

OPSA UPDATES ON BeST PROPOSAL

OPSA has requested during beginning of June to add the name of one innovation and translational research partner to the cluster proposal following many discussions between Prof. Ajay Sood (PSA), Prof. Rangarajan (Director IISc), Prof. Ambarish Ghosh and Dr. Parvinder Maini (Secretary to PSA). As we heard from Dr. Parvinder Maini, the office of PSA intends to support the Bangalore cluster without any ambiguity and has high expectations. Subsequently, Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO and Director of C-CAMP, has consented to join the core team and take a major role in driving the cluster in coming times. On July 5, the Bengaluru science and technology cluster (BeST) proposal was resubmitted to OPSA with his name added as a Co-PI. On July 21, OPSA suggested that the funding proposal be revised to reflect the demand for the current quarter and that the part on overseas travel be eliminated. On July 26, the identical adjustments were performed and submitted to the OPSA. We are prepared to kick-start all the activities planned with the cluster, as soon as OPSA releases the initial seed funding.

BeST WEBSITE UPDATED

The Bengaluru science and technology cluster (BeST) website, which contains all information on BeST activities, has been recently updated. The "**BeST activities Timeline**" section comprises all of the current updates about what's happening at the BeST office (bestkc.org.in)



BeST WELCOMES ITS CO-PI DR. TASLIMARIF SAIYED

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed has been added as a co-PI in the proposal to form Bengaluru science and technology cluster (BeST) to the Office of PSA. Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed is the CEO and Director of C-CAMP. His initial training has been in neurosciences, where he received his PhD from Max-Planck Institute for Brain Research, Germany and followed it up by postdoctoral training at University of California San Francisco (UCSF). At the same time, he also underwent training in management for Biotech and Innovation from QB3 at UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco. He has also completed a biotech management program for biotech executives at Wharton School of Management. In the Bay area, he served as a Management Consultant with QB3 New Biotech Venture Consulting and in an individual capacity, he also consulted for many biotech firms in US. Dr. Saiyed is an Adjunct Faculty at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and also Amrita Institute - School of Biotechnology. He heads the Discovery to Innovation Accelerator program at C-CAMP and actively involved in promoting innovation in lifescience / healthcare by supporting translation of discoveries to application, entrepreneurship and technology development.

BeST OFFICE PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVITIES

- The BeST team attended 6th jet engine feasibility testing meeting. After an internal review, the committee will submit the reports to the OPSA for further discussion.
- The BeST team attended the session organized by OPSA on July 25, Session title: - **Manthan - User Acceptance**. Testing workshop exclusively with stakeholders.
- BeST participated in the official launch of the Manthan platform on August 15.
- Regular interactions with PSA are in place to work on more new projects under different SDG's.

As you must be aware about the launch of **Manthan** portal (<https://manthan.gov.in/>), For new proposal submissions under different SDG's please feel free to get in touch with

Sreeparna Samanta (Project Manager Communications) on behalf of BeST office. Time to time, she will update you all regarding the different calls for proposals.

