

## **Research Team Development Request for Proposals**

### **Purpose of the Governor's Research Team Program**

Since 2003 the state of South Dakota through the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) has invested in thirteen Research Centers. The objective of the Research Center was to become a recognized leader in a focused research area and commercialize promising research results in collaboration with private sector partners.

### **Available Funds**

It is anticipated that \$420,685 will be available in FY 2017 to support interdisciplinary public-private research teams to organize and do preliminary research and development to allow them to pursue state funding in FY 2018 and other sources of support for their Research Center or define Research Initiative. It is anticipated that \$1,076,133 will be available in FY 2018 to support new Research Centers/Initiatives and \$2,372,951 in FY 2019 to provide continued support. Applicants may request up to \$75,000 for FY 2017. The number of awards will be based on the quality of the proposals received.

### **Project Duration**

Research team development support may be requested for up to one year; however, the majority of activities should take place in the first six months of the award. The deadline for submission of full Research Center/Initiative proposals is anticipated to be March of 2017, so research and development work conducted under this award would need to be substantially completed by that timeframe for inclusion in the Research Center/Initiative proposal. It is anticipated that the Research Center/Initiative funding awards will span five years, with each years funding contingent upon meeting annual milestones and satisfactory progress reviews.

### **Eligible Applicants**

South Dakota universities collaborating with researchers and industry partners interested in establishing a Research Center or continuing development of applications of a platform technology within South Dakota. Research teams should consist of basic science researchers, applied scientist or engineers, and industry representatives. Depending upon the focus area, team members with knowledge and experience in regulatory approval requirements and other appropriate skills may be appropriate. Eligible activities must include a research component(s) but may also include other activities such as workshops, planning meetings, market assessments, and other activities directly associated with the development of a competitive Research Center or Research Initiative proposal

### **Focus Areas**

Research teams should focus on areas:

- Identified in the "2020 Vision: The South Dakota Science and Innovation Strategy" document. These include:
  - Value-Added Agriculture and Agribusiness
  - Energy and Environment

- Materials and Advanced Manufacturing
  - Human Health and Nutrition
  - Information Technology/Cyber Security/Information Assurance.
- Having the potential to generate a significant economic impact for South Dakota.
  - Involving education and workforce development activities to provide the necessary skilled workforce for South Dakota.
  - Which build upon the expertise and experience of the research team.

### **Expected Outcomes**

The primary objective of these awards is to establish the foundation necessary to provide for the submission of competitive proposals in response to the full Research Center/Initiative request for proposals in the spring of 2017. Submission of competitive proposals to other funding sources and securing private sector funding of research team activities is also expected. Longer term, Research Centers are expected to be nationally competitive for external funding enabling the Center activities to continue to grow and be sustained beyond the duration of the state funding. Research team initiatives or collaborations with industry are expected to result in significant direct business, economic activities and job creation in South Dakota.

### **Review Process**

Proposals will be reviewed by a technical and business review panel with expertise in the technical field and bringing innovations to the market. The technical review panel will make recommendations to the Research and Commercialization Council to assist them in making the final funding decisions.

### **Review Criteria**

#### Purpose and Outcomes (30%):

Proposals should develop the foundation necessary to successfully compete for external funding. Reviewers will be asked to consider the technical merit of the proposal and the likelihood of success in competing for funding in the future, either from federal agencies or private sector sources.

#### Significance and Impact (25%):

Proposals are expected to contribute to South Dakota's economic viability and align with the research agenda contained in the "2020 Vision: The South Dakota Science and Innovation Strategy" document. Reviewers will be asked to assess the anticipated economic impact of the proposed activities in South Dakota. Economic impact will be judged based on the ability to compete for significant external research funding, capacity for technology transfer and commercialization, and the potential for direct job and wealth creation in South Dakota.

#### Capability (20%):

Proposals should be grounded in scientific based research within the researcher team's discipline. Reviewers will be asked to assess the research team's capabilities to successfully achieve the defined project objectives and milestones.

#### Collaborations (20%):

Proposals should contain a level of collaboration necessary to capitalize on the strengths of the individual members and enhance the outcome(s) of the whole. Reviewers will be asked to assess the strength of the research collaborations and the commitment of the research team members and their organizations to the center/initiative.

**Budget (5%):**

Proposals are expected to contain a realistic budget, both in terms of cost and the timeline for expenditure. Reviewers will be asked to evaluate if the budget is realistic to accomplish the stated objectives and milestones in the timeframe provided.

**Reporting**

An interim progress report will be due March 15, 2017, with a final progress report due on July 30, 2017. Reports are to be prepared by the Principal Investigator(s) and will be sent to the Chief Research Officer of the host university, who will forward the report electronically to Mel Ustad and Nathan Lukkes. The interim reports may be considered when making future center funding decisions. Reporting templates will be provided shortly after awards are made.

**Financial Requirements**

Applicants may request up to \$75,000 for FY2017. There will be no indirect costs awarded. While no match is required, leveraging team member resources to support the project is encouraged. If other support is provided, the budget should include the details of the same. Faculty members compensated with awarded funds who leave the university system prior to completion of the project will be required to reimburse GOED for 100% the funds used to compensate the faculty member from the award.

**Proposal Format and Components**

**Format and length:**

Proposals should be single sided, double spaced, font size 12 and pages numbered.

**Proposals may use up to 15 pages of text:**

Appendices or supporting material beyond those required may be attached to each proposal, however, the total length of a proposal excluding cover sheet, abstract, budget must not exceed 30 pages. Supporting information such as letters of commitment are required for each team member and letters from non-team members supporting the activities are encouraged.

**Purpose, Proposed Activities and Outcome:**

Carefully respond to the purpose of the program as described previously, provide details of activities proposed to support development of a competitive research center/ initiative proposal.

**Proposal Assembly & Submission:**

1. Cover Page (see RFP Appendix 1)
2. Table of Contents
3. Project Summary (see RFP Appendix 2)
4. Project Description (maximum of 15 double spaced, one side of each page, font size 12)
  - a. Research Center/Initiative Mission & Objectives
  - b. Background of Capabilities and Significance of Opportunity

- c. Proposed Research, Other Activities, Timeline and Milestones
  - d. Project Impact
  - e. Research Team
  - f. Management Plan
  - g. Budget (12 months)
5. Vita and Current Support of Team Members-Maximum of 2 pages per person, NSF Format
  6. Attachments

### Submission of Proposals

Proposals must be submitted electronically to [Mel.Ustad@state.sd.us](mailto:Mel.Ustad@state.sd.us) and [Nathan.Lukkes@sdbor.edu](mailto:Nathan.Lukkes@sdbor.edu) by Monday, April 5, 2016. Funding decisions will be made by the Research and Commercialization Council in early June, 2016, with a start date of July 1, 2016.

### Questions

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