

5.3. The testing infrastructure has to be strengthened in line with the increasing production capacity and usage of Green Hydrogen & its derivatives in the country.

5.4. Salient features of the Scheme are given below:

- i. Projects with an intention to develop testing & certification infrastructure for the components of Green Hydrogen value chain will be supported under the Scheme. The Scheme will also support the upgradation of existing testing facilities available with private and government entity.
- ii. National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) will be the Scheme Implementation agency (SIA). The SIA will be eligible for service charges at 0.5% of the financial support utilized for the projects sanctioned under the Scheme.
- iii. The SIA shall issue the Call for Proposals (CfP) for setting up of the testing infrastructure under the Scheme through a transparent process.
- iv. MNRE will issue administrative sanctions for the projects under the Scheme based on the recommendations of Project Appraisal Committee (PAC).
- v. The SIA will monitor, facilitate and share knowledge gathered under the projects through project completion report, monitoring reports, workshop(s), and publications to disseminate findings, best practices and lessons learnt.
- vi. The Scheme aims to leverage existing testing resources and infrastructure available with different agencies.
- vii. The Scheme will fund capital expenditure required for establishment of new testing infrastructure as well as upgradation of existing testing facilities.
- viii. Financial support for the establishment of testing infrastructure will be evaluated and granted taking into consideration the specific requirement and merits, on case-to-case basis.
- ix. Testing facilities set-up or upgraded under the Scheme shall be open to all potential users and shall not be a captive unit of any one organization or a group of organizations.
- x. The scheme will also support creation of Center(s) of Excellence covering a gamut of Testing facilities, on a case to case basis.

## 6. Implementation Methodology

6.1. **Selection of Testing Infrastructure:** The SIA will identify the test facilities to be supported under the scheme based on the thrust areas mentioned in para 2.2.

6.2. **Call for proposals:** The Scheme Implementing agency (SIA) will issue call for proposals in consultation with MNRE for establishment of testing facilities. The proposal shall be submitted directly to the SIA. In case of a consortium/ partnership-based proposal, a lead agency should be mentioned, which shall function as Executing Agency (EA) for that project.

- i. The eligible EAs would include Government organizations, private organizations/entities (including Joint Venture/Public and Private

Companies/Limited Liability Partnerships, Corporate entity /Proprietorship/ Partnership Entity) intending to set up/upgrade its existing hydrogen testing or certification facility.

- ii. The necessary accreditations/ approvals and capabilities, as specified in CfP need to exist with the EAs for taking forward the supported testing infrastructures towards commercialization.

**6.3. Evaluation and Award:** The proposals will be evaluated by a Project Appraisal Committee in accordance with the criteria specified in the CfP. Selected agencies will be recommended by PAC to MNRE to issuing sanctions. The Letter of Award shall be issued to EA by SIA upon receipt of administrative sanction from MNRE.

**6.4. Execution and Commissioning:** Work shall be executed as per the approved scope of work.

**6.5. Technical and Regulatory approvals:** The EA shall be solely responsible for obtaining the safety, environmental and regulatory approvals, as required.

**6.6. Testing and Certification:** The EA shall get necessary testing and certification compliances and accreditations from the appropriate agencies.

## **7. Funding and Disbursement**

7.1. Quantum, break-up and frequency of release of funds are as given below:

- a. For Government entities, MNRE will fund up to 100% of the capital cost for equipment, installation, and commissioning of the equipment.
- b. For Non-Government entities, MNRE will fund up to 70% of the capital cost for testing equipment, installation, and commissioning of the equipment.
- c. Up to 15% of the total financial support provided under the Scheme may be used for supporting operational expenses spread over a period up to 4 years from the date of completion of the project, as approved by PAC.
- d. The grants-in-aid will be released in three (3) instalments as per table mentioned in point 7.2.
- e. Before release of instalments of grants-in-aid claimed by Executing Agency (EA), MNRE may get the project visited and verified by SIA/ Ministry officials.

7.2. Stages of disbursement of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) are given below:

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<b>Installment</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Percentage of CFA to be released</b>
1st instalment	On Selection	20%
2nd instalment	On milestones basis*	70%
3rd instalment	On completion	10%
	Total	100%

\* The milestones-based disbursement of funds shall be specified in the CfP to be issued by the SIA.

7.3. Funds will be released to SIA by MNRE on the recommendation of the PAC.

## **8. Timelines and Penalty Provisions**

8.1. The grant released shall be exclusively earmarked for the allocated project and shall not be diverted for any other purpose.

8.2. If the EA fails to utilize the grant for the purpose for which it has been sanctioned, it shall refund the entire amount of the grant, with interest to MNRE, as per the applicable rules.

8.3. Projects for setting up of new testing & certification facilities shall be completed in 18 months from the date of sanction by MNRE. Projects for upgradation of existing testing & certification facilities shall be completed in 12 months from the date of sanction by MNRE.

8.4. Extension up to six months may be granted by SIA for the completion of the facilities on the basis of adequate justification with the approval of the Steering Committee without any penalty. Any extension beyond six months shall only be granted with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of New & Renewable Energy, with suitable penalties which shall be specified by the SIA in the CfP.

8.5. MNRE reserves the right to retract sanction or cancel or short-close projects in consultation with the Steering Committee in cases where the EA(s) or the project(s) face unreasonable delays or fail to comply with the objectives/ provisions of this Scheme or the Mission.

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## **9. Monitoring Framework**

### **9.1 Steering Committee**

9.1.1 Overall monitoring of the Scheme will be carried out by a Steering Committee (SC) under the chairmanship of Secretary, MNRE and other members nominated by MNRE.

9.1.2 In case of any ambiguity in the interpretation of any of the provisions of this scheme, the decision of MNRE shall be final. The SC will also facilitate / recommend measures to resolve difficulties, if any.

### **9.2 Project Appraisal Committee**

9.2.1 A Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) under the chairpersonship of Mission Director, NGHM and other members nominated by MNRE shall monitor/review/evaluate the project proposals and recommend projects for sanction of CFA. The PAC shall monitor sanctioned projects on a regular basis for the allocation of funds based upon the progress of the project. The release of CFA will be as per the recommendation of PAC. Schedule of charges for the tests to be conducted by the testing labs supported under the Scheme will be finalized in consultation with PAC.

**9.3** The SIA shall also devise a monitoring mechanism to track the progress of the projects. The same may be shared with MNRE.

**9.4** Quarterly monitoring reports shall be submitted by the SIA to MNRE.

**9.5** Expenditure of funds will be monitored by MNRE. Utilization Certificates shall be provided by the SIA as per the provisions of GFR.

## **10. Project Completion**

The SIA shall submit the Project Completion Report (PCR), in prescribed format, to MNRE through PAC, within one month from the completion of project. PCR shall include the following:

- i. Technical aspects of the project, including the hardware, software, and other technologies used.
- ii. Technical challenges encountered during the project, and how they were overcome.
- iii. Outcome of the project comprising of technical knowhow generated along with the data collected during the execution of the project.
- iv. Recommendations for future projects, based on the lessons learned from project.

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**11. Guidelines for safeguard of Intellectual property:** SIA shall issue the necessary guidelines for the safeguard of any Intellectual Property Rights such as Publications, Patents, Registered Designs or Trademarks etc. which are generated through projects funded under this scheme. The guidelines may also be a part of the CfP to be issued by the SIA.

**12. Power to amend Scheme Guidelines:** MNRE may make the necessary amendments in the Scheme Guidelines, as and when required, with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of New & Renewable Energy

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