INDUSTRIAL SERVICES BUREAU
North Western Province | Sri Lanka

GUIDELINE FOR INNOVATORS

Submitting Innovation Ideas via Invest Wayamba (www.landsbank.lk)

A technical reference for innovators, startups, and researchers on submitting innovation ideas through the Invest Wayamba portal, priority innovation fields, the intellectual property and patent framework of Sri Lanka, and access to competitions and angel/venture funding.

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Portal Reference: www.landsbank.lk | Innovation Idea Form
Contact: info@landsbank.lk

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1. Introduction and Purpose

This guideline is issued by the Industrial Services Bureau (ISB) for innovators, startup founders, university researchers, and student teams intending to submit an innovation idea through the Invest Wayamba portal's Innovation Idea module. It sets out the submission procedure, the innovation fields currently prioritized for provincial and national development, the intellectual property and patent framework governing Sri Lankan innovations, and the competition and funding landscape an innovator can access after submission.

This guideline should be read together with ISB's Innovation Challenge (IC) program materials and the portal's other Guidelines section documents, where applicable to a specific submission.

2. Submitting an Innovation Idea on the Portal

Innovation submissions are made exclusively through the Innovation Idea form, accessible from the top navigation of www.landsbank.lk. This is distinct from the Land and PPP intake forms, which are reserved for physical asset or land-based proposals.

2.1 Step-by-Step Submission

1. Prepare a concise concept summary: the problem being addressed, the proposed solution, and the stage of development (idea, prototype, MVP, or revenue-generating).
2. Identify the innovation field your idea belongs to, using Section 3 of this guideline as a reference, and state it clearly in the submission.
3. Complete the Innovation Idea form on the portal with team/organizational background, and any supporting material (pitch deck, prototype documentation, or demo link) where available.
4. Submit the form. ISB will route the submission to its innovation ecosystem partners (including incubators, university partners, and, where relevant, ISB's own Innovation Challenge program) for review.
5. Retain the submission confirmation for any follow-up correspondence with ISB.

2.2 What Happens After Submission

- ISB conducts an initial screening for completeness and fit against provincial innovation priorities.
- Shortlisted ideas may be invited to a clarification session, a mentoring track, or referred to a relevant competition or incubation partner listed in Sections 5 and 6.
- Ideas requiring IP protection are advised, at this stage, to review Section 4 before any public disclosure or pitch, to avoid prejudicing future patent novelty.

3. Current Trends and Priority Innovation Fields

The following fields reflect both global innovation investment trends and Sri Lanka's stated national and provincial development priorities. Innovators are not restricted to these fields, but submissions aligned with them are more likely to find a receptive competition, incubator, or investor match.

Field	Relevance
Agri tech & Agri-Value Addition	Directly aligned with NWP's agricultural base; includes precision farming, post-harvest technology, cold-chain solutions, and export-crop value addition.
Climate Tech & Green/Circular Economy	Waste-to-value, renewable energy, water management, and sustainable manufacturing solutions, consistent with national climate commitments and ISB's own bio-conversion and waste-management initiatives.
Fintech & Digital Financial Services	A globally and locally active sector, supported by Sri Lanka's Digital Public Infrastructure rollout and national digital ID initiative.
Health tech & Medtech	Includes diagnostics, telehealth, and assistive technology; an active category in national innovation award programs.
Deep Tech, AI, and IoT	Applied artificial intelligence, automation, and IoT for industrial or agricultural monitoring; increasingly prioritized in national digital economy targets.
EdTech	Skills and STEM education technology, relevant to ISB's school-level Innovation Challenge Awareness Sessions.
Tourism & Hospitality Tech	Digital tools supporting NWP's tourism and heritage assets.
Manufacturing, Logistics & Industry 4.0	Smart manufacturing and supply-chain digitisation aligned with ISB's industrial park digitalisation agenda.

NOTE: Sri Lanka's national digital strategy targets USD 5 billion in digital industry revenue and 200,000 IT sector jobs by 2030, with an emerging regulatory framework for venture capital, IP-linked tax incentives, and a Virtual Special Economic Zone (V-SEZ) for globally oriented startups. Innovators building in these priority fields may benefit from incentives introduced under this strategy as they mature.

4. Legal Background: Intellectual Property and Patent Rights

Intellectual property in Sri Lanka is governed by the Intellectual Property Act, No. 36 of 2003 (as amended, including by the Intellectual Property (Amendment) Act, No. 8 of 2022), administered by the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka (NIPO). This is the single statute covering copyright, patents, trademarks, industrial designs, layout designs of integrated circuits, geographical indications, trade names, and unfair competition / trade secrets.

4.1 Forms of Protection Relevant to Innovators

IP Type	What It Protects	Registration	Duration
Patents	New inventions (products or processes) that are novel, involve an inventive step, and are industrially applicable	Required — filed at NIPO (Form P1)	20 years from filing date
Trademarks / Service Marks	Brand names, logos, and signs distinguishing goods or services	Required — filed at NIPO	10 years, renewable indefinitely in 10-year terms
Industrial Designs	Ornamental or aesthetic aspect of a product	Required — filed at NIPO	Fixed statutory term under the IP Act
Copyright	Literary, artistic, and software works	No registration system exists — protection is automatic upon creation	Life of author plus statutory term
Trade Secrets / Undisclosed Information	Confidential business or technical information	Not registrable — protected under unfair competition provisions	As long as secrecy is maintained

4.2 Patent Filing Procedure (NIPO)

6. File Form P1 at NIPO with a full description of the invention, claims, and the prescribed fee. Sri Lanka is a first-to-file jurisdiction — priority goes to the first valid application, not the first inventor.
7. A search report is obtained, either from an International Searching Authority or via referral to a local patent examiner.
8. The application is published approximately 18 months from the priority date.
9. Formal examination must be requested before 36 months from filing (and not earlier than 60 days after publication); an applicant has 90 days to respond to any office action.
10. If the invention meets the novelty, inventive-step, and industrial-applicability criteria, the patent is granted and gazetted; an opposition period follows before final grant.
11. Total timeframe to grant is typically 3–4 years. Once granted, the patent runs 20 years from the filing date, with annual maintenance fees due from the second year onward (a 6-month grace period applies for late payment, subject to surcharge).

4.3 Foreign and International Filing

- Sri Lanka is a member of the Paris Convention: an applicant who files in Sri Lanka can claim priority in other member countries within 12 months.
- Sri Lanka is a member of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), administered by WIPO: a single international application can later enter national phase in Sri Lanka within 30 months of the earliest priority date, or be used to seek protection in other PCT member states.

- Sri Lanka is not a member of the Madrid Protocol for trademarks — international trademark protection requires direct national filing in each country of interest.
- Foreign applicants must appoint a Sri Lanka-resident registered patent agent to file on their behalf.

4.4 Practical Guidance for Innovators

- Avoid public disclosure (including pitch competitions, demo days, or open publication) of a patentable invention before filing, as prior disclosure can defeat novelty. Where disclosure before filing is unavoidable, use a non-disclosure agreement with counterparties.
- Register a trademark for your brand/product name early — Sri Lanka's first-to-file system means a later filer, even with prior use, can be blocked by an earlier registration.
- Software-based innovations are protected automatically under copyright from creation, but do not rely on copyright alone to protect a novel technical method — a distinct process or system may still warrant a separate patent application.
- Engage a registered IP agent (listed on the NIPO website) for patent and trademark filings; procedural and claims-drafting errors are a common cause of delay or rejection.

5. Innovation Competitions and Ecosystem Program

The following national competitions, accelerators, and support program are active in Sri Lanka's innovation ecosystem and are relevant referral pathways for ideas submitted through Invest Wayamba.

Programme	Focus	Note
ISB Innovation Challenge (IC)	Provincial innovation challenge sourcing ideas from schools and communities in Kurunegala and Puttalam	ISB's own flagship program; direct pathway for Invest Wayamba innovation submissions
SLASSCOM National Ingenuity Awards (SNIA)	Corporate, startup, university, and school innovation across Fintech, Agri tech, Health tech, Manufacturing, and more	Applications typically open in Q1 each year; 2026 edition is the 8th
Spiralation (ICT Agency of Sri Lanka)	Grant-based tech startup acceleration — seed funding, training, hackathons	Notable as one of the few grant-based (non-equity) acceleration program
Venture Engine	Mature-stage acceleration connecting fundable startups to capital	Positioned for startups closer to investment-readiness
Yarl Geek Challenge / Yarl IT Hub	Youth-focused technology and entrepreneurship competition based in the Northern Province	Relevant model for regional youth innovation outreach
SPARK (Ceylon Chamber of Commerce)	Youth entrepreneurship competition, ages 15–30	Open category for students, employed, unemployed, or early founders
She Loves Tech (Sri Lanka rounds, via Hatch)	Global competition for women-led tech startups	Includes mentorship and funding access
Disrupt Asia	Sri Lanka's largest startup and innovation event, regional investor exposure	Startup showcase plus investor and VC networking
SLINTEC Startup Engine	Deep-tech / material science startups	Provides lab facilities, equipment access, and technology valuation support

6. Angel Investment and Venture Capital Support

Once an innovation idea has progressed beyond concept stage, the following angel investment networks and venture capital channels are active in the Sri Lankan market:

Source	Type	Note
Lankan Angel Network (LAN)	Sri Lanka's largest angel investor network	Over LKR 2 billion invested since 2012; runs a structured angel fund (Fund I deployed, Fund II announced) alongside mentorship
AngelInvestor.lk	Diaspora-inclusive angel platform	Connects founders with Sri Lankan investors, including overseas diaspora
Sri Lanka Angel Investment Network	Global angel network with a Sri Lanka chapter	Pitch-based matching with local and international investors
nVentures	Licensed foreign venture capital firm active in Fintech and broader tech	First MAS (Singapore)-licensed foreign VC operating in the Sri Lankan ecosystem
Startup Sri Lanka (government initiative)	Policy and finance facilitation	Government-backed concessions, loans, and a Fund-of-Funds framework are being developed for registered startups

6.1 Practical Notes on Fundraising Readiness

- Angel and VC investors in this market generally expect a working prototype or MVP, a clear market-size rationale, and a founding team with defined roles before a funding conversation — pure concept-stage ideas are typically directed to grant or accelerator programmes first (see Section 5).
- Where a submission includes proprietary technology, complete or at least file the relevant patent or trademark application (Section 4) before extensive investor disclosure.
- ISB can facilitate an introduction to relevant ecosystem partners for innovation submissions assessed as investment-ready, but does not itself provide equity funding.

7. Pre-Submission Checklist for Innovators

- Identified the innovation field the idea falls under (Section 3).
- Prepared a concise concept summary and, where available, a prototype/demo or pitch deck.
- Considered whether the idea is patentable, and avoided public disclosure ahead of filing where novelty could be at risk (Section 4.4).
- Completed the Innovation Idea form on www.landsbank.lk with team background and supporting material.
- Reviewed relevant competitions and programmes in Section 5 for possible parallel application.
- Assessed fundraising readiness against the expectations in Section 6.1 if investment is the near-term goal.

8. Key Contacts and Resources

Resource	Detail
Innovation Idea submission	www.landsbank.lk (Innovation Idea form)
General enquiries	info@landsbank.lk
ISB Innovation Challenge programme	Coordinated directly by ISB; contact via the portal
National IP Office (NIPO) — patents, trademarks, designs	www.nipo.gov.lk
SLASSCOM National Ingenuity Awards	www.slasscom.lk
Lankan Angel Network	lankanangelnetwork.com

Prepared with reference to the Invest Wayamba portal (www.landsbank.lk), the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka, and Sri Lanka's active innovation ecosystem programmes as of July 2026.