

**Government of India**  
**Ministry Science and Technology**  
**Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**

The Department of Biotechnology invites applications for considering setting up of Bioinformatics facility to enable biotechnology activities:

Bioinformatics, the convergence of information technology and biotechnology, a frontline discipline in science, has been attaining rapid developments in India. This scientific discipline emerged simultaneously with the developments of several genome-sequencing programmes. India has recognized the importance of bioinformatics in early 1980s and was the first country to launch the Biotechnology System Network (BTISnet) programme in 1986. This network has made high impact in terms of raising quality publications, creation of databases, development of software tools, training manpower, etc. The bioinformatics website <http://www.btistnet.gov.in> gives more details on the BTISnet.

Considering the importance of the bioinformatics for the growth of biotechnology, the department is considering enhancing the BTISnet by supporting grants in aid for establishing bioinformatics facility at various institutions/universities/autonomous accredited colleges in order to support the biotechnology and bioinformatics activities. Under this scheme, DBT will provide a one time financial support for procurement of computer and communication equipments and software with nominal contingency support. The contingency support may be extended for the subsequent years based on the performance. The quantum of support will be decided by the DBT after reviewing the proposals. The proposals must clearly indicate goals and objectives as well as focus area of work in bioinformatics.

Interested institutions may submit their proposals (two hard copies and a soft copy on CD) through proper channel in the prescribed **proforma which is available on <http://www.dbtindia.gov.in>** on or before **28 July 2006** to Dr T. Madhan Mohan, Director, Department of Biotechnology, Block-2, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003.