IIT Mandi iHub & HCI Foundation

A Section 8 Not-for-Profit Company
Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)

Regd. Office: Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, VPO Kamand, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, India – 175075

Call for Innovation *(CfI)*
Addressing Real-Life Problems through HCI
Last Date to Apply: July 16, 2023

About IIT Mandi iHub:

IIT Mandi iHub and HCI Foundation (iHub) is a Section 8 company established under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). The vision of iHub is "To be an internationally recognized hub that nurtures Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) research, enables technology translation for industry adoption, and scales skill development." For more information, visit www.ihubiitmandi.in

Description:

Call for Innovation (CfI) is a program focused on addressing real-life problems with the intervention of HCI. This program is designed to provide innovators, researchers, and technology enthusiasts who are passionate about translating their ideas into productized solutions for industry adoption. The applicant may be a startup or from academia, or from the mainstream industry.

HCI is the confluence of Computer Science, Industrial Design, and Cognitive Science. The applicants are expected to work with iHub to translate the ideas or working prototype systems into shrink-wrapped products which could be adopted by the industry... The proposals must be in the broad area of HCI.

The proposals are invited by the startups in the following domains (though not limited to):
1. Environment
2. Healthcare
3. Information and Technology
4. Defence and Security

Technology areas under HCI
1. Industrial Design/Usability Engineering
2. Computer Vision
3. Image Processing
4. Cognitive Modelling
5. Natural Language Processing (NLP)
6. AR/VR/ Mixed Reality
7. AI & ML
8. Large Language Model (LLM)/Generative AI

Focus on Industry Adoption
1. The development of technology that can be adopted across industries would be the critical goal. To achieve this goal, iHub will focus on proposals with a strong translational component that can result in products, services and platforms

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2. Developing technology for adoption across any industry requires a multifaceted approach that includes the collaboration of multiple disciplines, and an entrepreneurship mindset, with a close and critical eye on industry adoption.

3. By focusing on proposals with a strong translational component, we can create a future where technology is more accessible and impactful than ever before.

4. Weightage will be given to ideas from untapped sources with novelty and promise. IIT Mandi iHub will help them to convert into funded startups.

The applicant's idea should fall into the one of following categories:

1. Assistive Technologies (e.g., Bed for bedridden using gesture control, EMG, and voice technologies)
2. Experience Technologies (e.g., Simulations, Gaming, and Entertainment),
3. Device-based Technologies (e.g., Social Robots, IoT, Human Drone Interface)
4. The emerging areas like **Large Language Models/ Gen AI** and its impact on the above categories would be most welcomed.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant's age must be 18 and above
- Resident of India

Benefits:

- Funding opportunities (Up to INR 1 Crore)
- Help in defining Product-Market fit
- Assistance and guidance in converting PoC/prototype to shrink-wrapped product.
- Access to the IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Mandi's Faculty, laboratories and technical expertise.
- Access to the state-of-the-art infrastructure at the IIT Mandi Innovation Hub (iHub).

Link to Apply: https://xt9iuyp9fqg.typeform.com/to/P3tzTBUs

Note: Residential and working space available on campus.