



## Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Set up by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India

announces the launch of



# SPARSH



**Social Innovation Programme for Products Affordable & Relevant to Societal Health**

*Touching a billion lives*

Focus: Maternal & Child Health

**BIRAC** is committed to the innovative use of biotechnology tools to address the unmet national and societal needs as well as provide solutions through affordable product development for public good.

In this endeavour, **BIRAC** is launching **SPARSH** with the objective to promote biotechnology product innovations and solutions in the maternal and child health (MCH) arena thereby bringing significant social impact by addressing challenges of inclusive growth. **SPARSH** will fund biotech and biomedical innovations with social goals, create and foster a pool of social innovators, deployers as well as provide a platform to share best practices, understand business models and encourage synergistic partnerships.

### How to be a part of SPARSH

Through **SPARSH**, **BIRAC** intends to collaborate with Innovators, Start ups, SMEs and large Indian biotechnology companies either individually or in partnership mode with research and technology development organisations (private, public, Not-for-Profit, Technology & Innovation Centres and Incubators) in a consortia mode to alleviate MCH and help meet the WHO's Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5.

### About BIRAC

**Biotechnology Industry Assistance Council (BIRAC)**, a Section 25 'Not for Profit' Company of the Government of India, has been set up as Department of Biotechnology's interface agency, which serves as a single window for nurturing and promoting innovation led research and fostering biotechnology industry.

**BIRAC seeks 'Expression of Interest' from different stakeholders on or before 30th September, 2013.**

The format of Letter of Intent (LOI) and detailed guidelines of SPARSH are available at [www.birac.nic.in](http://www.birac.nic.in).

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