

EPSCoR Opportunities for Partnerships in Technology with Industry (OPT-IN)

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions in response to the Request for Proposals as of **December 1, 2014**, which was the **last day** to answer questions about this RFP.

Proposals Due: December 8, 2014

Question:

I was interested in possibly having the start-up company I work for participate in an OPT-IN proposal. Our main concern is who would own the research and findings that result from the funded research. Is that something that would be determined between the company and the university?

Answer:

Intellectual property issues would need to be negotiated between the university and the company.

Question:

Concerning the cash match, when does this need to be acquired? For example, if it is donated within the year of proposal is this acceptable?

Answer:

The proposal must contain a letter from the industry partner that commits the entire amount of cash match; how the funds are provided and scheduled is up to the accounting/sponsored programs office at your institution.

Question:

Is there any problem with having more than one donor for the cash match?

Answer:

There is no restriction limiting the number of industrial partners; however, you would need to keep in mind the different funding ratios for in-state versus out-of-state industrial partners, if applicable.

Question:

Can our project can apply for both category #1 and category #2 grants the same year?

Answer:

The only restriction that would apply here is that a principal investigator can submit only one proposal per competition. A Category I proposal and a Category II proposal that both deal with the same subject matter can be submitted, but they would have to have different principal investigators. Please also keep in mind that, as outlined in Section I.D. "Eligibility" in the RFP, principal investigators must be individuals who hold a tenured or tenure-track position or a full-time research professor position at a Louisiana public institution of higher education or any Louisiana higher education institution that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Question:

Based on the wording in the OPT-IN RFP, it seems that indirect charges (overhead) are not allowed under the OPT-IN program, but this is specifically mentioned in the context of Category II awards – nothing is specified in the general area. Therefore, to be clear, are indirect charges (overhead) permitted in Category I awards?

Answer:

Actually, the text you mention starts out with “Award dollars from **both** categories...”; thus, the prohibition on charging indirect costs on the LA-EPSCoR funds applies to both Category I and Category II proposals.

Question:

Is it allowable for a professor to charge his annual membership dues for the American Chemical Society to his OPT-IN grant?

Answer:

Because they are of a general benefit to research and academic endeavors and cannot be specifically assigned to benefit individual awards, memberships are generally not charged as a direct cost, and would not be an allowable expense.

Previous Award Data

	proposals submitted	Number of Category I	Number of Category II	Proposals funded	Category I funded	Category II funded	% success rate overall	% success rate Category I	% success rate Category II	average Category I award	average Category II award
OPT-IN Competitions											
Round 1 (proposals due 4/18/11)	16	12	4	8	5	3	50.0%	41.7%	75.0%	45,000	19,994
Round 2 (proposals due 12/15/11)	7	4	3	6	3	3	85.7%	75.0%	100.0%	32,738	17,139
Round 3 (proposals due 5/15/12)	4	3	1	4	3	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	29,477	20,000
Round 4 (proposals due 12/3/12)	8	6	2	5	3	2	62.5%	50.0%	100.0%	43,333	19,925
Round 5 (proposals due 5/3/13)	17	8	9	8	3	5	47.1%	37.5%	55.6%	26,405	20,000
Round 6 (proposals due 12/3/13)	8	5	3	5	4	1	62.5%	80.0%	33.3%	40,165	19,875
Round 7 (proposals due 5/22/14)	12	7	5	5	3	2	41.7%	42.9%	40.0%	49,968	15,925

Opportunities for Partnerships in Technology with Industry (OPT-IN) Review Criteria

Category One

1. What is the scientific and technical merit of the project relative to research in its general field? Are the research plan, timeline, and expected outcomes realistic? Do the qualifications and accomplishments of the investigator(s) suggest high potential for success? **(40%)**
2. Will the project result in a long-term partnership with industry (rather than solving a short-term or one-time problem), that will sustain the project after the funding period has expired? **(40%)**
3. Will the project provide opportunities for student training, workforce development, job creation/retention, increased competitiveness and economic development in Louisiana? **(10%)**
4. How well does the project align with the State's Science and Technology Plan (FIRST Louisiana). The FIRST Louisiana plan is available at: <http://goo.gl/SSo2w7> **(10%)**

Category Two

1. Will the project develop a prototype that can be commercialized? Do the qualifications and accomplishments of the investigator(s) suggest high potential for success? **(60%)**
2. Is there a realistic plan for sustaining the project after the funding period has expired? What is the potential for commercialization or for a spin-off business to be formed? **(20%)**
3. Will the project provide opportunities for student training, workforce development, job creation/retention, increased competitiveness and economic development in Louisiana? **(10%)**
4. How well does the project align with the State's Science and Technology Plan (FIRST Louisiana). The FIRST Louisiana plan is available at : <http://goo.gl/SSo2w7>. **(10%)**