ICTAS Request for Seed Proposals (Seed-RFP)

ICTAS is soliciting a white paper submission from Virginia Tech faculty for three funding opportunities with anticipated support beginning July 1st, 2014. White paper submissions will be considered for an invitation to submit a full proposal. If selected following our internal review, a 5-page proposal will be requested for panel review and subsequent consideration for funding.

Note that there is a limit of one white paper submission per PI in each of the funding categories. New for this year: Faculty with a concurrent JFC program (anticipated funding through June 30, 2015) are ineligible for this competition, and there is a limit of two funded JFC projects per PI per pre-tenure period.

1) Junior Faculty Collaborative (JFC) Proposals
Responses in this category will demonstrate an interdisciplinary, collaborative research relationship between tenure-track junior (non-tenured) and senior (tenured) faculty members. Proposal topics must be aligned with one or more of the ICTAS research thrust areas. (For more information regarding the strategic initiatives of ICTAS, please refer to http://www.ictas.vt.edu/index.html). Awards in this category are limited to two years, and are limited to $60K/year. In addition, a minimum of 75% of the requested support must be designated for use by the junior faculty member.

Project duration: 1-2 years. (Funding in the second year is contingent on demonstration of satisfactory technical performance and scholarship at our annual review, and available resources).

2) ICTAS Transformative Science and Technology Seed (TSTS) Proposals
ICTAS is seeking interdisciplinary, High Risk / High Impact research efforts capable of promoting significant growth for the university and ICTAS. All technical thrust areas will be considered for this seed funding. Responses in this category will directly address how the proposed effort is unique and capable of establishing or transforming a field of science and technology research. This program is intended for the support of new, transformative ideas, as opposed to further development of ongoing research projects. Proposals in all areas of research that fit the mission of ICTAS will be considered. Awards in this category are limited to one year; awards are anticipated to range between $75K and $90K over the one-year period depending on the quality of the submission.
3) ICTAS Grant Match Program

This new program is designed to compliment/expand/amplify the interdisciplinary research activities of a successful (externally-funded) grant from a federal funding agency. The federally funded project must be fully active during the entire period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 in order to be eligible for ICTAS support. Proposals in all areas of research that fit the mission of ICTAS will be considered. Awards in this category are limited to one year, and may not exceed $45K over the one-year period. Proposals involving the support of one graduate student or an equipment item that is critical to the expanded success of the federally funded project will be considered most favorably. Note that this grant match program is dedicated to interdisciplinary research activities, and as such, proposals for match of single investigator awards must include a clearly defined interdisciplinary component. Also, this funding opportunity is not intended for “bridge funding” of expiring projects.

- White paper pre-proposals must be submitted using the online ICTAS Proposal Submission Portal and are due December 2, 2013 (5pm). The ICTAS Proposal Submission Portal may be found at: http://www.spa.ictas.vt.edu
- Online white paper submission will require response to the following fields:
  - Statement of Problem and Proposed Solution (200 words)
  - Proposed R&D and Differentiating Technical Approach (200 words)
  - Interdisciplinary Approach and Potential Benefit to ICTAS Mission (100 words)
- All awards are subject to continuing availability of funds.

Questions/advice/courtesy reviews? Please Contact:

GENERAL QUESTIONS: Robert B. Moore, 540-231-6015, rbmoore3@vt.edu
NANOSCALE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: Matt Hull, (540) 231-5812, mahull@vt.edu
NANO-BIO INTERFACE: Matt Hull, (540) 231-5812, mahull@vt.edu
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY: Dennis Grove, (540) 231-3353, dgrove@vt.edu
SUSTAINABLE WATER: Dennis Grove, (540) 231-3353, dgrove@vt.edu
RENEWABLE MATERIALS: Jeff Beeby, (540) 231-2569, usnbb@vt.edu
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: Jeff Beeby, (540) 231-2569, usnbb@vt.edu
COGNITION AND COMMUNICATION: Chris Tysor, 540-231-9716, ctyisor@vt.edu
NATIONAL SECURITY: Chris Tysor, 540-231-9716, ctyisor@vt.edu

**Expected Timeline for the FY 2014 Seed-RFP Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Paper Submission Deadline</td>
<td>December 2, 2013 at 5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification of Invitation for Full Proposal</td>
<td>December 20, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invited Proposal Deadline</td>
<td>January 24, 2014 at 5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel Reviews</td>
<td>February 1 – March 7, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Announcement</td>
<td>March 21, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards effective</td>
<td>July 1, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICTAS Seed-RFP Review Process

White papers will be sorted by ICTAS Thrust Area (as designated by the PI on the ICTASPA whitepaper submission cover page...if more than one thrust is selected all associated thrust areas will review). The white paper review will be a Blind Review (PI and co-PI names will be removed from the cover pages prior to distribution to the reviewers). White papers will be reviewed by ICTAS thrust leaders, program managers, and research faculty (see: http://www.ictas.vt.edu/research/index.php) with attention to the following criteria:

- Clear association with one or more ICTAS research thrust
- Interdisciplinary (collaboration between diverse disciplines) is required
- Cutting edge science and technology
- Transformational potential
- Contribution to sustainability (in particular, proposals that seek to use existing space, facilities and processes at Virginia Tech as the test bed for sustainable solutions will be well received)

Each white paper reviewer will submit a rank order of the pre-proposals to the ICTAS AD of Research and Scholarship for consideration of invitation for full proposal.

Full proposals will be grouped into topical areas for review by panels of experts (at least 5 reviewers per panel). Panels will include members of the ICTAS Faculty Advisory Board and other senior faculty of Virginia Tech. Panel reviews will pay attention to the same criteria as stated above for the white papers with the addition of the following criteria:

- Results and impact of previous ICTAS seed funding (if relevant)
- Reasonable link between requested funds (budget details) and proposed outcome
- For JFC proposals, the specific role of the senior faculty mentor must be clearly defined along with a statement defining the interdisciplinary contributions of the team
- Probability and impact of success
- Panel review process will emulate the standard NSF style with rankings of Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, and Poor
- Rankings will be tabulated for each panel for consideration and recommendation for funding by the ICTAS AD for Research and Scholarship

Programmatic Considerations for ICTAS Seed Funding

- Funds for faculty salary are not eligible for ICTAS Seed funding, and must not be included in the proposed budget.
- All funds should be budgeted as direct costs (Overhead – indirect costs – are not accepted for ICTAS Seed funding).