LoI signed with group of industries for funding industry relevant research engagement

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with a group of industries to institute a new programme 'Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE)' to stimulate industry-relevant research in the country.

The new initiative, SERB-FIRE, under Industry Relevant R&D (IRRD) scheme of SERB, aims to utilize the expertise available in academic institutions and national laboratories to solve industry-specific problems for the larger benefit of society. The scheme supports ideas that address a well-defined problem of industrial relevance, defined jointly with concerned industries, in a project mode through an open call at the national level by SERB.

Speaking at the occasion, Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Chairman, SERB & Secretary, DST, welcomed the initiative and emphasised the commitment of his Department to support and strengthen academic wisdom to address and solve problems affecting our society, hand-in-hand with industry cooperation. Elaborating the far-reaching influence of artificial intelligence and quantum domain beyond boundaries, he emphasized on the recent initiatives of the Government to align Indian R&D through programmes such as Cyber Physical Systems, Quantum Science and Technology, Electric Mobility, Clean Energy and so on.

He also suggested that participation of large number of companies can benefit S&T ecosystem in order to catalyze the competitiveness of industries, researchers and startups.

The LoI was signed by Professor Sandeep Verma, Secretary, SERB, and industry partners, Intel Technology India Private Limited, Applied Materials India Private Limited, Texas Instruments (India) Private Limited, Mentor Graphics (Sales & Services) Private Limited, and NXP India Private Limited.

Industry representatives present in the function expressed their keen desire to bridge the gap between public-funded research and industrial R&D through FIRE funding.