



**Virginia Innovation Partnership (VIP): Accelerating Virginia's Innovation
CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Application Deadline: May 18, 2009

Program: In the next global era, economic and social well-being will be achieved via an evolving paradigm that links knowledge creation, innovation, entrepreneurship, human dignity and societal freedom. The new Virginia Innovation Partnership (VIP) will operate to selectively move promising technologies closer to commercialization. The goal is to build value for the Commonwealth by creating Virginia-based start-up companies, attracting established corporations to invest in Virginia, and enhancing the licensing potential for technologies. The innovation fund will be \$2M annually, including \$1M from CTRF and \$1M in annual matching funds from the collaborating entities. The innovation fund is open to all public universities in the Commonwealth and will be administrated jointly by the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech and SRI International in the Shenandoah Valley. Focused mentoring and review feedback will be delivered to proposal teams at Virginia's five historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to continuously improve the overall partnership performance by enhancing diversity. The expected outcomes include enhanced creation of new intellectual property and increased frequency of conversion to licensing deals.

Eligibility: Permanent, full-time, tenure-track or research faculty at each professorial rank (assistant, associate, or full professor) employed by Virginia's public institutions or their associated intellectual property foundations. Projects or investigators that have already formed a company, control the primary IP rights, and have professional management/CEO are not eligible to apply.

Criteria: All awards from the Fund shall be matched on at least a dollar-for-dollar basis by the respective institution of higher education, with private funds or combinations thereof. Awards will be based on scientific and technical merit, potential for societal benefits, and economic development potential of research programs in the following fields:

Biotechnology	Information Technology
Energy Production and Conservation	Environmental Technology, Sustainability, & Water
High Performance Manufacturing	Bioengineering and Medical Devices
Nanotechnology	Modeling and Simulations
Healthcare and Biosciences	Microelectronics & Sensor Sciences
Security and Safety	Information Assurance

Collaboration between institutions of higher education and partnerships between institutions of higher education and business and industry are encouraged. Inclusion of proprietary information in proposals is discouraged unless absolutely necessary for proposal evaluation. When proprietary information is used it should be clearly marked and submitted as an appendix to the proposal.

Final proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- ability to leverage federal and private research dollars
- demonstrated ability of team to perform innovative research in technology field
- potential of chosen technology field to contribute to economic development in Virginia
- attraction of a specific company to locate or expand in Virginia
- involvement of a key department of the applicant institution
- potential for beneficial societal impact, independent of market size or commercialization
- extent of proposed collaboration between the institution and an identified company
- enhancement of the institution's capability to commercialize technologies developed through its research
- IP status and freedom to operate IP currently under management by the university
- potential of team to produce meaningful progress to commercialization milestones
- pre-review by each organization's tech transfer group or innovation program director
- potential to create new IP and licensing deals

Submission: Applications should not exceed four pages, *excluding* a cover page, a budget page, and two-page CVs from the co-investigators. Use Arial font of 12 point size. The cover page must contain the project title, names of the investigator(s), amount requested, a one-paragraph summary (not to exceed 500 words) and the approval/signature of the department chair(s). The proposal should clearly describe the scientific / technical importance and commercialization potential of the project. Also, it will be helpful if specific milestones and timelines to achieve objectives are defined clearly. If the proposal is addressing a proof of concept issue, then authors should address what the next steps are to sustain the project towards a commercialization objective. Award recipients will be required to prepare one 6-month progress report and a final report for the Review Board and Governing Board. Approvals for animal and/or human subjects (if needed), will be required “just in time” after awards are announced. Applications should be submitted both via email and hard copy to a central proposal repository established for this initiative: **Virginia Innovation Partnership, Lianne Landers, Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Virginia, Box 400301, Charlottesville, VA 22904.** lianne@virginia.edu, 434-243-2196. **All applications are due by Monday, May 18, 2009. For selected proposals, in-person finalist presentations will be held the week of June 15, 2009 with the Review Board.**

Duration: Grants will be for a one-year period, and may be renewed on a competitive basis with new applications. Grants may be terminated and remaining funds recalled at mid-year if progress reports are not acceptable. Competitive renewal applications must have a comparison of milestones achieved vs. those planned in the original submission. We expect that some projects may be renewed for up to three years.

Selection: Applications will be evaluated by the VIP Review Board members, coordinated by the Governing Committee of VIP. Finalists will be required to present in person before the VIP Review Board. The Review Board will consist of 7 voting members, and they will review proposals, interview teams in person at a final stage competition, and provide feedback to teams on both proposals and semi-annual milestone reports. The composition of the Review Board shall include an active member of the venture capital and/or early stage investment community, university scientists, clinicians, tech transfer specialists, and engineers, and individuals with technology and/or life science company operations experience. Recommendations from the VIP Review Board are advisory to the VIP Governing Committee, who will be responsible to make final funding recommendations to the Innovation Technology Authority for FY 08-09 and to Innovation & Entrepreneurship Investment Authority for future years.

Budgets: Eligible budget items include salary support (faculty, graduate students, and other research staff), operating supplies, minor equipment items, prototyping expenses, imaging/core equipment time, and travel directly associated with the research activity. For questions on acceptable forms of matching funds, contact Lianne Landers (lianne@virginia.edu) or your institution’s VIP contact person. Funds cannot be used for administrative support or for tuition. Most grant budgets should not exceed \$100,000 in direct costs for a one-year period. Up to 20 awards are possible. We expect most budgets to be in the range of \$80,000-\$120,000. Start date of project period shall be July 1, 2009.

A 1-1 match is required and may be made up of any combination of the following: cash or directed research funds to be expended at each relevant participating organization, non-VIP grant funds (e.g., STTR), patent costs or legal expenses up to \$25,000 expended by universities, in-kind match of staff effort (programmers, technicians) clearly above and beyond their regular duties. Universities will be credited with 20% match as a facilities and administrative cost (overhead) to acknowledge infrastructure costs not attributable to a single project. Expenditures made six months prior to award may be used as long as they fit all other matching criteria.

Additional information:

- It is understood that the ownership rights to any funded research results or related intellectual property will remain with the university or its researcher investigators in accordance with university policies.
- The applicants shall ensure that the necessary steps are taken in their respective organizations to prevent infringement of their respective rights.