



center for
industry studies



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Multidisciplinary Research in Industry Studies

Jointly sponsored by the Center for Industry Studies & the Office of the Provost

DESCRIPTION

The Center for Industry Studies (<http://www.engineering.pitt.edu/cis/>) is dedicated to addressing the most important and challenging problems faced by modern industry through bringing engineers and social scientists together for research collaboration. The Center announces a funding opportunity for industry studies research grants that are intended to promote collaboration within the University of Pittsburgh between scholars in the social sciences and scholars in engineering. The goal of this initiative is to advance multidisciplinary research concerning issues relevant to industry competitiveness and operations and/or public policy. We invite proposals on topics ranging from technology and business practices to wider concerns about health care, energy and the environment. This initiative is meant to complement the University of Pittsburgh's broad interests in sustainability, and proposed research that touches this theme would be especially welcomed. It is hoped that funded proposals will lead to highly competitive applications for external funding and have a broad impact on scholarship, industry practice, and public policy.

AWARD AMOUNT

In AY 2014-2015 two awards of up to \$50,000 will be available. Successful proposals will be awarded funding for one year. Beyond the first year, supplemental grants of up to \$5,000 would be possible as follow-up awards for the purpose of preparing proposals for external funding.

Use of the funds will be limited to covering costs associated with the initiation of the research project such as graduate student support, data collection and analysis, field research, and project-related travel. Funds may not be used for faculty salaries or to purchase equipment.

ELIGIBILITY

Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) for the proposed research must represent, at least, one social science discipline and one engineering discipline; although, more than two Co-PIs may be involved in the project. The Co-PI submitting the proposal must be a tenured or tenure-stream faculty member of the University of Pittsburgh.

Proposals are welcome from members of the faculty in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, the Swanson School of Engineering and from all other professional schools within the university.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The review process is competitive. Proposals will be evaluated by a committee of distinguished scholars drawn from disciplines in the social sciences and engineering. The committee's ranking of proposals will be based upon scholarship, the potential impact of the research, and the potential of the research in fostering long-term collaboration between social scientists and engineers. Decisions by the selection committee are final.

APPLICATION TIMING AND REQUIREMENTS

Proposals, which must be no more than five pages in length (not including graphs and exhibits), should describe the nature of the research problem, the contributions of proposed research, and the methodologies required for analysis. The potential impact of the proposed research also should be addressed.

Curricular vitae for all Co-PIs should be included, each limited to no more than five pages. The proposal also should be accompanied by a brief research abstract. The covering letter from the submitting Co-PI(s) should include a statement describing the proposed uses of the funds.

Proposals must be submitted by March 1, 2015. Receipt will be acknowledged within one week. Awards will be announced by May 30, 2015. Funding for successful proposals will be available by June 15, 2015.

DELIVERABLES

One year following receipt of the grant, a report describing research accomplishments is required. The report should summarize progress to date in terms of analysis and findings, and it also should outline the prospects for follow on research and potential external funding that would support any continued collaboration. A public seminar concerning the sponsored research also is required. The seminar will be organized by the Center for Industry Studies.

Inquiries and proposals may be addressed to Professor Frank Giarratani, Director, Center for Industry Studies.

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