

# FOSS Incubator Guidelines

FOSS Incubator's **Mission** is to make Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) more accessible and to ensure that society benefits from FOSS innovations by fostering their socio-economic development and commercialization.

- Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in Free and Open Source technologies
- Facilitating the market entry and thereby social benefits of FOSS research in ICFOSS and elsewhere.
- Fostering Free Software Business (FSB) that are socially and ethically rooted.

Over the past few decades the world have acknowledged the roles of Free Software<sup>5</sup>, as a social movement which stands firm on user rights and freedom and Open Source Software<sup>6</sup>, as a development methodology which harnesses the power of distributed peer review and transparency of process. Understanding the potential of Free and Open Source Software<sup>7</sup> in the Startup Ecosystem, FOSS Incubator will take in startups which practice these ideologies.

## Startups in FOSS Incubator



The startups in FOSS Incubator will fall in any of the three heads:

**Free Software Business | FOSS Business Solutions | R & D Spin-Offs**

### 1. Free Software Business (FSB)

A Free Software Business<sup>1</sup> (FSB) is where you combine respect for your users' freedom with your choice of building a business. There is no conflict between the freedom you provide (as a part of your business dealings and software + hardware offerings) and your ability to build a sustainable business based on these offerings. *(detail definition and guiding principles in Annexure)*

FSB is considered with topmost priority by ICFOSS and any enterprise willing to develop a new solution will be engaged in a collaborative research.

### 2. FOSS Business Solutions

A FOSS business solution is created by integrating, adapting and upgrading existing FOSS solutions to fit a target market. A FOSS Business solutions should be published in Open

Source License<sup>8</sup> or Free Software Licence<sup>3</sup>, to ensure knowledge transfer back to the commons. The startups will be given opportunity to select their FOSS Business models.

### 3. R & D Spin-Off

Startups which explore and make use of the outcomes of applied research at ICFOSS shall be identified as Spin-Offs. These ventures usually have an early to market advantage on account of the PoC level attained in most of the applied research projects handled by ICFOSS.

At FOSS Incubator, ICFOSS looks forward to create innovative startups that challenges the existing status quo, and come up with sustainable models for FOSS Business. The economy has experienced the technology superiority of FOSS through collaborative communities. FOSS incubator startups will explore the business potential through process innovations and co-creation.

### References

1. Abhas Abhinav Free Software Business (<https://freesoftware.business>) 2018
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3. Definition of Free Software License complies with that in Debian Free Software Guidelines
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5. Free Software Definition by Free Software Foundation (<https://www.fsf.org>)
6. Open Source Definition by Open Source Initiative (<https://opensource.org>)
7. FOSS Definition ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free\\_and\\_open-source\\_software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_and_open-source_software))
8. Pearce, J. M. (2017) Emerging business models for open source hardware. Journal of Open Hardware.
9. Definition of Open Source licenses (<https://opensource.org/licenses>)