.	Total cost (INR)	*Please note that the total cost of the project cost cannot exceed Rs. 20 lakhs*

Part 2 – Details of Investigators

A. Details of Principal Investigator (must be an IITB faculty member)

i.	Name	
ii.	Designation	
iii.	Department	
iv.	E-mail	
v.	Contact number:	
vi.	Profile of PI	*Please attach a CV. This will be helpful for the first phase evaluation*

B. Co-Principal Investigators and Senior Personnel (Optional)

Please fill in the above table for each co-PI or senior personnel (if any), and also indicate their institution if different from IIT Bombay.

Part 3 - Technical Details of the Proposal

i.	Project Category	*Please indicate the main category/categories of the project: (a) Research, (b) Education (c) Other Resource Creation (specify the nature of the resource), (d) Policy, (e) Other (please specify)*
ii.	Summary	*Provide a summary of the proposal. Please do not exceed **200 words***
iii.	Technical Proposal	*Please attach a technical description of the proposed project (**maximum 3 pages**, excluding references).*
iv.	Summary of Deliverables	*Please summarise the deliverables of the proposal here. Please do not exceed **100 words***

Part 4 – Milestones associated with the Proposal

Sr.no	Milestone	Starting month and year	Ending month and year	Duration in months

Part 5 – Budget estimates

Total Budget Estimates – Summary of the Proposal

Sr.No.	Items	BUDGET (Indian Rupees)
Year – 1		
A.	Recurring	
1.		
2.		
B.	Non-Recurring	
1.		
2.		
	Year 1 Total (A+B)	
Year – 2		
A.	Recurring	
1.		
2.		
B.	Non-Recurring	
1.		
2.		
	Year 2 Total (A+B)	
	Grand total (Year 1 + Year 2)	

Attachments:

- *CV of the PI(s)*
- *Technical details of the proposed project*