

Job Description

Title:	Director of Research and Development
Type of Position:	Full Time
Reports to:	Chief Executive Officer
Location:	Bengaluru
To Apply:	Send cover letter and resume to office.best@iisc.ac.in (Subject line: Application for Director of Research and Development, BeST cluster)

BeST Overview

Establishing a sustainable innovation ecosystem requires a well-connected network of entrepreneurs, domestic and foreign private enterprises, educational and research institutions, government agencies, investors, business incubators, and technology and business mentors. This need has led to the establishment of regional innovation clusters in many parts of the world. Such innovation clusters bring together capital, expertise, and talent to foster technological breakthroughs. Innovation clusters are uniquely distinctive in their structure and operating model. The Bengaluru Science and Technology (BeST) Cluster aims to distinguish itself by aspiring towards the following overarching goals:

- Building an active network of research institutes, companies, NGOs and government bodies to promote knowledge sharing, cross-fertilization of ideas, and co-innovation (Collaboration).
- Identifying and resolving socially relevant problems, through active coordination with government organisations and NGOs (Responsiveness).
- Accelerating regional scientific and technological progress, and improving the regional innovation ecosystem, by facilitating a wider range of research initiatives, better access to funding opportunities, and greater networking and career opportunities for student communities (Competitiveness)
- Inspiring new products and technologies by coordinating efforts and financial resources and effective integration of intellectual and financial resources to create a new generation of innovative businesses (Innovation)
- Gaining a competitive advantage by improving internationalisation and boosting visibility (Globalisation)
- Promoting economic growth in the state by contributing to an increase in employment and intensification of entrepreneurial activity, and accelerating the inflow of foreign investment (Sustainability)

BeST is part of the Science & Technology clusters area major initiative under the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM – STIAC). The Bengaluru cluster has is being incubated by the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. To further this mission, BeST is recruiting for the position of Director – Research & Development . Please see description below.

Roles and Responsibilities

Director (Research and Development) will be responsible for developing and monitoring R&D plans for the cluster, maintaining a competitive innovation portfolio, and managing research partnerships. The Director of Research and Development must have a strong base of coordination and technical skills that can be flexibly adapted to meet the needs of many different internal and external stakeholders. The director must understand the unique responsibilities and accountabilities of a multi-agency collaborative, and provide outstanding leadership; communicate professionally; and, work with flexibility, efficiency, and diplomacy both individually and as part of a complex team/community effort.

Key responsibilities include:

- Participates as a team member and represents the organization in various BeST activities and programmes, including Steering Committee meetings, public events, workshops and training events;
- Participates on the Management Team providing input on decision-making regarding operational and programme direction for the various thematic areas;
- Provides clear and useful reports for the Steering Committee, staff and other stakeholders as needed to implement the cluster's strategies and programmes and further BeST's mission;
- Build and strengthen the Research and Development functions;
- Develop key messages to advise Cluster Members for the purpose of understanding and communicating BeST's mission, goals, objectives, etc.;
- Develops, implements and monitors an evaluation plan addressing logic models, strategic and programme evaluation questions, data collection methods, analysis and reporting;
- In collaboration with Chief Executive Officer and other Working Groups and partners, develops the outcomes and indicators that will be used to monitor Collaborative's progress towards its goals;
- Supports programs by using data to improve programmes;
- Develops relationships with other cluster partners and stakeholders to further the mission of BeST;
- Writes proposals as necessary to fund or initiate research evaluation or special projects;
- Participates in activities relating to funding of programmes by estimating resource and funding requirements for specific programmes;
- Conducts research and analysis of issues as requested, including preparation of reports, white papers and journal publications recommendations and other materials;
- Serve as part of the organization's leadership team and contribute to the development and execution of strategic decisions.

Skills and Competencies

- Demonstrated ability to work with diverse personalities from a wide variety of thematic backgrounds;
- Ability to think strategically, remaining focused on goals and objectives;
- Proficient and knowledgeable in the use of current computer software and tools;
- High level of organization and attention to detail;
- Ability to handle multiple programmes, meet deadlines and be persistent, and solve problems as they arise;
- Strong oral and written communication skills.

Education and Experience

- Master's degree (mandatory) and PhD (desirable) and 15+ years of experience in a STEM based initiative;
- Demonstrated expertise in successfully designing and carrying out quantitative and qualitative research;
- Ability to analyze information, summarize findings and present them in ways easily understandable to decision-makers;
- Experience developing, and maintaining longitudinal data management systems;
- Understanding of statistical principles and methods for data analysis;
- Experience working in a collaborative model of programme execution;
- Experience working with Government, academia, for-profit and not-for-profit entities;
- Experience in supporting and training partners, that are unfamiliar with research and evaluations, to collect, manage and analyze data.
- Candidates whose prior work experience have an excellent match with the skills and competencies, would be considered for the position, even if there are some variations in their education and experience parameters.

Applicants must submit a cover letter and resume via email to office.best@iisc.ac.in (Please specify the subject line as: Application for Director of Research and Development, BeST cluster)

