

MISSOURI NSF EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE
RESEARCH (EPSCoR)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Missouri Transect Seed Funding: Technology Transfer/Commercialization

Submission Deadlines:

Date of Announcement: September 6, 2016

Final Proposal: October 7, 2016



Program Name

The Missouri Transect Seed Funding

Project Director

Missouri EPSCoR Office
Dr. John C. Walker
Tucker Hall, Room 105
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211

PH: (573) 882-8985
FX: (573) 882-0123
walkerj@missouri.edu

<https://missouriepscor.org/>

DESCRIPTION

Tech Transfer/Commercialization

Proof of concept seed funding is available for Missouri EPSCoR investigators that have developed a key discovery or innovation in the course of their research and have identified a possible pathway toward commercialization. Those applications demonstrating a high probability for commercialization as a project deliverable will receive preferential consideration. Proof of concept can be different for specific technologies – in some cases it may be building a prototype or minimally viable product while in other cases it may mean demonstrating market demand for a particular technology. Regardless of definition, seed funds are intended to accelerate movement of new innovations to commercialization pathways. Proposals with good probability for moving a product, process, and/or device toward commercialization are invited for funding consideration. Proposals should include technology assessment, market assessment, intellectual property disposition, team qualifications, and commercialization strategy. A copy of invention disclosure forms (or equivalent) should be included in the Appendix. Awards are limited to \$50,000 for one year and require a 1:1 match in non-federal funding.

Source of Funds

The Missouri Transect Seed Funding is part of the NSF EPSCoR Track 1 Research Infrastructure Improvement grant *The Missouri Transect: Climate, Plants and Community* (IIA-1355406).

Eligibility

Missouri EPSCoR investigators are eligible to apply.

Award Amount and Duration

The total project budget should be a maximum of \$50,000 in direct costs over a span of 12 months.

Application Procedure

Proposals must adhere to the following guidelines or risk being returned without review:

Submit a Full Proposal by 5:00 PM Friday, October 7, 2016. Prepare the proposal in accordance with the guidelines below.

- a. Summary.
- b. Goals, objectives and outcomes that can be accomplished in the time requested.
- c. The Research Plan must be no more than 5 single-spaced pages at 12 pt Arial or Times New Roman font with one inch margins throughout.
- d. The proposal should include a technology assessment, market assessment, intellectual property disposition, team qualifications, and commercialization strategy.
- e. References cited.
- f. Institutional resources available to support completion of the project must be described.
- g. Budget using the Missouri Transect Budget Form that appears at the end of this document.

The Seed Funding budget **should**:

- Support activities and outcomes that can be accomplished in the time requested.
- Only include items that directly support the PI or Co-PIs proposed project.
- Be followed by a budget justification of up to 2 pages in length.
- Be followed by a 1-page timeline with milestones for completing the scope of work and expending the funds requested.
- The required 1:1 matching, including the source of the matching funds should be included in the Budget

The Seed Funding budget **should NOT**:

- Exceed \$50,000 in direct costs.

- Include any indirect costs. (F&A will be added when a proposal is awarded.)
 - Include more than 1 month of salary for the PI or Co-PIs.
- h. The proposal should be accompanied by a statement from the Principal Investigator that explains his/her current and pending support and if there is significant overlap between the proposed Seed Funding request and any current or pending support.
 - i. Signature page to include the signatures of the PI, co-PIs and the Office of Sponsored Programs
 - j. A copy of invention disclosure forms (or equivalent) should be included in the Appendix.

Proposal Submission

The proposal must be prepared as described above and be submitted as a single PDF. A signature from the PI's sponsored programs office is required. **Proposals not signed by the PI's sponsored programs office will NOT be accepted.** The PDF should be submitted electronically as an email attachment sent by the PI's institutional research office. This email should be sent to epscor@missouri.edu by **5:00 PM Friday, October 7, 2016.**

Review Criteria

The following elements will be considered in the review:

- I. MARKET
 - a. Unmet need the product meets is well described.
 - b. The target market for the product is clearly delineated.
 - c. Rationale for why this market need has not been previously met is described.
- II. TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION
 - a. Products, services, or technology platform resulting from project well described.
 - b. Uniqueness or innovative features of technology are clearly explained.
 - c. Key findings to date supporting that the technology will perform as hypothesized.
- III. UNIQUENESS OF TECHNOLOGY
 - a. Advantages of invention are clearly articulated.
 - b. Major advance or competitive advantage over current technologies clearly explained.
 - c. Competitive products/services or technologies compete with the invention well described.
- IV. R & D PLANS
 - a. The problem and study objectives are clearly stated.
 - b. The reason for why this is the most important problem to address at this time

- is explained.
- c. Evidence that other problems/approaches to proving the validity of your technology were considered
 - d. Experimental approach is well described including precise methodology, tools needed, computational requirements, etc.
 - e. Project cost, timelines, key milestones and check points are documented and appropriate.
 - f. The budget should be as detailed as possible, including all activity and associated costs of personnel, materials, equipment, etc.
- V. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
- a. Status of protecting invention intellectual property well detailed.
 - b. Filed copyrights, patents, or disclosures included in the appendix.
 - c. Copies of copyrights and/or patents issued included in appendix.
 - d. Provide Freedom to Operate assessment or plan to assess.
- VI. OTHER FUNDING
- a. Other funding sources for this project are documented including grantor and amount.
- VII. COMMERCIAL OUTLET
- a. Evidence of collaborations/partnerships with commercial ventures or industry partners committed to considering this technology with positive proof of concept.

General Conditions of the Award

If a proposal is selected for funding, the Missouri EPSCoR Project Director reserves the right to negotiate the budget and the term of the award.

During the term of the award and for five years after the end date, the Principal Investigator must inform the Missouri EPSCoR Project Director of:

- Any proposals submitted and any awards received as a result of the award. Information provided should include the title of the proposal or award, the funding agency, the amount of the proposal or award, and its duration.
- Changes to the Principal Investigator's contact information.

Missouri EPSCoR must comply with NSF EPSCoR reporting requirements (NSF 08-587). Therefore, each Principal Investigator awarded Missouri Transect Seed Funding and their students, faculty and staff should create an individual reporting account on the Missouri EPSCoR Reporting site (<https://reporting.missouriepescor.org/missouri/>). Information to be reported will include demographics on all project participants, proposals submitted and funded, publications, presentations, patents, degrees granted, and research outcomes. Missouri EPSCoR will request information from award recipients with compliance expected within 30 days of the request.

Any publication resulting from the award must include the following statement of acknowledgment: *This research is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under award no. IIA-1355406.*

The Principal Investigator will be required to attend the Missouri Transect Annual Meeting in 2017 (date and location TBA).

Contact Information

Missouri EPSCoR Office
Emily Haghighi
Program Administrator
109A Tucker Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211

PH: (573) 884-1950

FX: (573) 882-0123

haghighie@missouri.edu

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Budget Form

See Excel Form.