

Links with Industry, Research Centers and National Laboratories (LINK)

A Program to Build Research Capacity in STEM Disciplines

Request for Proposals

DEADLINE DATES:

Proposals Due: Open Deadline until June 30, 2027



LOUISIANA

NSF EPSCoR



**LOUISIANA ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE
RESEARCH (EPSCoR)**

Supported By:

The National Science Foundation and the Louisiana Board of Regents

1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

(225) 342-4253

www.laregents.org

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A. Program Overview

The Board of Regents (BoR) solicits proposals to facilitate science and engineering (S&E) research, education and training opportunities for faculty, post-doctoral researchers, and graduate and undergraduate students. The Links with Industry, Research Centers, and National Laboratories (LINK) program will be administered through the BoR's Research and Sponsored Initiatives division and will operate under the guidance of the State's EPSCoR Committee. This funding opportunity is made possible through the *Louisiana Networks of Excellence for Tomorrow (LA-NEXT)* project which is funded by the US National Science Foundation's EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems (E-CORE) program through a four-year (2025-2029) grant to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Louisiana EPSCoR's goals for strengthening the State's research infrastructure are to a) enhance Louisiana's research and development (R&D) competitiveness; b) build partnerships among Louisiana universities, national laboratories, major research centers, and the private sector; and c) recruit students into S&E fields. LINK will help to develop a diverse, internationally competitive and engaged workforce of scientists and engineers by establishing partnerships and alliances between Louisiana researchers and collaborators at national laboratories, research centers or industrial facilities.

Preference may be given to projects aligned with the research priorities of the [State Science & Technology \(S&T\) plan](#) but all projects that strengthen the state's research infrastructure and competitiveness are eligible for consideration.

A.1. Louisiana Networks of Excellence for Tomorrow (LA-NEXT) Overview

The vision of **LA-NEXT** is to build and sustain strong networks of collaboration, communication, and partnership among the diverse institutions of higher education in the jurisdiction, thus transforming the STEM R&D enterprise of the State. These networks of excellence will extend to K-12 institutions and for-profit, non-profit, academic, and non-academic entities, resulting in a highly diverse research and education environment that will accelerate innovation and enhance economic development in Louisiana. This initiative is a realization of the framework laid out in the [State Science & Technology \(S&T\) plan](#), *FIRST Louisiana*. *FIRST Louisiana* provides a comprehensive statewide approach to science and technology research, development, and innovation, and is a roadmap for future investments in the State. LA-NEXT is led by the Louisiana Board of Regents, which houses the Louisiana EPSCoR office and coordinates all public institutions of higher education in the State.

B. General Information

B.1. Eligibility

Tenured and tenure-track S&E faculty members in any Louisiana public institution of higher education or in any Louisiana higher education institution that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) are eligible to apply. Post-doctoral researchers and graduate students may participate and can travel independently but **must** be sponsored by a tenured or tenure-track faculty member, who will serve as the Principal Investigator (PI). Undergraduate students are eligible to participate provided they are accompanied by a tenured or tenure-track faculty member, who will serve as the PI.

B.2. Award Information

Louisiana EPSCoR will provide up to \$1,000 per week, not to exceed a total of \$8,000, for applicants' subsistence (e.g., lodging, meals, etc.) while visiting and training at an industrial facility, research facility or center, or national laboratory. Pennington Biomedical Research Center and Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) are eligible research facilities under LINK. Applicants visiting Pennington or LUMCON must reside 50 miles or more from the facility to become eligible for LINK. Only expenses that qualify for travel reimbursement under the current state general travel regulations (Policy and Procedures Memorandum #49) are allowable. Payment of stipends is not permitted. Additionally, a maximum of \$1,000 in transportation cost reimbursements may be provided. Transportation costs are not an allowable expense for Pennington or LUMCON. The duration of the visit must range from a minimum of two (2) weeks to a maximum of eight (8) weeks. **It is expected that the applicant will spend the entire duration of the visit at the facility.**

A faculty applicant may also request that an undergraduate student, graduate student, or a post-doctoral researcher accompany him/her. There is a limit of two individuals per application. A justification must be included in the project description. The same weekly allowance and transportation cost reimbursements, per person, will apply. Post-doctoral researchers and graduate students may participate and can travel independently, but undergraduate students must be accompanied by the Principal Investigator.

Although institutional commitment is not required, existing or new support from the applicant's institution and/or other sources to ensure success of the proposed project is expected. Financial support pledged in the proposal must be honored in the event that the proposal is funded.

Funds will be made available by contract from the BoR to the PI's institution. Indirect charges (i.e., overhead or facilities and administrative costs) are not allowed under this program.

All publications and presentations resulting from the LINK funding should use the following acknowledgment statement, "This research was funded in part by U.S. National Science Foundation under Grant Number OIA-2437963 and Louisiana Board of Regents."

B.3 Frequency of Travel

Participants are limited to one LINK award per calendar year, based on the date travel begins.

B.4 Proposal Format Requirements

The following proposal requirements must be followed closely. Proposals that do not adhere to all of these guidelines and stipulations will not be considered. All sections of the proposal must be formatted to a standard 8-1/2" x 11" page; all pages are to be numbered consecutively and have 1-inch top, bottom, and side margins.

Cover Page

The faculty applicant/sponsor must be the PI on the application. Please use the form provided.

Summary

A 200-word summary of the proposed activity is required. It must provide specific information regarding destination, collaborators, and overall objectives.

Project Description

The project description, not to exceed five (5) pages, should: (1) Describe the partnering facility and its capabilities as related to the proposed activities; (2) Identify a researcher(s) at the partnering facility with whom the applicant plans to collaborate and provide the rationale for selecting the collaborator(s); (3) Provide a statement of work listing the major research tasks to be carried out, a timeline for accomplishing the tasks, and expected outcomes; and (4) Describe the potential of this collaboration in attracting federal funds.

References

Not to exceed one page.

Budget and Budget Justification

A summary budget covering the award period is required. The only acceptable budget line item for requested funds is 'Travel.' It must include a budget justification. Please use budget worksheet and budget form provided.

All institutional/private sector support for which the PI has received a commitment as cited in the text of the application must be listed on the budget page and explained in the budget justification.

Biographical Sketches

Biographical sketches of the faculty applicant/sponsor, students/post-doctoral researchers, and any collaborators from the laboratory, research center, or industry are required. Biographical sketches must not exceed two pages each.

Letters of Support

For graduate students or post-doctoral researchers traveling independently, a letter of support from the faculty sponsor, co-signed by the Department Head or Dean, and a letter of invitation (email will suffice) from the collaborator at the partnering facility must be included. Undergraduate students must be accompanied by a tenured or tenure-track faculty member.

For faculty members, a letter of support from the Department Head or Dean, and a letter of invitation (email will suffice) from the collaborator at the partnering facility must be included.

B.5 Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed according to the criteria listed below:

- Soundness of the proposed research
- Potential Benefit to the applicant's research/education program
- Potential for increased research productivity, e.g. attracting federal funds, production of publications, etc.
- Appropriateness of linkage between applicant and partnering facility
- Presence of institutional or other support

C. Proposal Submission

This program has an open deadline from July 24, 2026, until June 30, 2027. Proposals will be accepted throughout this period, **contingent on availability of funds**. Proposals must be received by the LOGAN proposal system **at least thirty (30) days prior to the requested start**

date of travel. Proposals must be submitted electronically in pdf format; the BoR will not accept hard copy submissions.

After the PI submits the completed proposal to his/her campus' OSP, Institutional Advancement, or Grants Office via LOGAN, confirmation of receipt of the electronic proposal will be e-mailed to the applicant and to the campus. If the confirmation email is not received within 12 hours, the application was not accepted into LOGAN. Please contact the LA EPSCoR office by phone at (225) 342-4253 or by email at rsi@laregents.edu.

NOTE: The PI is responsible for ensuring that the proposal is complete and correct upon submission to the Board, and no changes may be made to any proposal after the submission deadline. Disqualification of a proposal and/or any reviewer misunderstandings that occur because proposal contents (including all required forms) are incomplete, out of order, or contain incorrect information are solely the responsibility of the applicant.

The LINK proposal must be submitted to the Board of Regents electronically by the authorized institutional representative (i.e., office of sponsored programs or office of sponsored research) of the PI's institution. Electronic submission by the authorized representative will signify institutional approval of the proposal and acceptance of the requirements outlined in this RFP.

D. Reporting and Evaluation

At the conclusion of the LINK project, the principal investigator shall submit the LINK final report and must respond to the request within 30 days.

E. Questions About RFP

Specific questions concerning this RFP and the requirements set forth herein should be directed to Ms. Jessica Patton, Federal Programs Administrator, by email: jessica.patton@laregents.edu.

LINK COVER PAGE

Name of Submitting Organization:		
Title of Proposed Project:		
Name and Location of Facility to Visit:		
Requested Amount \$	Duration of Visit (2-8 weeks)	Requested Start Date of Travel:
☐ PI Only	☐ PI and Undergraduate, Graduate Student or Post-Doc	☐ Graduate Student or Post- Doc only
Name	Highest Degree, Yr.	Email Address
PI Name and Department		
Name of Undergraduate Student, if applicable		
Name of Graduate student, if applicable		
Name of Post-Doc, if applicable		
RELEVANT <i>FIRST LOUISIANA 2030</i> PRIORITY AREAS (Check all that apply): ☐ Advanced Manufacturing ☐ Agriculture & Forestry ☐ Biomedical ☐ Cybersecurity ☐ Coastal Restoration ☐ Energy ☐ Resilience & Disaster Recovery ☐ Structural Integrity Assurance		

LINK Budget Worksheet

Organization: _____

Principal Investigator: _____

A. Number of participants: _____

B. Duration of visit in weeks: _____

C. Multiply A x B: _____

D. Multiply result of C by \$1,000: _____ (maximum subsistence amount)

E. Multiply A by \$1,000: _____ (maximum travel allowance)
(\$0 for Pennington/LUMCON)

F. Add D+ E: _____ (total amount of request)

The total amount of request (line F on this worksheet) should be listed on the budget page on Line E, "Travel." This will be the maximum compensation amount listed in the LINK contract issued to your institution. Actual reimbursement will be based on the expenses incurred during the LINK visit.

Any institutional or other support committed as cost sharing should be listed in the column marked "Institutional Match."

Budget Form

ORGANIZATION						
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR						
A. SENIOR PERSONNEL: List personnel separately. Indicate number & type of months for each. A.5-6 show total number Other in brackets.				Funds Requested	Institutional Match	Total Costs
	CAL.	ACAD.	SUMR.			
1						
2						
3						
4						
5 [] Other Senior Personnel						
6 [] Total Senior Personnel						
B. OTHER PERSONNEL (show #s)						
1 [] Post Doctoral Assoc.						
2 [] Other Professionals						
3 [] Graduate Students						
4 [] Undergraduate Students						
5 [] Secretarial/Clerical						
6 [] Other						
Total Salaries & Wages (A+B)						
C. FRINGE BENEFITS (if charged as direct costs)						
Total Salaries, Wages, & Fringe (A+B+C)						
D. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT (List item & dollar amount for each item exceeding \$5000)						
Total Permanent Equipment						
E. TRAVEL						
1 Domestic (Incl. Canada & U. S. possessions.)						
2 Foreign						
F. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS						
1 Stipends						
2 Travel						
3 Subsistence						
4 Other						
Total Participant Costs						
G. OTHER DIRECT COSTS						
1 Materials and Supplies						
2 Publication Costs/Pages Charges						
3 Consultant Services						
4 Computer (ADPE) Services						
5 Subcontracts						
6 Other						
Total Other Direct Costs						
H. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (A thru G)						
I. INDIRECT COSTS (Specify rates.)						
Total Indirect Costs						
J. TOTAL DIRECT & INDIRECT COSTS (H + I)						

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH DO NOT EXCEED TWO PAGES.			
Name:		Position Title:	
EDUCATION (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education and include postdoctoral training.)			
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	YEAR CONFERRED	FIELD OF STUDY

A. Appointments

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Starting with present position, list, in reverse chronological order, previous relevant employment.

B. Recent Publications or Research Products:

List, in reverse chronological order, the titles, all authors, and complete references for publications during the past five. Limit the list to 5 items total.

C. Recent Research Presentations:

List, in reverse chronological order, the titles, all authors, and complete references to research presentations (invited seminars or conference presentations) during the past five years. Limit the list to 5 items total.

D. Current and Pending Research Funding:

List research grants received within the past three years as PI or Co-PI. For each entry, please provide the title, PI, Co-PI(s), funding agency, amount, and performance period.

Personal Information

This information is used for reporting purposes to NSF only. All information remains confidential. Provision of this information is voluntary.

PERSONAL INFORMATION	TRAVELER 1	TRAVELER 2 (if applicable)
Gender:		
Racial Background: (mark one or more boxes as applicable)	☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Decline to answer	☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Decline to answer
Do you have a disability that limits your activities?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Decline to answer	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Decline to answer