

Office of the Technology Development Missions  
Indian Institute of Science

Request for Proposals: COVISANT Initiative  
July 2007

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## 1 The COVISANT Initiative

Innovative new technology/process development in close collaboration with the industry continues to be a critical need in our country. As a step in this direction, the Institute has approved a new initiative COVISANT (Collaborative Visionary New Technologies Initiative) *to promote highly innovative and contemporary technology development in collaboration with the Industry*. A central objective of this initiative is to elicit a high level of interest, participation, and commitment from the industry partner.

Each COVISANT project will strive towards conceptualizing and developing a new technology or process which is of current interest and value to IISc, the participating organization, and India. The nature of the innovation could be of any of the following types:

- *Early research and early design* to envision and create a new technology or new process, leading to IP creation
- *Design and development innovation* to design and develop a complete prototype product starting from a novel idea and concept
- *Any innovative activity* in the life-cycle of product/technology development that IISc and the partner are willing to work on with a high level of conviction.

Each COVISANT project will be funded jointly by the IISc and an industry. The industry partner is required to contribute significantly (all in cash) towards the project budget (preferably 50 percent). Since the industry partner commits substantial resources to each COVISANT project, the level of participation from the industry partner is expected to be high and the project vision is driven by both IISc and the partner.

Revenue generation in the COVISANT is possible through various routes: exclusive technology transfer to an industry partner, non-exclusive technology transfer to multiple industry partners or industry customers, royalties, etc.

## 2 Selection and Monitoring of Projects

Each project proposal will be rigorously reviewed, improved, and crystallized with the expert help of knowledgeable researchers from the academia and the industry. The proposal will have clearly defined milestones and deliverables. The project proposal will have a science and technology part as well as a business development part. Each project initiated will have a *project steering committee*

(PROSC). The PROSC for each project will perform all activities from selection to completion of the project, including continuous monitoring, advising, and steering of the project.

### 3 Technology Transfer and IP Sharing

Each project will have an MOU with an IP Clause as per IISc policies. The MOU will clearly articulate terms and conditions for technology transfer, exclusive versus non-exclusive issues, royalty clauses, patenting charges, etc. The sharing of IP and other benefits accruing out of the COVISANT projects will be carefully determined taking into account the fact that IISc is investing its financial, faculty, and student resources into COVISANT projects in a substantial way.

### 4 Next Steps

- The interested faculty members have to first submit a two page proposal, in the enclosed format, with informal approval from the industry on or before August 20, 2007. This will be examined and the TDM office would provide an indication on the requirement of a detailed proposal.
- After obtaining a positive indication from the TDM office, a detailed proposal, in the enclosed format, is to be submitted together with a formal approval letter from the industry partner.
- The detailed proposals would undergo a peer review and a presentation. Launching of individual projects will happen as soon as the project is approved.
- A Request-for-Proposals (RFP) would be issued periodically and individual proposals could be considered as and when they are submitted.

### 5 Contact Information

Please send your two page proposals by email (in PDF format) (on or before August 20, 2007) to `tdm@admin.iisc.ernet.in` with a copy to `hari@csa.iisc.ernet.in`. Hard-copies are discouraged. You can also contact the following for more information:

- Prof. Y. Narahari, Phone: 2773, 2468; `hari@csa.iisc.ernet.in`
- Mr. B.N. Balaji, Phone: 2988, `balaji@admin.iisc.ernet.in`
- TDM Office, Phone: 2630; `tdm@admin.iisc.ernet.in`

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COVISANT Project Proposal (Brief Proposal)

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1. Title of the Project
2. Name of Principal Investigator:
3. Names of Co-Investigators:  
(Note: At least one co-investigator is mandatory. Multiple co-investigators are welcome in team projects)
4. Participating Industry or Research Lab  
(Note: Industry participation is essential. Industry selected is expected to contribute at least 50 percent in cash and to carry the technology developed further.)
5. Objectives of the Project and a Crisp Outline of Work  
(Be very sharp here)
6. Innovation and Originality of the Proposal
7. Duration of the Project and Significant Milestones
8. Deliverables from the Project  
(Be very specific here; please mention the potential for creation of IP; your thoughts on sharing of IP and benefits)
9. Anticipated Impact from the Project
10. Business Value Proposition:
11. Budget  
(Note: You need to indicate the amounts under main budget heads such as recurring grant, non-recurring grant, and contribution from the industry.
12. Email Address for Correspondence:

COVISANT Project Proposal (Detailed Proposal)

In addition to the items listed under the brief proposal format, the following details are required.

- \*\* Current State-of-the Art in India and Abroad and Positioning of the work with respect to the current art (with relevant references)
- \*\* Profile of the Company (One page)
- \*\* Details of Deliverables
- \*\* Detailed Schedule of Activities
- \*\* Project Personnel
- \*\* Details of the Budget and Justification
- \*\* A List of Possible Referees
- \*\* One Page Bio of all the investigators (including from the industry)