Kansas University Center for Technology Commercialization (KUCTC) Proof of Concept (POC) Funding

A. PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The POC program is funded by the University of Kansas to further develop novel technologies that are near-commercialization. This program will support research/development in all areas of technology including electronics, software, communications, engineering, and those projects not eligible for Institute for Advancing Medical Innovations (IAMI) funding. The goal of the program is to enable technologies for licensing to a company by the end of the year funding cycle.

KUCTC will fund high-risk, fast-track research/innovation projects for one year to make the technologies more attractive for private investment. Applicants must indicate clearly the economic potential of project technology. Additionally, companies that would be suitable partners to develop a resulting commercial product must be identified (e.g., potential licensees or sponsored research collaborators). In rare cases an additional year of funding may be possible if milestones have been met and there is clear commercial justification. To be eligible for an additional year funding, applicants must have approval of KUCTC President, Julie Goonewardene, in writing and again compete in the general applicant pool by submitting a new application for second year funding.

Application

Because the primary intent of this program is to provide funding to enhance the commercial potential of existing technology or inventions, KUCTC generally supports relatively mature research/innovation projects that have the potential to be licensed to a company in the short term. To ensure commercial applicability of proposed projects, industry involvement is required. Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate a monetary match from industry toward project goals. Projects with in kind (non-monetary) support from industry will also be considered.

Funding is to be used for development activities such as building a working prototype; running samples suitable for commercial evaluation; and collecting additional data to demonstrate commercial potential. New areas of research will be considered only if there is strong evidence that commercial feasibility can be demonstrated within a one year period. The applicant must clearly describe and support the technical foundation of the technology and the economic potential for the innovation to be developed.

B. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

The POC fund is designed as a companion fund for existing POC funds serving particular sectors at KU. Thus, early drug discovery and associated diagnostics proposals eligible for IAMI POC funding are not eligible to participate in this program. Further, if a project has been historically funded by IAMI, a proposal covering the same technology will not be considered for funding by this POC mechanism.

No more than two POC proposals per applicant will be accepted in any application cycle.

Applicants can be non-tenure line full-time equivalent faculty/academic staff as well as tenure track faculty in residence at the time of application and be at least 0.75 FTE at the University of Kansas.

If a previous POC application has been turned down by the review panel, the Principal Investigator (PI) may submit a revised proposal, either new or renewal, on the same subject for reconsideration two additional times for a total of three submissions.

C. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

A single PDF application package including the items below should be submitted via email to KUCTC (rkulkarni@ku.edu).

If human subjects or animal research is involved, evidence of regulatory approvals must be on file at KUCTC prior to the release of any funds.

Applications must include the following information **arranged in this order**:

1. Cover Sheets (pages one and two)
2. Technical proposal (3 pages maximum; instruction below)
3. Budget and justification
4. Biographical sketch for all faculty investigators involved
5. Current and pending research support.

If any information items requested are not included at the time of submission, the proposal will not be reviewed.

D. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATIONS

Cover Sheets

1. List PI and co-investigator contact information.
2. Project budget should be for one year and not exceed $50,000 per year.
3. Abstract: limit to one-half page in the space provided, using one inch margins, single-spacing, with a font size of 12 points. The abstract should be written in technical language comprehensible to persons in other technical disciplines.

Technical Proposal

1. Project Description

The project description must include, in this order:

1. General background (no more than 1/2 page).
2. Commercial Application of the Research (include patentability, market size, and comparisons with currently available products or similar application or use).
3. Specific goals, objectives, project milestones and anticipated results.
4. Description of project plan including anticipated barriers and technical difficulties.

The project description must be concise, **limited to three typed, single-spaced pages with a font size of 12 points.** One-inch margins must be maintained. Appendices are not to be submitted. There are no form pages provided. A violation of this format will result in your proposal not being reviewed.

NOTE: It is important that you consult KUCTC (Rajiv Kulkarni, rkulkarni@ku.edu) before disclosing details of any research that may be patentable or require protection, other than the POC proposal. POC

proposals will be reviewed by persons who have signed agreements to keep the proposals confidential. Nonetheless, proposals that contain potentially patentable material should be marked CONFIDENTIAL.

2. Key references

Limit references to one page (12 pt font, 1 inch margins around).

3. Commercial Support

In one page, describe industry engagement in the project to date. Describe the company that will be involved in the proposed POC project and to what extent. Include a letter of support from the company (not included in one page limit).

4. Budgets

Awards will be up to $50,000 for a one year project period.

Funding is available for salaries and fringe benefits of post doctoral fellows, students, technicians, and other non-faculty project personnel, technical supplies, equipment, and miscellaneous expenses. Project funds **cannot** be used for **faculty salaries** (summer or academic year); **travel**; **entertainment**; **consultants**; or **equipment exceeding $5000** including computers unless specifically justified.

5. Current and Pending Support

Complete for each Principal Investigator and co-Investigator.

6. Biographical Sketch (new proposal only)

Include a biosketch for each Principal Investigator and co-Investigator to include a list of previously submitted invention disclosures, patent applications and patents. List any licenses that have been made on your inventions. List the companies for which you consult or in which you have equity as the result of your participation. List any industrial experience. Do not exceed two pages for each biosketch.

No information other than what is asked for in the above sections will be reviewed. Appendices are not allowed.

E. PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Applications will be reviewed by an Advisory Panel appointed by the Associate Vice Chancellor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Panel members, experienced in the evaluation of technology for the purpose of commercialization, will be primarily drawn from the business community throughout the U.S. Generally, panel members will be corporate officers (e.g., CEO or Vice President for Research), consultants or venture capitalists. Internal faculty experienced in the particular field may also be panel members. All external panel members will be under CDA prior to review of proposals.

The overall evaluation criterion is the potential of the technology for commercial success.

Final applications are due January 2, 2013. Applicants will be required to do a 10 minute presentation to the committee on or about the week of January 16, 2013. Applicants will be informed of the panel's recommendations on or about February 4, 2013.

Review criterion includes the following:

1. Does the PI(s) clearly explain the technology innovation? Are the arguments that it could work convincing?
2. Does the PI(s) clearly explain the significance of the innovation to the potential market?
3. Does the PI(s) provide information necessary to determine the commercial potential?
4. Does the proposed product fit a real market need?
5. Is there demonstrated industry involvement? Is the involvement monetary?
6. Is the potential commercial impact of the research stated and justified?
7. Are the goals, objectives and results stated clearly and are they reasonable, given the funds and time provided?
8. Are the methods outlined and do they reflect the goals and objectives stated in the proposal?
9. Have potential barriers, technical difficulties and potential commercial partners been identified?
10. Are key references provided?
11. Have extramural opportunities been identified and are they reasonable?
12. Does the PI (and co-PIs) have the experience necessary to carry out the project?
13. Are the resources available to carry out the project?

F. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

The Principal Investigator is responsible for the administration of project funds. In particular, he/she must be certain that over-expenditures do not occur. If a renewal application is awarded, there will be an automatic carry-forward of any unspent funds for the initial year to the second year of support. No cost extensions will be considered on a case by case basis and will not exceed six months duration.

G. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Funded projects must meet a series of requirements to maintain funding. Funded project investigators must do the following:

1. Attend a launch meeting with KUCTC staff to lay out a plan for industry involvement, assure proper intellectual property coverage is in place and a plan to commercialize the technology.
2. Present progress to milestones to be held over lunch every other month during the funding period.
3. Give a final open presentation at the end of the project period.

If the PI(s) fails to comply with these requirements, no future POC proposals will be considered from that individual.

If you need assistance in completing the forms, or have any questions regarding project procedures, please contact Dr. Rajiv Kulkarni at rkulkarni@ku.edu.