FY 2012 Peter Kiewit Institute (PKI) Internal Research Grants

DESCRIPTION

The Internal Research Grant program was created in 2010 to encourage collaboration and research endeavors at PKI. In its first year, the program awarded seven grants with total projected revenue of more than $800,000, creating strategic relationships with thirteen industry partners. These collaborations among units based at PKI, across the University of Nebraska, and with other institutions of strategic importance are critical to enhancing our competitiveness and national reputation. Building and sustaining these partnerships will naturally emerge from shared research interests. PKI research grants are intended to leverage the unique strengths of the Institute and the University. Goals of the PKI Internal Research Grant Program are to:

- Promote and advance research groups at PKI and to meet the needs of government and industry;
- Build strategic, long term research relationships with PKI government and industry partners and;
- Advance Nebraska Research Initiative (NRI) objectives of enhancing economic growth and business development among businesses and industries within the state.

These goals will be accomplished through funding of research projects by PKI faculty engaged in research and problem solving that meets needs of industry or government partners. The PKI Internal Research Grants may focus on the strategic research areas listed below:

- Telecommunications
- Cyber Security & Information Assurance
- Sustainable Environments & Renewable Energy
- Modeling, Simulation, Gaming and Virtual Environments
- Informatics
- Other academic and research programs represented at The Peter Kiewit Institute.

The Internal Research Grant program is managed by The Peter Kiewit Institute Technology Development Corporation (PKITDC); a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation which exists to support and facilitate Institute and faculty outreach with the private and government sectors. PKITDC is chartered to facilitate the development and commercialization of intellectual property discovered by faculty, staff and students at PKI, and to transition research from academic labs to the marketplace.

AWARD AMOUNT

Amounts awarded for research grants are determined based on the needs of the project and the amount of matching funds provided by the industry partner. The maximum amount funded for each project is $60,000 per year for one or multiple years depending on the project.

SCOPE OF THE AWARD

- Internal research grants are designed to provide seed funding for researchers at PKI engaging in research within one or more of PKI’s strategic research areas.
- Funds must be used to support interdisciplinary groups of researchers whose research targets a known need presented by a company or government agency that will result in a funding from the sponsor at the end of the Research Grant funding period.
- Preference for awards will be made to research teams consisting of faculty from both colleges at PKI or from at least one unit at PKI and at least one other partner from academia.
- Grant administration will be managed by PKITDC.
REQUIREMENTS

- Prior to submitting a proposal for consideration, applicants will secure a written commitment from the sponsoring company or government agency agreeing to provide a cash match of PKI funding to be paid to PKITDC.
- The college of the PKI researcher applying for the grant is expected to provide matching funds (not necessarily dollar-for-dollar) to support the cluster for the duration of the research grant. Amount of the matching funds is to be determined.
- Grant recipients will submit quarterly written reports and an annual interim or final report outlining accomplishments during the reporting period. Year two funding will be decided following the third quarter report from year one.
- Submit an annual (or final) report to PKITDC within 90 days after the period of performance.
- Submit a statement of work with the following information:
  - Name of company/agency sponsor and point of contact
  - Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PIs, organizations and contact information
  - Level of effort for each PI, Co-PI and other members of the research team
  - Period of performance
  - Project description
  - Budget
  - Milestones and deliverables.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Proposals will be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word format not to exceed three single-spaced pages. Statement of work with sponsoring company should be submitted as a separate attachment.

KEY DATES for FY 2012

- Call for Proposals: August 12, 2011
- Proposal Submission Deadline: September 16, 2011
- Proposal Award: September 30, 2011

GRANT REVIEW AND AWARD PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by the PKI Executive Council and prioritized based on selection criteria given below. Final project funding decision will be made by the PKI Executive Director.

GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA.

All proposals must address the following criteria:

- Specific need of industry or government and proposed solution.
- Fit within PKI’s focused research areas.
- Collaboration among multiple units from within and external to PKI.
- Potential to secure external funding at the conclusion of the internal research grant period.
- All funds from the sponsor and college deposited into PKITDC accounts prior to project commencement.

Submit PKI Internal Research Grants and questions to the Office of the Executive Director, Attention Ms. Lauren Weeks, PKI 301, lweeks@unomaha.edu, (402) 554-2159.