

Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)

(A Section 8 Company under Ministry of Defence)

No. DIO/Empanelment/E01/2026

Date: _____

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF TESTING, EVALUATION & CERTIFICATION EXPERTS FOR DEFENCE INNOVATION PROJECTS UNDER iDEX

1. The **Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)** invites applications from distinguished professionals, retired officers, scientists, academicians and industry experts for empanelment as **Testing/ Certification Experts** to support Startups and MSMEs working under the **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** framework in testing and certification related issues.
2. The **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** initiative, launched by the Ministry of Defence, aims to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Startups, MSMEs, Individual Innovators, R&D Institutions and Academia for developing cutting-edge technologies for the Armed Forces.
3. DIO is the executive arm implementing various iDEX initiatives and seeks to establish a **Panel of Testing/ Certification Experts** to facilitate timely technical guidance, testing, certification, qualification, technology validation and user trial preparedness for defence innovations.

The proposed panel will act as an institutional mechanism to bridge the gap between technology development and induction into the Armed Forces.

4. Objectives

a). The empanelled experts shall support iDEX startups/MSMEs by providing guidance in:

- Product Design Review
- System Engineering
- Defence Standards
- Product Validation
- Prototype Evaluation
- Technology Assessment
- Testing Strategy
- Environmental Qualification
- EMI/EMC Testing
- Reliability Engineering
- Maintainability
- Safety Certification
- DGQA Procedures

- DGAQA Certification
- CEMILAC Airworthiness
- RCMA (Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness) Requirements
- Naval Qualification
- Weapon Integration
- User Trial Planning
- Documentation Review
- Manufacturing Readiness
- Quality Assurance
- Productionisation
- Technology Readiness Assessment
- Regulatory Compliance
- Product Induction Support
- Intellectual Property and Technology Commercialisation (where required)
- Other relevant area of Defence Innovation/Technology

b). The empanelled experts may also be invited by DIO to deliver:

- Testing/Certification related Sessions

for startups, MSMEs, Partner Incubators and other stakeholders under the iDEX ecosystem.

5. Technology Domains

Applications are invited from experts possessing significant experience in one or more of the following domains:

- Armaments & Ammunition
- Naval Systems
- Aerospace Systems
- Missiles
- UAVs/UAS
- Counter-UAS
- Robotics
- Artificial Intelligence
- Autonomous Systems
- Cyber Security
- Electronic Warfare
- Communication Systems
- Radar
- Sonar
- Electro-Optics
- Space Technologies
- Quantum Technologies
- Semiconductor Technologies

- Advanced Materials
- Additive Manufacturing
- Directed Energy Systems
- Power Systems
- NBC Protection
- Soldier Systems
- Vehicle Technologies
- Marine Engineering
- Avionics
- Embedded Systems
- Software Assurance
- Defence Electronics
- Testing & Certification
- Quality Assurance
- Military Standards
- Defence Procurement
- Any other emerging defence technology.

6. Eligibility

Applications are invited from:

- Persons with minimum Graduate in Science, Engineering, Technology or equivalent in any relevant field.
- Retired Scientists from DRDO, ISRO, CSIR, BARC and other Government R&D organisations.
- Retired Officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Former officers of DGQA, DGNAI, DGAQA, CEMILAC, RCMA and other defence quality assurance organisations.
- Retired experts from DPSUs.

7. Experience

Essential Experience: Applicants should ordinarily possess minimum **20 years** of professional experience in the relevant domain.

Desirable Experience: Exceptional expertise in niche technologies with at least **10 years** of relevant experience.

Preference shall be given to applicants having practical experience of working in:

- DGQA
- DGAQA
- CEMILAC
- DRDO

- Defence Production
- User Trials
- Certification
- Qualification
- Product Acceptance
- Military Standards
- Indigenous Defence Development

8. Nature of Engagement

Empanelment shall not constitute an offer of employment.

The empanelled experts may be engaged by Startups/MSMEs/DIO on assignment basis for:

- Testing Support
- Certification Advisory
- User Trial Preparation
- Technical Reviews
- Design Reviews
- Project Monitoring
- Product Evaluation
- Technical Committees
- Mentoring
- Workshops
- Technology Assessments
- Site Visits
- Expert Opinions
- Evaluation Committees
- Proposal Reviews

9. Engagement by Startups/MSMEs

- The empanelled experts may also be engaged directly by iDEX startups/MSMEs based on mutual requirements and mutually agreed commercial terms.
- Such engagements shall be entirely between the Startup/MSME and the Expert.
- DIO shall not be a party to such contractual or financial arrangements.

10. Emoluments to Experts:

Experts engaged by DIO shall be paid for lectures, workshops, mentoring sessions etc. as per the rates mentioned below:

Honorarium: ₹10,000 per day (expecting two sessions of up to three hours each)

Travel: Reimbursement of AC-I/Executive Chair Car rail fare or Economy Class airfare, as applicable, for outstation experts. Local taxi fare for travel for official local travel in connection with the assignment, shall also be reimbursable on actuals;

Accommodation and Daily Allowance: As per DIO policy applicable to CL-3 level (presently DA @ ₹1,250 per day and accommodation up to ₹5,625 per day plus applicable taxes).

11. Validity of Panel

The empanelment shall remain valid for **three (03) years**.

The validity may be extended for a further period of three years based on:

- Organisational requirements.
- Performance of the expert.
- Availability of the expert.
- Approval of the Competent Authority.

12. Selection Process

Applications shall be shortlisted based on:

- Educational Qualifications
- Relevant Experience
- Defence Domain Expertise
- Testing & Certification Experience
- Previous Experience with DGQA/DGAQA/CEMILAC/DRDO
- Professional Achievements
- Publications/Patents
- Training & Mentoring Experience

Shortlisted candidates may be invited for interaction through Video Conferencing or Physical Interview.

The decision of DIO regarding empanelment shall be final.

13. General Conditions

- Empanelment shall not guarantee any minimum number of assignments.
- DIO reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason.
- DIO reserves the right to increase, decrease or modify the scope of empanelment at any stage.
- DIO shall issue an engagement letter to the empanelled experts.
- Empanelled experts shall execute a Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest and non-blacklisting Declaration prior to undertaking assignments.

- Experts shall ensure protection of Intellectual Property and sensitive information pertaining to defence technologies.
- The decision of DIO shall be final and binding in all matters relating to empanelment.
- Empanelment doesn't preclude DIO from engaging other Experts for same or similar scope.
- False information shall lead to disqualification.
- All reports, data and other deliverables shall vest exclusively in DIO.