NC State University
Office of Research and Innovation
Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology and Science

Research and Innovation Seed Funding Program
Spring 2019

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT
The Research and Innovation Seed Funding (RISF) program is now accepting proposals from NC State faculty and EHRA professionals.

Due Date: Proposals are due Thursday, March 28, 2019, 5:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION

Background
NC State's Office of Research and Innovation, in partnership with the Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology and Science (KIETS), established the Strategic Research Initiatives Program (SRI) in 2010 to augment and replace the multi-disciplinary component of the Faculty Research and Professional Development (FRPD) program. The individual faculty component of the FRPD program remained unchanged and can be found at https://research.ncsu.edu/rdo/funding/frpd/. The SRI program was renamed Research and Innovation Seed Funding (RISF) Program later that same year.

Program Description
The primary goal of the RISF program is to assist NC State researchers in developing innovative interdisciplinary programs that have strong potential for significant future external support from government agencies, corporations, industrial consortia or foundations. Encouraged are projects that align with NC State's strategic research areas of health and well-being, energy and environment, safety and security, or advanced materials and advanced manufacturing. Proposed projects should be high risk/high gain and initiate new areas of research or enhance existing areas at NC State.

For the RISF program, *interdisciplinary research* is defined as "research that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice", according to the definition used by the National Academies. The term *disciplines* can be construed as meaning *branches of science* (formal sciences, natural sciences, social sciences, and applied sciences), or fundamental versus applied sciences. Conceptual interdisciplinary research (the exchange of ideas across fields to enhance understanding) and instrumental interdisciplinary research (using tools from other fields) are both acceptable.

Projects must be new research initiatives that do not duplicate former efforts of the principal investigator(s) with either the same or different co-investigators. When describing external

funding possibilities, be as specific as possible, including agency names, programs, dates and potential amounts.

Proposals which seek funds to enhance scholarship or faculty professional development are not eligible for this program. See http://research.ncsu.edu/rdo/funding/internal-funding/ for internal funding opportunities that address these topics.

Projects Supported
Project activities may include, but are not limited to:
- Collection of preliminary data needed for external proposal submission;
- Workshops on emerging multidisciplinary research areas;
- Support of a high-level seminar series to promote networking to form an innovation program;
- Development of concepts and white papers for large-scale centers, institutes or cluster hires;
- Travel to establish partnerships and to interact with program officers;
- Identification and recruitment of industrial, academic and/or government partnerships in support of initiatives;
- Support for release time, travel, workshops, and other expenses associated with conceptualization and preparation of large grants;
- Development of plans to promote industrial research collaborations;
- Creation and support of resources such as websites, research collaboration sites or social networking tools to facilitate large-scale research programs;
- International collaborations.

AWARD INFORMATION

Type of Award
Solicitations are typically open in the spring semesters. Awards will be effective for projects lasting twelve calendar months or less, beginning on the fiscal year (July 1) following the solicitation. Awards are typically distributed as a combination of F&A and 7-account funding.

Funding Amount
Investigators can request up to $25,000 in funds from ORI. Awards typically range between $10,000 and $25,000. Extension of the award period to complete proposed activities is at the discretion of ORI.

Cost Match
A minimum 25% cost match is **required** from internal or external sources and should be included in the total project budget. Internal sources may be college and/or department support, including salary release time. Federal funds, or other funds already earmarked for another purpose are not acceptable. A clear distinction between a request for RISF funding for release time and release time used as a source of matching funds must be indicated in the budget.

Eligibility

All NC State faculty and EHRA professionals are eligible to submit as a Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI. There is no limit on the number of proposals in which a single researcher may participate. There is no limit on the number of proposals a single PI may submit. While not eligible to submit on their own, support for student and postdoctoral researchers may be included in the budget.

PROPOSAL CONTENT AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Proposal Content

RISF proposals must include the following sections:

- **Cover page (please use the cover page template):** The cover page includes the title of the proposed project, contact information of the submitting principal investigator, list of Co-PIs and other key personnel, duration of project (1 day to 1 year), total budget amount (requested amount and matching funds), five (5) keywords, and a 1,000-character synopsis of the proposed project. (Depending on the number of personnel listed, the cover page may extend beyond a single page.)
- **Interdisciplinarity description (please use this template):** This page should contain a paragraph that describes the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed research.
- **Project description (3 pages max):** The project description must address how the proposed activities are consistent with the goals of the program. The description should include sufficient detail such that reviewers can evaluate the appropriateness and feasibility of the proposed plans, as well as the potential for external funding. Please keep in mind that not all reviewers will be experts in every proposed field of study, and thus project descriptions should be written for a broad audience.
- **Budget with justification (please use the budget template):** The budget and justification should include funds requested from the RISF program and a minimum 25% cost match, indicating how funds from each source are to be allocated. Indirect costs are not applicable.
- **Team Description**: The team description should describe the role of each PI, Co-PI, and other key personnel mentioned in the proposal.
- **References** (no page limit).
- **Appendices**:
  - **Biosketch (up to 1 page each):** Biosketches of each PI, Co-PI, and other key personnel that should include information relevant to the proposed project.
  - **Letter(s) of support (no limit):** Letters from source(s) of matching funds must be included. Other letters of support may be included.

Submission Instructions

Submission process is two-part: NC State PINS system and electronic submission to the RISF program administrator.

1. *PINS submission*: Submit through your college research administrator at http://research.ncsu.edu/sparcs/systems-portal/pins/. Select "NCSU Research and Innovation Seed Funding Program" as the sponsor. Note that PINS routing does not have to be complete at time of submission. However, PINS must have been initiated and the number **must** appear on the proposal cover page to be accepted for review.

2. *Electronic submission through InfoReady Review:* Proposals must be submitted individually by the PI or Co-PI through the InfoReady Review (https://ncsu.infoready4.com/). Before uploading a proposal, users must log in using an NC State unity login. The system only allows one submission per user. In the case of multiple submissions by a single PI, the PI should request that a Co-PI or other team member submit the proposal. In the case of errors in a submitted proposal, contact the RISF Coordinator at research-development@ncsu.edu for instructions on submitting a revision.

Due Date

Proposals for the 2019 solicitation are due on **Thursday, March 28, 2019 by 5:00 P.M.**

REVIEW

Timeline for 2019 Solicitation

January	Request for Proposals announcement sent to URC, ROC, RSC members and Funding list; posted to website and InfoReady Review (https://ncsu.infoready4.com).
March 28, 2019	**Proposals due no later than 5:00 P.M. Electronic submission with PINS number through InfoReady Review** (https://ncsu.infoready4.com).
May 2019	Principal Investigators notified of award status; summary of reviewer comments emailed to submitting PIs; abstracts of awarded proposals posted to the RISF Past Awards website.
July 1, 2019	Award period begins.

Review Criteria

Each proposal will undergo an internal peer review based on the following criteria:

- **Potential for future funding:** The potential for follow-up funding for the project is high and clearly defined;
- **Integration of multiple disciplines:** Diversity in disciplines is contributory to the objectives of the project;
- **Description and feasibility of the project:** Goals and objectives are clearly defined and aligned with the specific purposes of the RISF program; project does not duplicate former

efforts surrounding the proposed problem area; plan of work is clearly articulated and adequately meets the goals of the project; the project is feasible;
- **Budget:** Appropriate and justified budget includes a documented cost match of at least 25%; and
- **Team qualifications:** PI and team are qualified and appropriate for the project; roles for team members are clearly defined.

Review and Selection Process

Peer review is managed by the University Research Committee (URC) and may be reviewed by colleagues outside of the project discipline. In order to be ranked highly, proposals must use language that can be understood by persons lacking expertise in the discipline. Highly ranked proposals will clearly state the:
- Problem or need to be addressed;
- Innovativeness of the solution;
- Specifics of activities;
- Appropriateness and contribution of the named team members;
- Cross-disciplinarity of the approach;
- Expected outcomes from one year (or less) of work;
- Long-term implications for the work; and
- Specific agencies and programs likely to fund ongoing proposals generated from this effort.

Following the peer review, proposals and reviews are presented to a separate selection committee. The selection committee decides the number of awards and the amount of each award.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

The submitting PI(s) will be notified within three (3) business days of the award selection. A synopsis of reviewer comments will be included. The awarded proposals will receive instructions for transfer of funds at this time. It is the responsibility of the PIs to notify departmental accounting personnel to identify suitable project numbers and make a request for transfer of funds prior to the funding period.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The principal investigator will be required to report on measurable outcomes of their seed funding effort (i.e. continued funding for the project, published reports, graduate students funded, etc.). The first report will be due approximately one month after the close of the grant period (see schedule below). Periodic status updates on the progress of the project may be requested at the discretion of the program administration. **Failure to submit in a timely manner a final report on research facilitated by this seed-funding program will preclude the PI from receiving future awards from <u>any</u> ORI internal seed-funding program.**

Reporting Schedule

July 31, 2020   Year End Report describing the accomplishments to date due to Research Development Office

July 31, 2021   1-Year Progress Report describing the accomplishments to date due to Research Development Office

PROGRAM CONTACT:

Questions regarding this solicitation may be directed to:

      Marie Grubbs

      (919) 513-3955

      research-development@ncsu.edu