

**University-Industry R&D Partnership Program
Request for Proposals**

DEADLINE EXTENDED

September 7, 2007

TO: Science and Engineering Department Chairs/Heads and Research Administrators (**please notify appropriate faculty**)

FROM: F. Fred Choobineh, Director, Nebraska EPSCOR

RE: Request for proposals:
**Nebraska EPSCoR University-Industry R&D Partnership Program
Deadline Extended: 5 p.m., Monday, June 2, 2008**

Scientific and technological collaborations between industry and universities enrich the academic experiences of faculty and students and facilitate economic growth. Nebraska EPSCoR's University-Industry R&D Partnership Program is a cost-share program intended to foster new partnerships or strengthen existing partnerships between faculty of Nebraska research universities and state industries. This program will subsidize a portion of the cost of an industry R&D project when a faculty member is contracted by the industry to participate in the project. Proposals will be selected on a competitive basis.

Benefits to Nebraska Companies

- Cost-effective research through university partnering
- Access to expert university faculty, students, state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories and equipment
- Efficient transfer of technology from university to companies

Benefits to Nebraska Faculty

- Research leads directly to new product development
- Potential for published papers and improved university facilities
- Students gain valuable experience working on commercial technologies

Industry Eligibility

Any Nebraska business enterprise is eligible to participate in the program.

Faculty Eligibility

Any tenured or tenure-leading faculty member affiliated with a Nebraska research university is eligible to participate in the program.

Eligible Projects

Any science or technology-based research or development project deemed important to the economic growth of the company is eligible. A project must have at least two co-PIs; one from academia and one from industry.

Funding Limit, Cost Share Requirement, and Project Duration

Nebraska EPSCoR provides cash funds for 50% of the direct cost of the project up to \$25,000. The balance of the project's direct cost is financed by **cash funds** provided by the Nebraska business enterprise. The university of the participating faculty will contribute the F&A (indirect) cost of the project up to the maximum total direct cost of \$50,000; however, the portion of the project budget above \$50,000 is charged F&A cost.

The maximum funding period for a project is 12 months. A funded project may be renewed only once under this program. A request for renewal will be treated as a new proposal.

Program Outcome and Reporting Requirements

At least one grant proposal must be submitted to a federal agency during the duration of the project. This proposal can be submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) GOALI program or any other federal SBIR/STTR program. An electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted to the Nebraska EPSCoR Office. In addition, a final report must also be submitted to Nebraska EPSCoR. This report should list major findings and contributions of the project and must be less than six pages. Nebraska EPSCoR will not release \$10,000 of its grant funds until the reporting conditions of the grant have been satisfied, and the Nebraska EPSCoR Office has received the required reports.

Proposal Funding Procedure

Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by a committee composed of industry and academic experts. Proposals to be funded will be selected by the State EPSCoR Committee. Notification of the award is made to the submitting faculty and organization by the Nebraska EPSCoR Office. Faculty and organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by Nebraska EPSCoR. Upon notification of selection, the industry partner of a selected proposal must submit a final budget to its university partner and sign a contract agreement to jointly carry out the proposed project.

Proposal Format

Proposals, with the exception of the budget sheet, should be prepared according to the NSF Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs Phase I Solicitation proposal requirements and submitted jointly by the university-industry partners. Please visit the following web site for more information on the SBIR/STTR format. http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07551. Although the 2007 submission deadline for this solicitation is past, it provides a useful model.

Complete and attach the two-page Nebraska EPSCoR Budget and Approval Form available from our web site: <http://epscor.unl.edu/forms>, accompanied by a one-page budget explanation. In addition, the intellectual property agreement duly signed by the appropriate campus officer of the project's faculty PI and an official letter signed by an officer of the company agreeing to provide the **cash funds** for the project should be included with the proposal.

Please contact the Nebraska EPSCoR Office if you have any proposal format questions (epscor@unl.edu or 402-472-8946).

Evaluation Criteria

A. What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

1. Is the proposed plan a sound approach for establishing technical and commercial feasibility?
2. Does the proposal reflect state-of-the-art in the major research activities proposed?
3. Are advancements in state-of-the-art likely?

B. What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

1. What may be the commercial and/or societal benefits of the proposed activity?
2. Does the proposal lead to enabling technologies (instrumentation, software, etc.) for further discoveries?
3. Does the outcome of the proposed activity lead to a marketable product or process?
4. How well is the proposed activity positioned to attract further funding from federal sources once the University-Industry R&D project ends?
5. Can the product or process developed in the project advance Nebraska EPSCoR's goal of increasing university-industry collaborations and technology transfer?

Proposal Submission and Deadlines

The original proposal must be submitted to the Nebraska EPSCoR Office, W192 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0557, and the proposal must also be submitted electronically in PDF format at <http://epscor.unl.edu/rfps> by **5 p.m. June 2, 2008**.