This white paper proposes the establishment of a **Public Technology Foundation of India (PTFI)**, an autonomous society funded by private foundations, the Government of India, Indian and U.S. as well as international corporations, and philanthropic individuals and families. The public-private partnership would build an infrastructure to:

- Scale India’s capacity to train 5,000 college graduates and young professionals annually to become world-class technology managers, researchers, and administrators in the public interest;
- Research, develop, prototype and deploy affordable, accessible and culturally appropriate technologies in the Indian context; and
- Deliver solutions to pressing public-technology challenges, such as energy, water and pollution, to benefit local communities and Indian society at large.

The principal vehicle for the foundation’s training, research, development and delivery mission would be a **Public Technology Institute**. This institute would undertake interdisciplinary research, develop solutions of broad societal impact, and create training programs in technology management based on real-world experience and service learning opportunities.


India is a leader in high technology innovation, and claims some of the world’s most impressive high-tech hubs and research institutions. But in many ways, the nation is not fully leveraging its technological capacity for widespread, equitable, sustainable development. The vast majority of Indians have seen little benefit from the technology revolutions happening in a few areas of the country.

Developing public technology capacity requires a new kind of infrastructure. The PTFI will replicate the close cooperation among government, industry, universities, civil society and venture capital that has fueled Silicon Valley and San Diego’s pioneering telecommunications and biotech clusters. It would also go beyond this model by directing innovation toward complex societal needs, while using novel methods to overcome the main challenge to training 5,000: finding great faculty to do the job.

This proposal is rooted in President APJ Abdul Kalam’s vision of India becoming a developed nation by 2020, and Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal’s call for an Indo-U.S. partnership for accessible and affordable technologies. It also reflects input from potential stakeholders from the public and private sectors in India.

This proposal is respectfully submitted by Calit2 at the University of California, San Diego. Calit2’s ‘advance team’ on the ground in India, includes strategic manager Srinivas Sukumar, professor Jessica Wallack, and leaders of IT for Change. This initiative will include partners from all UC campuses and other institutions worldwide.