



CSIR-INSTITUTE OF MICROBIAL TECHNOLOGY (IMTECH) SEEKS FUNDS UNDER CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) FOR COVID-19 RELATED ACTIVITIES



Background

The world is grappling with the challenge and threat posed by the growing pandemic of COVID-19 which has spread across more than 200 countries and infected more than 3 million people across the globe. In India alone, more than 24000 confirmed cases have come to light since January 2020 when the first case of COVID-19 was detected. To increase the testing rate among suspected patients, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recently issued an advisory to operationalise COVID-19 testing by laboratories under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and other labs affiliated to DST, DBT and DAE.

Infrastructure

CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH) being one of the premier national research laboratory is already carrying out clinical testing of COVID-19 samples and has all the necessary expertise in molecular microbiology. The lab has the requisite infrastructure including Biosafety Level (BSL)-3 facility to undertake all appropriate biosafety and bio-security precautions before testing. A newly constructed BSL-2+ virology

lab equipped with Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) equipment is also operationalised.

Activities

In the initial phase, CSIR-IMTECH has operationalised capabilities to carry out testing of 50 to 70 samples clinical a day. The institute is receiving samples from all COVID-19 designated hospitals in Chandigarh, and several districts of Punjab & Haryana to cater to the increasing needs from such hospitals to provide test results of all such samples. However, scaling up testing is need of the hour and augment Government of India's efforts to have capabilities for testing one lac suspected patients per day by the end of May 2020. So, in order to cater to above needs, it is expected that IMTECH will substantially need to ramp up its current rate of testing to 500 samples a day. It is imperative to state that IMTECH has been performing all tests of clinical samples pertaining to COVID 19 at no cost to the hospital.



Snapshot of the BSL3 lab at CSIR-IMTECH used for testing

Requirements

In order to further sustain these services, funds are required for procurement of test kits, consumables, PPEs, maintenance of equipment and other key activities required for testing purposes.

Consumable	Cost/Kit
RT/PCR Kit (100 reaction)	1,00,000

RNA Isolation Kit (25 reaction)	30,000
Personal Protective Equipment(PPE)	800

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

As per the recent directives issued by the Government of India, spending of CSR funds for COVID-19 related activities is an eligible CSR activity under schedule VII related to promotion of health care, preventive health care, sanitation, and disaster management. Thus, IMTECH solicits the participation of industry through CSR to support its endeavours in fight against COVID-19.

For more information, please contact:

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