Translational Investment Fund

Open Call for Letters of Interest
LOIs due by June 22, 2020

Texas A&M University Innovation Partners ("TAMU Innovation Partners” or "TAMUIP") is calling for letters of interest from qualified researchers for the inaugural round of funding from its Translational Investment Fund. The goal of this fund is to provide an opportunity for Texas A&M University researchers to compete for an investment of $50,000-$75,000 over a one-year period to fund the development of early-stage technologies that have the potential to address a commercial or industrial need.

Qualifying Researchers & Projects
To be eligible for funding, researchers must be a current Texas A&M University employee and must have previously filed an invention disclosure of System-owned intellectual property that has been assigned an invention number and is managed by TAMU Innovation Partners. Inventions should be the subject of the project to qualify and must also have at least completed the proof-of-concept stage, with demonstration by the inventor(s) of a commitment to taking steps toward commercialization.

Examples of qualifying projects include:
- Therapeutic drug lead optimization
- Creation of prototypes, or prototype development
- Completion of programming, code development, or development of user interface
- Acquisition of technology validation data, often for “endpoints” of interest to industry

This program is NOT designed to fund basic research, market analysis, or business plan creation as other mechanisms exist to support these efforts.

Submission Timeline & Process

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 22, 2020</td>
<td>Letters of Interest Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2020 (tentative)</td>
<td>Full Proposals Due (invitation only)</td>
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<td>October 2020 – October 2021 (tentative)</td>
<td>Expected Performance Period</td>
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Researchers who are interested in competing for funding must first submit a Letter of Interest (2500-character limit) to the TAMUIP faculty advisory committee via the online form provided at https://u.tamu.edu/TAMUIP-TIF-LetterOfInterest. This letter should include 1) the project’s title, 2) a brief introduction of the researcher and/or the team members involved in the project, and 3) a brief summary of the project.

The faculty committee will review the Letters of Interest and selected projects will then be invited via a private link to submit a full proposal, not to exceed 5 pages, for evaluation by the committee. The full proposal will be expected to include 1) a technology abstract, 2) project background and IP status, 3) commercial solution and market need, 4) project plan and scope, 5) additional support sources, 6) team roles, 7) budget, and 8) optional letters of intent/support from potential commercial partners. LOIs and proposals will be evaluated primarily based on market need, research approach/proposed solution, commercial benefit, existing competition, and feasibility of scope. See full program details at tamuip.tamu.edu.

CONTACT
Any questions regarding this program should be directed to Megan Brown, meganbrown@tamu.edu.