

MIT BUILD	
Type	Charter Proposal
Scope	Initiative
Category	Innovation

This is a charter document detailing the purpose, and activities of the MIT **BUILD** Innovation Initiative.

Purpose

MIT has built a credible reputation as one of the leading places of study, research, and academic learning in India. MIT **BUILD** is an umbrella charter for a lightweight, flexible, and impact-driven model for innovation activities across MIT.

Goals

MIT **BUILD** aims to –

- Measure and improve the quality of research output
- Maintain a global benchmark for the use of tools, and technologies in academic and research activities
- Increase the volume of collaboration within MIT and build more connectivity inside the MIT ecosystem
- Increase interdisciplinary nature of collaboration with internal and external stakeholders
- Enhance industry participation in the research, and academic activities
- Provide consistent mechanisms for long-term industry-MIT interactions to a level where research and academic activities are mutually beneficial
- Maintain a lightweight structure and costing for operations
- Evolve and synthesize the MIT **BUILD** goals for impact and consistency over time

Operating Model

To accomplish goals as described, the following starting points for the operating model are suggested -

- Build a Media Research Laboratory (MIT Nadella Media Research Laboratory – MIT NMRL) starting as a lightweight research project-oriented affiliation model for existing faculty members to promote interdisciplinary research in the fields of technology, multimedia, sciences, arts and design and enhance industry interaction on the lines of [MIT Media Lab](#), IIT Bombay [Industrial Design Center](#), [Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories](#) (a short explanation of what [media](#) means in this context)
- Build a Corporate Funding Model for MIT NMRL
- Build, and maintain a Request for Research resource as a RFP model for research activities on an opt-in basis across MIT involving faculty and students based on the key ideas behind [ISRO Respond Basket](#) and [Y Combinator Request for Startups](#)
- Enhance visibility in online media of cutting edge research and academic activities at MIT through low-cost high-frequency website and social media presence
- Establish the MIT Open Source Programs Office with a charter to increase adoption of open source tools and techniques in academic curriculum and research activities

with a key goal of increasing quantity and quality of research output with best practices by developing the Research Engineering practice among full-time and part-time undergraduate research assistants roles

- Hire and manage the Open Source Programs Officer under the MITS OSPO (1 person) to evangelize best practices and direct community work in this regard with the larger MITS community (example profile - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lesliehawthorn/>)
- Introduce micro tasking in research through MITS NMRL working together with the MITS Open Source Programs Office
- Establish the MITS Technology Transfer Office with a charter to simplify creation, licensing, and end-user certification of MITS-derived IP
- Engage through periodic events and workshops to improve entrepreneurship-focused engineering and rapid prototyping capabilities
- Establish a Fab Lab (<https://fablabs.io>) including ongoing certification as a Fab Academy to complete on-campus facilities with rapid prototyping capabilities
- Organize a monthly MITS **BUILD** Fireside Chat series where I will be inviting industry folks for public and private community interactions over a day visit (physical if in India, virtual if invitee is abroad), with the goal of improving research relevance to industry and creating opportunities for new venture creation. Folks who have shown interest based on preliminary discussion include [Surya Vangala](#) (Director and Film maker from BITS Pilani with an upcoming debut series on Sony LIV) on *Storytelling*, [Arun Maliya](#) (Senior Research Scientist at NVIDIA Research) on *Future of Vision*, [Dr. Babu Narayanan](#) (VP of AI at SymphonyAI) on *AI in Healthcare*, Pawan Kumar Chandana (Co-Founder at Skyroot Aerospace) on *Space: The Next Frontier* and many more. The fireside chat series will be modelled after Matt Turck's Data Driven NYC series (see [this](#) and [this](#)).
- Organize a periodic MITS **BUILD** Lecture Series where rising early career researchers globally can share their knowledge in domain areas of interest to MITS.
- Document the evolution of MITS **BUILD** activities as a versioned organization through [architecture decision records](#) in MITS Github to seek community feedback and conduct peer review by a select community for further evolution
- Coordinate with academic departments to establish or enhance existing Open Source Lab, IoT Lab, Entrepreneurship Lab by repurposing existing IT resources in MITS
- Coordinate with academic departments to establish a course on New Venture Creation for engineers, and management students

Financial Impact

- Except for the Open Source Programs Officer, and the Fab Lab, there is not expected to be any new fulltime recruitment at present