

Application Deadline: <<< Deadline changed to Noon, April 25, 2018 >>>

Limited Funding Available: Early Applications Encouraged

TO: NDSU Faculty
FROM: ND EPSCoR, NDSU Office
RE: CSMS-based Translational Seed Grants

Purpose:

North Dakota EPSCoR seeks proposals for **Seed Grant Awards** to stimulate translation of research and/or inventions that fit the mission of the Center for Sustainable Materials Science (CSMS). The intent of the seed awards is to move research and technologies towards private sector adoption. The goals of the project will be to link sustainable materials technology to specific end-use applications and potential private sector licenses of the technology in ways that meet the mission of the ND EPSCoR Center. The support of a private sector company with an identified need that can be met by the technology will be required; however, the company does not need to participate actively in the project.

Eligibility:

Any NDSU research scientist or team of scientists is eligible to apply. Researchers do not need to be currently linked to CSMS.

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated by external reviewers. Evaluation criteria will include:

- Qualification(s) of the PI(s)
- Soundness of the approach
- Potential for achieving the stated technical goals

Proposal must address the following:

- The specific sustainable materials technology to be addressed. Please include references to invention disclosures submitted to the respective university technology transfer office and status of IP, if applicable;
- How this research/technology fits the overall mission of the Center for Sustainable Materials Science: Advance new discoveries of bio-based, sustainable materials that give more consideration to the environment and contribute to its economy through their sourcing (low cost, renewable), durable lifetimes (long, high durability), and recyclability (efficient, high value);
- Brief description of the supporting company;
- Information about the potential technical need as identified by the supporting company, including specific performance property targets;
- Prior experience of the PI(s) in development of IP and translating technology to the private sector;
- Discussion of how the technology addresses sustainability in replacing chemicals of concern or addressing the nexus of food, energy, and water;
- Research plan to move the technology from the current state toward the target properties.
- Project timeline.

Available funds: Proposals may request up to \$15,000 for a single-PI project and up to \$25,000 for a multi-PI project. It is expected that 2-3 projects will be funded.

Allowable expenses (The total \$15K or \$25K expenditures is for direct and indirect costs):

- Faculty (up to \$5,000 in salary and related fringe benefits);
- Student salary and related fringe benefits;
- Materials
- Research supplies (including minor equipment);
- Domestic travel (i.e.: to collaborating institutions or field study sites; however, conference travel is not allowed under this award);
- Indirect Costs (45%)

Submission Requirements:

Electronic submission instructions: Submit only an electronic version of your proposal in a single PDF file to Jean Ostrom-Blonigen at ndepscor@ndus.edu. Please list your subject line as **CSMS-based Translational Seed Grant**.

Proposal content requirements: Your complete proposal will consist of the following items and be submitted as a single PDF in the order shown below:

1. Cover page with project summary;
2. Written project description (4 pages max, 11 point font, 1" margins, single spaced); **project description must address the areas described previously;**
3. Cited references (1 page max);
4. Budget and Budget Justification; maximum proposed budget will be \$15,000 for single-PI projects and up to \$25,000 for multi-PI projects. Proposals may be funded at a lower level;
5. NSF-style bio of PI(s) (2-page max for each PI);
6. Letter of support by at least one private sector company outlining the application of interest and key performance properties that need to be achieved.

Award Announcements and Additional Information:

Proposals will be due by Noon, April 10, 2018. Tentative date for response from reviewers is May 15, 2018. Awards will be announced on or about May 16, 2018. The effective award dates are May 16, 2018 or later through June 30, 2019. A final report will be required.

Awards are contingent upon continued funding from the National Science Foundation and the State of North Dakota.

Please direct questions to Jean Ostrom-Blonigen, Project Administrator, at 701.231.7516 or jean.ostrom@ndus.edu.

For information about:

- ND EPSCoR Center for Sustainable Materials Science, please visit the CSMS website at <http://csms-ndsu.org/>
- ND EPSCoR NSF Track-1 Strategic Plan, please visit the ND EPSCoR website at <https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/fileadmin/ndus/ndepscor/documents/Track1StrategicPlanNov2016.pdf>