Job Title

Founding Chief Executive Officer

About the Centre for Reimagining Innovation and Science Practice (CRISP)

The world is increasingly moving towards an innovation economy, driven by exponential progress in science and technology (S&T) and the growth of vibrant ecosystems to commercialize research. To be a global leader in science and technology, India needs to be at the forefront of research: **the creation of new science & technology knowledge (research) and its translation to economic and social goods**. This would ensure sustained economic growth that is not overly dependent on the service sector, and the use of the scientific method to attain our social goals. We believe that this is the right time for India to revive its S&T agenda. We have the economic size, the talent pool, a large market size and a vibrant startup ecosystem to both invest in research and be able to translate S&T knowledge into economic value. Countries such as China seized this opportunity beginning in the 1990s and have revitalized their S&T ecosystem through systematic reforms and programs. It is no surprise that today, China rubs its shoulders with and is even ahead of the United States in areas such as artificial intelligence.

The **Centre for Reimagining Innovation and Science Practice (CRISP)** has been conceptualised as a non-profit institution of excellence dedicated to build capacity and advancing policy solutions that foster scientific enquiry and research, and facilitate the creation, and dissemination and translation of new scientific knowledge. The Centre will work with all stakeholders to develop and strengthen the science ecosystem in India in order to advance scientific research and its translation into economic value and social good. The Centre also aspires to be a thought-leader in the space of science in India and set the narrative for science in the country. The Centre will have five key verticals: Policy Reforms (housed at CCS), Government Engagement and Support, Capacity Building for Institutions, Engaging with the Corporate Sector, and Science Communications (flagship event, www.indiasciencefest.org).

CRISP is backed by Varun Aggarwal, who is a successful entrepreneur and researcher, and Ashish Dhawan, a private equity investor turned philanthropist. Varun is passionate about building science for India and wrote a book on the science ecosystem of India. He believes that India needs to be a pioneer in scientific research to have sustainable social and economic progress. Ashish Dhawan is the chairperson of Ashoka University, a leading liberal arts

university in India, and Central Square Foundation, and is passionate about promoting science in India.

Job Profile

CRISP is looking for a highly entrepreneurial Founding CEO to join the team in an exciting time of organisational growth and development. The Founding CEO will play a key role in placing India at the forefront of global innovation through the creation of science and technology research and its translation into social and commercial applications. The ideal candidate is an **entrepreneurial institution builder** with **high intellectual vitality** and a **deep passion for promoting science and technology in India**.

The Founding CEO of CRISP will lead a small and dedicated team to provide the necessary vision, leadership, and skills which will enable the organisation to achieve its larger goal and create societal wealth from the adoption of STEM-based R&D in the public, private, and social sectors of India.

The Founding CEO's goal is to establish CRISP as the pre-eminent organisation for enhancing the science and technology ecosystem in India, with expertise in policy, government engagement, capacity building, liaising with the corporate sector, and science communications.

Roles and Responsibilities

We are looking for an exceptional leader who is driven to transform the S&T ecosystem in the country.

The Founding CEO is expected to set up CRISP as a unique social sector organization, creating an institution that consistently delivers the necessary impact towards achieving its long term vision.

- Develop strategy and boot-strap its operating capabilities - articulate a business plan, design the organizational structure, hire and build a strong leadership team, allocate resources, and secure long term funding
- Undertake programs and projects with institutions in the ecosystem, private sector, and consolidate best practice for change
- Establish CRISP as a thought leader by building a robust network of partners, collaborators and supporters
- Raise the level of debate and awareness amongst government, industry, academia and students about the essential role of STEM research in economic development, and how it is best fostered
- Frame policies that help bring efficiency in scientific R&D financing and dismantling regulatory barriers to innovation and science entrepreneurship in India
- Develop a credible voice of science in the country, and make India Science Fest as the leading science event in India and the world
- Manage and optimize the organization's finances and allocate resources appropriately

In two years, we envision the following:
- Increasing the scientific temper of the nation
- A world-class "Ease of Doing Research" index
- Deep engagement with policymakers at top-most levels of government
- A number of policy briefs on areas of relevance to India
- Deep engagement with the 10 most innovative companies in India
- Partnerships to build capacity with the top 7-10 educational institutions
- Bring together over 500 people from across the ecosystem as part of the yearly India Science Fest
- Build CRISP into a best-in-class organisation with top talent

Desired Qualifications, Skills and Abilities

- Undergraduate and graduate degrees from top institutions in STEM, Economics, Management, or Public Policy. While area of study can vary, passion for science is a must
- Entrepreneurial self-starter with excellent leadership skills and strong strategic and operational experience; has managed and led teams to achieve strong results

- 20+ years of overall professional experience in a professional environment with the ability to juggle multiple projects and work with a diverse group of stakeholders
- High intellectual vitality, the desire to continuously learn, read, and engage on a variety of topics. While the person may only have basic knowledge of the science and technology ecosystem, we highly value the willingness to learn and take on new areas
- Highly motivated and able to inspire team members to work towards goals and targets, and take ownership of the organization and mission
- Ability to network, establish credibility and build and nurture deep relationships with various senior stakeholders across government, academia, research, and corporations
- High ability to collaborate and actively listen to others, understanding and valuing others' views
- Adaptable and flexible to changing circumstances and needs of the role
- Experience working with the government is a plus

Reporting

The CEO will report to the Board of CRISP, and founders.

Compensation

CRISP recognizes that the right candidate will have a significant impact on the success of the organization and is prepared to offer an attractive compensation package for the non-profit sector, commensurate with experience.

Location

The position will be based in Delhi. Frequent travel around India with potential for international travel to partners and conferences will be expected.

Apply

Candidates should apply by emailing careers@crisp.org.in. Applicants must attach an updated CV, and a statement of intent. Selected candidates will be called for interviews.