



National Science Foundation

4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

NSF 06-530

I / U C R C S U P P L E M E N T A L F U N D I N G R E Q U E S T S F O R F U N D A M E N T A L R E S E A R C H

An Industry/University Cooperative Research Center
Dear Colleague Letter Funding Opportunity

INTRODUCTION

The Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRCs) program will provide supplemental funding for fundamental research projects with a long term potential of future interest to industry. This opportunity aims to provide I/UCRCs with the means to retain and attract industry investments into center research programs.

SUPPLEMENT DUE DATE

March 28, 2006 by 5:00 PM, submitter's local time.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

ORGANIZATIONAL LIMIT

Only organizations with current Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers that are in good standing may apply. I/UCRCs are ineligible to apply if they received an I/UCRC fundamental research supplement under [NSF 05-571](#) within the previous two fiscal years.

LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF PROPOSALS

- *Single University Centers:* Single university sites may submit only one proposal.
- *Multi-University Centers:* Each site of a multi-university I/UCRC may submit one proposal, but all proposals for a given I/UCRC must be part of the same integrated research experimental plan and the total budget for all submissions can not exceed \$150,000.

AWARD INFORMATION

Four to ten supplements will be awarded for a total of up to \$150,000 each. Supplements will have a duration of up to three years. The anticipated funding amount is \$1,000,000 subject to the availability of funds and the quality of proposals.

SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS SUPPLEMENT

NEED

The National Science Foundation (NSF) invites supplemental requests for fundamental research that uses the Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRC). The I/UCRCs support research directed to the needs of their specific industries that are paid for by industry memberships. There is a need for fundamental research to occur in NSF's Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers. This fundamental research can help an industry by providing new technologies that are not easily obtainable with short-term projects. The fundamental research could provide centers with opportunities to attract new industry members while helping to retain current memberships.

The I/UCRC program intends to provide the opportunity for its centers to conduct fundamental research so as to better position themselves as leaders for emerging areas that could better benefit the industries that they serve. Industry members are increasingly reluctant to invest in fundamental research as it takes longer for that type of research to be used by industry. Corporate members are under pressure by investors and other stakeholders to maximize profits and their returns on investment. The program intends to fund a center's fundamental research project for a duration period of three years. This NSF investment in fundamental research should provide for sufficient lead time so that industry can develop interest for their future needs. Proposals should discuss how the proposed research will benefit industry and attract new industry members while retaining current memberships.

GOOD STANDING

Fundamental research opportunities are available for existing I/UCRCs who continue to meet the criteria as outlined in the *Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers Program (I/UCRC) Solicitation, NSF 01-116*. Key "good standing" requirements for that solicitation require that a center has:

- maintained their industrial support requirements,
- used graduate students in center research projects, and
- disseminated current and accurate information to the public about their center. Note: The NSF Directory of I/UCRCs (at <http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iucrc/directory/index.jsp>) can help with dissemination needs if requested.

MULTI-UNIVERSITY I/UCRCS

Multi-university I/UCRCs may want to submit separate proposals for their participating research sites. Coordination with researchers and site directors will be key to making this work. Care must be taken to ensure that the maximum award allowable is not exceeded. University sites can do this by submitting a proposal that represents their share of the research that will be done. For example, a center with three university sites (partners) can submit three integrated experimental proposals (one by each university research site) with a request for funding which would then equal the maximum allowable amount of up to \$150,000 (subject to the availability of funds.)

RELATED URL'S AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Proposers under this announcement may be interested in the following:

- Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers Program (I/UCRC) Program Solicitation, [NSF 01-116](#)
- I/UCRC Program Website at <http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iucrc>
- FastLane User Guide for Supplemental Funding Requests at <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/documents/sfr/sfr.jsp>

PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Proposals submitted in response to this Dear Colleague letter should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines for supplemental funding contained in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) Section V.B.4. (http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/nsf04_23/5.jsp#VB4). The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF Website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpg>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (301) 947-2722 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

Proposals for supplemental funding must be submitted by FastLane. For FastLane user support, call the FastLane Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail fastlane@nsf.gov. The FastLane Help Desk answers general technical questions related to the use of the FastLane system. Specific questions related to this funding opportunity should be referred to the NSF program staff contact listed in the Cognizant Program Officers section below.

COGNIZANT PROGRAM OFFICERS

Please address questions about this funding opportunity to:

- Edward V. Clancy, Program Director, Directorate for Engineering, Division of Engineering Education & Centers, 585 N, telephone: (703) 292-8492, email: eclancy@nsf.gov
- Glenn H. Larsen, Program Director, Directorate for Engineering, 505 N, telephone: (703) 292-4607, fax: (703) 292-9013, email: glarsen@nsf.gov
- Alex Schwarzkopf, Program Manager, Directorate for Engineering, Division of Engineering Education & Centers, 585 N, telephone: (703) 292-5359, fax: (703) 292-9051, email: aschwarz@nsf.gov