



Innovation and capability voucher in Singapore

SPRING Singapore

<https://www.spring.gov.sg>

The innovation and capability voucher (ICV) is a simple to apply, easy-to-use voucher valued at \$5,000, to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop their business capabilities. SMEs can use the voucher to upgrade and strengthen their core business operations through consultancy in the areas of innovation, productivity, human resources and financial management. Apart from consultancy, ICV also supports SMEs in the adoption and implementation of pre-scoped Integrated Solutions to improve business efficiency and productivity.

Eligibility

All local SMEs can apply for ICV if they meet the following criteria:

- Registered and operating in Singapore
- Have a minimum of 30% local shareholding
- Have group annual turnover of not more than \$100 million OR group employment size of not more than 200 employees

Consultancy projects

For consultancy projects, each voucher may be redeemed for services from the participating Service Providers. An SME may apply for a maximum of two vouchers per capability area for supported services.

Consultancy – financial management

- Planning & Budgeting
- Cash-flow & Working Capital Management
- Financial Assessment and Planning for Growth

Consultancy – human resources

- Recruitment & Selection
- Compensation & Benefits
- Performance Management
- Learning & Development

Consultancy – innovation

- Technical Feasibility Study
- IP Business Diagnostic
- IP Legal Diagnostic
- Customer Insights

Consultancy – productivity

- Quality Management – ISO 9001 : 2015
- Environmental Management – ISO 14001 : 2015
- Occupational Health & Safety Management – OHSAS 18001
- Business Diagnosis
- Service Improvement

Integrated solutions

For Integrated Solutions projects, each voucher may be redeemed for an Integrated Solution from the participating Integrated Solution Providers (ISP). Each SME can apply up to a maximum of two vouchers to implement pre-scoped Integrated Solutions out of the available eight vouchers for each SME.

Created in collaboration with SMEs, industry partners and experts, Integrated Solutions are tried-and-tested, plug-and-play tools that help SMEs overcome common business challenges and achieve overall productivity gains. With Integrated Solutions, minimal effort is required from SMEs to design and test innovation and capability development solutions.

Operating costs, such as the following, will not be supported:

- Government licensing and permit cost
- Accounting/audit/legal fees
- Set-up costs for new businesses e.g. Renovation for new outlets / purchase of operating items and etc.
- Essential business costs i.e. Costs required to be incurred so that basic operations of the company can be carried out
- Replacement cost due to damages, wear and tear and etc

Consultancy service and solution providers

Consultancy service and solution providers need to be pre-qualified to assist SMEs in implementing ICV-supported Consultancy and/or Integrated Solutions projects. Companies that would like to be pre-qualified should participate in upcoming Call-for-Collaborations (CFCs).

Effective 1 January 2017, management consultants are required to possess SPRING-recognised certification in order to participate in ICV CFC for consultancy service providers. Consultants under the existing list of pre-qualified consultancy service providers for ICV-Consultancy will retain their pre-qualified status up to the end of their current term of appointment.

Innovation promotion in India



National Institution for Transforming India, Government of India

<http://niti.gov.in>

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self-Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) is Government of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Its objective is to serve as a platform for promotion of world-class Innovation Hubs, Grand Challenges, Start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas.

The AIM shall have two core functions:

- Entrepreneurship promotion through SETU, wherein innovators would be supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs
- Innovation promotion: to provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated

Atal grand challenge awards

The factors holding back rural and semi-urban India are lack of 24/7 electricity, roads that are usable round the year, clean water, suitable housing, access to basic healthcare, quality education, lack of farm mechanisation and employable skills. While state-of-the-art technology can address a number of these challenges, the existing solutions have been out of reach due to their excessive high costs.

Atal Grand Challenge (AGC) Awards, under the AIM, has the objective of developing novel disruptive technologies that are ultra-low cost, low maintenance, durable and customised to the local conditions of India. AGC will award grand prizes to anyone who delivers in a timely manner the desired solution as per the challenge specific criteria. The National Institution for Transforming India has called on the national and the international community to join the initiative and in finding solutions to the most intractable problems.

Atal Tinkering Labs

With a vision to 'Cultivate one Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators', AIM is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India. The objective of this scheme is to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing etc.

ATL is a work space where young minds can give shape to their ideas through hands on do-it-yourself mode; and learn innovation skills. Young children will get a chance to work with tools and equipment to understand the concepts of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). ATL would contain educational and learning 'do it yourself' kits and equipment on – science, electronics, robotics, open source microcontroller boards, sensors

and 3D printers and computers. Other desirable facilities include meeting rooms and video conferencing facility.

In order to foster inventiveness among students, ATL can conduct different activities ranging from regional and national level competitions, exhibitions, workshops on problem solving, designing and fabrication of products, lecture series etc. at periodic intervals.

Atal Incubation Centers

AIM intends to establish 'new' incubation centres (Atal Incubation Centres) across India by providing them with financial support. AICs would further support and encourage start-ups to become successful enterprises. They would provide necessary and adequate infrastructure along with high quality assistance or services to start-ups in their early stages of growth.

AICs would be established in subject specific areas such as manufacturing, transport, energy, health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation etc. Each AIC would be required to choose at least one area for specialisation.

AICs can be established either in public/private/public-private partnership mode. These can be established in:

- Academia - This includes higher educational institutes and R&D Institutions.
- Non-academic - This includes Companies/ Corporates/ Technology parks / Industrial Parks/ any individual/ group of individuals.

AIM will provide a grant-in-aid of Rs. 10 Crore to each AIC for a maximum of 5 years to cover the capital and operational expenditure cost in running the centre. The applicant would have to provide a built up space of at least 10,000 sq. ft to qualify for the financial support.

Scale-up support to established Incubators

The scheme envisages to augment capacity of the Established Incubation Centres in the country. It will provide financial scale-up support to enable Established Incubation Centres. The scheme would radically transform the start-up ecosystem in the country by upgrading the Established Incubation Centres to world-class standards.

- Legal entity registered in India as public, private or public-private partnership.
- Legal entity must be in operation for a minimum of three years.