

## DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DAE)

### *Institutes*

#### DAE Science Research Council (DAE SRC) Awards



DAE Science Research Council (DAE SRC) is a body consisting of eminent scientists and has been setup to guide basic research being done in the units of DAE. The DAE SRC proposes to setup Frontier Area Research Units around outstanding individuals in order to impart a fresh momentum to advanced research in the areas of science and engineering of interest to DAE. Each Unit will be initially supported for a period of five years. In cases where the performance is exceptional, the support is extendable for a further period of 5 years.

The upper limit for funding would be about Rs 1 crore per project spread over a period of 5 years. Up to 50 scientists/engineers during the X Plan period could be given awards. Up to 50% of the awardees may be from outside DAE constituent units. Younger scientists below the age of 40 years will be fairly represented.

#### OBJECTIVES

- (a) The core objective is to augment support to individual research workers with highly innovative ideas and with proven abilities to pursue advanced research in frontier areas of science and engineering at an accelerated pace.
- (b) Depending upon the sustained interest and the proven strength of the individuals concerned, both basic and applied research will be supported. In the case of basic research, apart from meritorious publications in leading journals, it should result in an internationally competitive edge within the 5 years period. In the case of applied research, the areas should be such that they have discernible implications to new technologies.
- (c) Wherever a new product or a novel process is identified, special funding would be made available for readily translating scientific innovation into an applicable product or process.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Individual scientists/engineers of the DAE constituent units, as well as those outside DAE, working in public funded institutions are eligible to apply for these awards. The applicants are expected to have demonstrated a high level of competence. Research publications in leading journals or success in developing novel technologies and products would be expected of the applicants.

Candidates who are not in regular employment but attached to an academic/research institution could be considered for the DAE senior fellowship. The fellowship amount for such would be determined on a case-to-case basis.

#### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Application should be sent to the Scientific Secretary, BRNS, BRNS Secretariat, First Floor, Central Complex, BARC, Mumbai 400 085. There is no fixed format for the proposals. However, the applicant is expected to include the following.

- (a) A one to two page write-up describing the relevance and importance of the proposed research and what the proposer expects to achieve at the end of the 5-year-period.
- (b) Financial requirements for a 5-year period for equipment, consumables and research infrastructure and research staff.
- (c) Other items such as travel and contingency expenditure.

The proposal should be sponsored by the Head of the Department/Director of the Institution, where the work is proposed to be carried out. The sponsoring institution should give an indication about continuing work beyond the period of the award.

#### **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The initial screening of the proposal shall be done by a Committee set up by the Chairman, AEC. If the Screening Committee selects a proposal, applicant would be asked to submit a detailed work plan. The detailed version of proposals will be scrutinized by a Committee of Experts to be chosen by the DAE SRC. Potential awardees would be requested to present their proposed work in person to the Committee before the final selection is made. (The awardees may have to modify the proposal based on interaction with the experts.). Final approval for the project will be accorded by the DAE-SRC and its implementation would be under the Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS).

#### **OTHER PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE SCHEME**

- (a) Funding to enable the awardees to participate in national and international conferences can be made available.
- (b) To improve the effectiveness of the scheme, the awardee will be assisted in working across institutions, laboratories and industries.
- (c) The awardee will continue to be attached to his/her organization, received salary and enjoy facilities such as residential accommodation.
- (d) In the scheme, provision for funding exists to facilitate work at centres other than the parent organization within the country. Such provisions include financial support for collaborative research and travel, visiting fellowship, transit accommodation and other perks as appropriate, to the individual awardee for the period that he is away from his parent organization.
- (e) The recipient of the research grant will be expected to make presentations to the specifically convened review meetings of the Council. There will be at least one mid-term review during the five-year duration of the research. The Council may invite appropriate experts to the review meetings.
- (f) The funds will be provided to the scientist through the sponsoring institution. For making any purchases, the scientist will follow the norms of the sponsoring institution. Assets created, if any, will be the property of the sponsoring institution, unless otherwise specifically decided by the BRNS.