

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Question</i>	<i>Answer</i>
1.	<p>What is the role of NSTMIS in the S&T sector?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>What are the key objectives of the NSTMIS scheme?</p>	<p>The National Science and Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS) under CHORD Division of Department of Science and Technology is the nodal agency responsible for assessment and benchmarking of S&T potential of the country leading to evidence-based policy planning for the S&T sector.</p> <p>NSTMIS is primarily entrusted with the task of collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of vital S&T information at a national level.</p> <p><i>Key Objectives of NSTMIS are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Indicators. ▪ Creation, up-dation and dissemination of databases on R&D resources, projects, institutions, experts, equipments, other infrastructure facilities. ▪ Conduct of cross-country analysis of S&T personnel. ▪ Studying aspects related to R&D management, innovation and policy issues. <p>NSTMIS fulfils its mandate through ‘In-house research’ and ‘Sponsored research’ activities.</p> <p>As a part of <i>In-house research</i>, the NSTMIS has been conducting national surveys on S&T resources based on which a number of national level in-house reports/publications on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Indicators are brought out regularly.</p> <p>Under the <i>sponsored research</i>, NSTMIS involves various stakeholders in the country to complement and supplement the information on S&T resources by taking up programmes in a project mode.</p>

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2.	What are the thrust areas for submission of projects proposals under the NSTMIS?	The broad areas under which the project proposal could be submitted are S&T Manpower, Investment, Databases, Output, Infrastructure, Patents, Bibliometrics, Innovation, Management and Policy related issues in sync with the dynamics of the S&T sector and the socio-economic environment of the country. Inter-alia, specific thrust areas are also announced with specific time window for submission of project proposals.
3.	Who can submit a project proposal under NSTMIS ?	Scientists, Technologists, Statisticians, Economists, Sociologists, Development/ Planning/ Policy Experts, Management Specialists etc. from Academic/Research Institutions, Registered Societies, Voluntary Agencies (NGOs), Professional bodies and Consulting Organisations etc. can submit a proposal in a prescribed format.
4.	When to apply for project proposals? Is the scheme open throughout the year or there is specific time window to apply under the NSTMIS?	The proposal can be submitted at any time during the year, as this is a continuing activity or during special call for proposals as and when announced or advertised with specific thrust areas. Generally, one special call is given for submission of sponsored project proposals in a year.
5.	Where to apply for project proposals? Are there any format/guidelines for applying the project proposals?	<p>Proposals may be submitted on-line to the Head, CHORD(NSTMIS) Division, Department of Science and Technology (DST) through the DST website at e-PMS(onlinedst.gov.in).</p> <p>The guidelines for formulation/submission of project proposals including prescribed format can be downloaded from the NSTMIS website www.nstmis-dst.org.</p>

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6.	How to check/track the status of the project proposal after submission, and how much time does it take to process?	The project proposals once submitted get a due acknowledgement for tracking it online apart from the communication by the Division for its further course of action. Generally, the proposal once submitted gets approved in 6 months time period or in exceptional cases may take more time.
7.	What is the maximum project time duration and the level of grant available under the scheme?	The level of the grant and time duration of the project proposal approved under the scheme depends upon its scope and objectives. Generally, the normal time duration of the project is 18-24 months.
8.	What is the approval mechanism followed for project proposals submitted under NSTMIS?	Proposals received are first screened by the Division/Internal Screening Committee and then referred to the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting of experts for technical evaluation where the Principal Investigator is also generally invited to make a presentation of its project proposal. Thereafter, recommended project proposals by the PAC are processed. The same are also discussed with the PI's, if required, and finally a sanction letter is issued by the Department to the PI for initiating the project work.
9.	Can I submit a project alone or in association with another expert from the same organisation or from different institutions /organizations?	Yes. One can submit a project proposal in association with another expert from the same organisation or from different institutions /organizations. In fact the proposals having both Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PI as a team are more preferred due to its operational feasibility as per the project proposals submission guidelines.

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10.	<p>What are the key considerations to be taken care of while applying for the proposal grant?</p> <p>Is the fundamental lab research in S&T domains covered under NSTMIS scheme or proposals on writing of computer algorithm/software or general management case studies etc.?</p> <p>What are other procedures/requirements to be followed once the project is sanctioned?</p>	<p>The proposal should clearly focus on the areas applicable under the scope of the scheme. The proposal should be novel; the PI should have demonstrated competence in the proposed work; proposal should have clear methodology and objectives.</p> <p>No. It does not fall under the NSTMIS mandate.</p> <p>One should adhere with the procedures/ general terms and conditions before submitting the proposals and also after its approval/sanctioning by the Department as mentioned item-wise under the Project Proposal Guidelines and Formats available at the NSTMIS website (www.nstmis-dst.org)</p>
11.	<p>Does the project proposal under the NSTMIS provide funds for non-recurring/infrastructure items such as vehicles, buildings etc.?</p>	<p>The scheme does not provide funds for infrastructure like vehicles, buildings, permanent equipment etc. It provides funds mainly for the computational facilities such as lap tops, computers and associated peripherals etc. including access to select databases as per the merit of the case. However, if any dedicated equipment required for the project work exclusively can be considered in exceptional case.</p>
12.	<p>How the ongoing project is monitored, is there any scope for mid-term review?</p>	<p>Each ongoing project is monitored and guided by experts through the Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) and mid-term review mechanisms. The detailed process is given under the section General Terms & Conditions of the Guidelines for submission of project proposals.</p>