Division of
RESEARCH

Clemson University Industry Engagement Seed Grant Program
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

The Clemson University Industry Engagement Seed Grant Program is intended to provide financial support to eligible Clemson faculty with the goal of engaging for-profit companies to foster sponsored project activities. Funding may be used for industry engagement activities, including:
- Presenting a paper at a technical conference hosted by an industry association or that has significant industry participation.
- Attending a meeting at company's site to discuss collaboration opportunities.
- Hosting a company visit, a workshop attended by invited companies, or an industry trade group symposium on-site at the university to explore sponsored project opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY

Tenured, tenure-track, or research faculty at Clemson University who have not had a sponsored project funded by a for-profit company in the current and three (3) immediately preceding fiscal years at Clemson are eligible to submit proposals. Any such tenured, tenure-track, or research faculty who have an ownership, equity, or other financial interest in a for-profit company are not eligible to submit proposals for this funding.

Emeritus, adjunct, staff, and visiting faculty, as well as postdocs, are not eligible to submit proposals but may be included in research teams.

Past recipients of R-Initiative funding who did not comply with the terms of funding are ineligible.

FUNDING AND REQUIREMENTS

The Division of Research will fund projects up to $5,000 with a maximum one-year period of performance. The primary focus is on networking with for-profit companies with the ultimate goal of a sponsored project collaboration. Funding can be used by the applicant or any member of his/her research team for travel to an industry conference, a technical conference attended by industry, or a company site visit, or for the applicant to host a company visit at Clemson or an event at Clemson, like a workshop or symposium, attended by invited for-profit companies to explore sponsored project opportunities. The review committee has the sole discretion to determine if a conference or event qualifies for this funding and to determine the number of projects to award.

The following policies are applicable:
- An ultimate goal for applicants for Industry Engagement Seed Grant funding should be a sponsored project either funded by a for-profit company or funded by a federal agency, state government, or non-profit entity that requires collaboration with a for-profit company. A "sponsored project" means an externally funded project requiring a proposal and budget to be routed for internal approvals and an award agreement executed by the University. A sponsored project does not include a student course, including Creative Inquiry and capstone/senior design courses, or fee-for-service activities.

- Funds may not be used to provide or supplement faculty salary. The requested total budget should be appropriate for the proposed project.
- A Co-PI can be a non-Clemson researcher, but no financial support will be provided outside of Clemson University.
- The use of funds to travel both domestic and international as part of the proposed work must have sufficient justification and budgetary details. Any funds awarded for travel must be used only for registration, meals, transportation, and lodging.
- Expenditure of these funds must follow State procurement guidelines and must be spent for the purposes identified in the proposal.
- An applicant can only submit one Industry Engagement Seed Grant proposal at a time as a PI or co-PI.
- Priority consideration is given to faculty who may not have large start-up packages and/or significant financial research support and resources.
- Proposals will be accepted by the deadline defined in this Call for Proposals. Funds must be expended during the term of the award. Any residual funds at the end of the term will be returned to the Division of Research. No extensions will be allowed.
- Researchers may be required to present annually on the progress of their project. This may occur at the annual Division of Research Symposium or a similar event.
- Should R-Initiative funding result in publication(s), PIs must acknowledge the impact of R-Initiative funding. For example, "This project was funded in part by Clemson University's R-Initiative Program."

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposal must be written in a clear and concise manner for a general audience. Avoid the use of jargon. Proposals that are not in compliance with the following requirements and instructions may be returned without review.

Format the proposal using 12-pt. Times New Roman font, single line spacing, one-inch margins, and 8 ½ x 11-inch paper size. The proposal should be submitted as a single PDF file labeled Industry Engagement Seed Grant_Project Title with the following ordered sections:

A. Cover Sheet
The cover page must include a clear and concise title (Industry Engagement Seed Grant: Project Title). The names and appointments of the PI and Co-PIs should be listed, along with their department affiliations. Include center affiliations if applicable.

B. Proposal Description (three-page limit)
- Abstract (250 words or less)
- Project Background
  Describe short-term and long-term goals of the project team for industry sponsored activities. Briefly describe the applicant's current funding profile including start-up packages and/or other financial research support and resources.
- Project Scope
  Describe project objectives, use of the funds, expected outcomes, and timeline. Provide the following information if applicable for the submission: past relationship with companies, if any; any Clemson background intellectual property or intellectual

property that any project personnel created outside of Clemson that may relate to the project; any other additional information for the committee's consideration.

- Potential Impact
Describe the impact of the project for the project team members' research and scholarship endeavors and how the project will further enhance the mission and reputation of Clemson University.

C. Budget and Justification
Provide requested budget in table format and a statement justifying each expense. Do not include indirect costs (i.e. Facilities & Administrative (F&A) costs) in the budget.

D. Biographical Sketches [**2-page NSF or NIH format**]
Submit **2-page** biosketches in NSF **or** NIH format for PI and Co-PI(s*).*

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must have completed InfoEd routing and be submitted to the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (https://clemson.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1949260). *Applicants will contact their OSP Support Centers as they would normally do for an external submission.* Applicants are responsible for submitting the proposal through the InfoReady portal at the link above after the proposal has completed InfoEd routing. Applicants will receive confirmation that the submission has been received and the submission will be routed to the review committee for evaluation. The proposal will be evaluated within thirty (30) business days of receipt.

Proposals for this Industry Engagement Seed Grant Program will be accepted at any time. However, this Program is subject to availability of funds and may be canceled at any time at the discretion of the Senior Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors.

REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

A review committee will evaluate the proposals and make funding recommendations to the Senior Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors. The review committee may consult with external subject matter experts as needed.

Evaluation Criteria:
- ✓ Potential for significant impact to advance industry-university relationships
- ✓ Proposal demonstrates a clear purpose to advance sponsored project activities with a for-profit company
- ✓ Feasibility of the proposed project and its significance
- ✓ Potential for significant impact aligning with Clemson's strategic innovation clusters
- ✓ If applicable, current funding and sources for proposed project

DELIVERABLES

Awardees must submit a final report within thirty (30) days after the term of the award via the Clemson InfoReady Research Portal (https://clemson.infoready4.com/) and include a discussion of

what was accomplished and how the project has or will contribute to the applicant's future research and scholarship plans with a for-profit company.

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

All applications selected for award must have received all required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated.

QUESTIONS

Questions should be directed to JoAnna Floyd at cuic@clemson.edu, or 864-656-3989, in the Division of Research.

If you need assistance identifying for-profit companies to support your research, contact the Clemson University Research Foundation (https://curf.clemson.edu/inquiry-intake/).