

Process For Selecting Research Projects

One or more industrial members or a faculty member of an academic institution of the IUCRC can initiate project proposals. It is strongly encouraged that projects involve more than one academic member.

Project Initiated by Industry Members. From time to time an industrial member may want the IUCRC to undertake a specific research project. The industrial member can either approach faculty members of the IUCRC directly, or approach the Center Administration (center director or one of the site directors) with a problem specification. The Center Administration will in turn identify faculty members with expertise and interest to develop a research proposal. The faculty members (Principal Investigators, PIs) will work very closely with the industrial member(s) (the IAB member or another employee of the member company) in developing the research proposal.

Project Initiated by Faculty Members. Based on the research mission of the IUCRC and priority research thrusts identified by the IAB, faculty members of the IUCRC member institutions may develop research proposals. In order to assure industrial relevance of the project, faculty members should identify one or more member companies that might be interested in the research project. Faculty members are encouraged to establish a dialog with member companies to solicit early feedback on their proposals. The center director and site directors will attempt to find an appropriate employee of a member company to review the proposal and provide feedback on the research proposal.

Pre-proposals.

Interested faculty must submit one-page narratives using the standard template at least 8 weeks prior to either semi-annual IAB meeting

The Center Administration and IAB will review these narratives to determine their appropriateness to the IUCRC mission and goals. The Center Administration will provide feedback to the PIs and in some cases may reject the proposal from further consideration. Technical reviews and reasons for the rejection of a proposal will be provided to the PIs.

Full Proposals.

PIs of the projects selected for further consideration must develop a 5 page proposal with particular emphasis on research plan, deliverables, timelines and cost of each task or deliverable. These full proposals must be provided at least 3 weeks prior to a semi-annual IAB meeting. The PIs must follow a standard format for full proposals. These proposals will be distributed to the IAB.

PIs must make 15-20 minute oral presentations during IAB meetings. Presentations must also follow the format provided by the Center.

The IAB provides both written (using LIFE forms) and verbal feedback on each proposal presented at the IAB meetings.

Evaluation.

The evaluation process should lead to a consensus within the IAB about the quality and relevance of individual projects. The IAB *in a closed meeting* will have candid and interactive exchange of opinions. In addition to the quality and relevance of the project, IAB will evaluate the cost (budget) and timelines of the proposal. IAB will provide ratings (or votes) on the projects. If the ratings are clear-cut, the Center Administration will determine which projects will be funded. If not, PIs of highly ranked proposals may be invited to adjust the research plans and budgets to improve their rankings.

Evaluation Criteria

- a). Fits in the Research Mission of the center (this is in the long term research objectives of the IUCRC)
- b). A priority based on the current research directions of the center (near term research goals of the center)
- c). Industry relevance. There must be at least one industrial member who will champion the research project
- d). Representation of Industrial Member interests.
- e). Representation of Academic Member interests
- f). Qualifications of the PI and past performance
- g). Realistic budgets and timelines.
- h). Broader Impact – diversity of participation

Final Selection of Projects

Each Industrial Member of the IUCRC will cast votes on one or more projects. Small Business Industry Members that combine cash and in-kind contributions towards the memberships will receive a prorated number of votes. The value of the in-kind contribution will depend on the value and appropriateness of the in-kind contribution to a project. Projects receiving highest votes will be selected. The number of projects selected will depend on the available funds and the cost of selected projects.

Monitoring Progress of Research Projects

Once a project is selected for funding, one or more industrial sponsor will be identified to monitor the progress of the project. The PI and the industrial monitor will work closely to assure that the goals of the project are met. Unsatisfactory progress can lead to the discontinuation of the project at the earliest possible time, but no later than the next IAB meeting.

Progress Reports

All selected projects must provide written monthly progress reports to the Center Administration. These reports will be made available to the IAB. In addition, PIs may be asked to participate in face-to-face meetings and web-based meetings that take place in between semi-annual IAB meetings. PIs must make formal presentations of their projects at the semi-annual IAB meetings.