Technology Acceleration Grants (TAG)
2019

Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development
900 Innovation Drive, Suite 145
Rolla, MO 65401
573.341.4690
kdstrass@mst.edu

Request for Proposals

Introduction
Missouri S&T inventors create new and exciting innovations that spark the interest of potential licensees. Working with the inventors, the technology transfer office strives to attract or create businesses to build the technology into a "for sale" product or service (commercialization). However, there is sometimes a gap between the university research and the needs of the customer which creates a risk for the potential commercializing partner. It is often the case where industry requires a working prototype, test results, or the refinement of research in an aspect of the technology this funding is provided to address that potential customer need.

Exemplary types of projects considered for funding would include:
- Developing industry recognized test data against current gold standard technology in the target market,
- Building working prototypes,
- Conducting a comprehensive customer discovery program (minimum 50 interviews),
- Researching, understanding and developing a minimum viable product offering.

Source of Funding
In support of S&T's Office of Technology Transfer and Economic Development (TTED) mission of moving technology into the market, we will fund research to bridge the commercialization gap by sponsoring continued work to move the technology from the lab to the market. For each dollar of license income received by the University, 1/3rd goes to the inventors, 2/9^{ths} is retained by the University system, 2/9^{ths} is distributed to the inventor's department, and the remaining 2/9^{ths} is retained by TTED. The source of funding for this program comes from TTED's license funds.

Requirements for Eligible Projects
- Must have an issued Missouri S&T patent or pending patent application.
- Patents (patent applications) cannot already be part of a license agreement – exception if we have a field of use license and the work would pertain to a different unlicensed field of use.
- Proposal must be submitted by (or have support of) at least one listed inventor.

Funding Opportunity
TTED will provide translational research funding up to $25,000 per proposal.

The amount of funding requested will be weighed in the ranking, and submitters are encouraged to submit the lowest-cost proposals to allow TTED to fund the greatest number of opportunities. The funds are **not to be used for basic research**, but to advance the commercial potential of existing research. This funding is to allow recipients to focus on customer discovery, product development, testing, and/or prototype construction. Please note that we are asking for information concerning the current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and the expected TRL at the completion of the project. If you are not familiar with TRL calculations please see **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology_readiness_level** and **https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/heo/scan/engineering/technology/txt_accordion1.html** and **https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK201356/**

Request for Proposals
By means of this request, TTED will be allocating one-time funds to focus on moving intellectual property in a quick and cost-effective manner from the lab into production. <u>Only proposals to develop technology currently patented or patent pending by the University will be considered</u>. Please submit the attached cover sheet along with a 500 word description of the project to TTED. Describe the project goals, project plan, deliverables, commercialization potential for the technology, and a budget summary. <u>The project plan should include 2-3 time-based and result driven milestones.</u> The budget may include only direct costs as funding is provided from campus resources (royalty income). Faculty salary is not an allowable expense; graduate and undergraduate student salary, as well as costs of supplies and limited travel, are permitted. The proposals must be submitted by April 26, 2019. Awarded proposals will be announced on May 10, 2019. Projects may start as soon as awards are made but must be completed by Dec 31, 2019. An interim report is required at the completion of each milestone. A final report, including all data, project files, prototype details and customer discovery interviews, will be submitted at the completion of the project. Upon submission of the final report, the balance of the funding will be released.

Letters of support from industry/potential customers are strongly encouraged.

Proposal Review Committee
A review panel consisting of both technical and business expertise will review the proposals. The review panel will make a recommendation to the Director of TTED, who will make the final selection of the projects to be awarded. The review panel will take into consideration the technology's disruptive novelty and need, the potential market size, the market definition, the technology's maturity, the utility of the grant and the intellectual property position.

Proposal Weighting
Strength of Intellectual Property	20%
Disruptive Nature of Technology	20%
Strength/Size of the Target Market	20%
Likelihood of a successful product/service resulting from grant	25%
Credentials of the research team	15%

Timeline
No later than January 25, 2019	Request for proposals distributed to campus researchers
April 26, 2019	Proposals submitted to TTED
May 10, 2019	TTED Director announces awards

For more information please contact:

Keith Strassner	kdstrass@mst.edu	ext 6725
John Woodson	jwoodson@mst.edu	ext 7544

MISSOURI S & T Technology Acceleration Program (TAG)
APPLICATION

Return to 900 Innovation Drive, Suite 145, Attn: Keith Strassner

Principal Investigator (last, first, middle):	Funding Request from Missouri S & T Technology Acceleration Grant: (not to exceed $25,000) $
Department:	E-Mail Address:
Title of Project:	Project Start Date: Project Duration:
Description of patent or patent pending technology (Invention disclosure, patent or patent application number if known):	
Current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology_readiness_level	Expected Technology Readiness Level (TRL) at the completion of the project
Collaborator Name: (if any)	Department:
Position Title:	

Attach a Proposal and Budget
The proposal should be no more than 500 words explaining the
purpose, relevance, milestones and expected outcomes of the research.