

University-Industry R&D Partnership Program

sponsored by

Nebraska EPSCoR

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What is the University R&D Partnership Program?

The **Nebraska Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)**, together with the National Science Foundation, sponsors this cost-share program, which is intended to foster new partnerships or strengthen existing partnerships between faculty of Nebraska research universities and state industries. Scientific and technological collaborations between industry and universities enrich the academic experiences of faculty and students and facilitate economic growth. This program will subsidize a portion of the cost of an industry R&D project when a faculty member is contracted by the industry to participate in the project. Nebraska EPSCoR anticipates funding projects selected on a competitive basis.

Who is Eligible?

Business Eligibility: Any Nebraska business enterprise is eligible to participate in the program.

Faculty Eligibility: Any tenured or tenure-leading faculty member affiliated with a Nebraska research university is eligible to participate in the program.

Eligible Projects: Any science or technology based research or development project deemed important to the economic growth of the company is eligible. The program offers opportunities for academic research applicable to industrial needs.

How Does the University-Industry R&D Partnership Work?

Funding Limit, Cost Share Requirement, and Project Duration: Nebraska EPSCoR provides cash funds for 50% of the direct cost of the project. The amount of EPSCoR cash funds for a project may not exceed \$25,000 per year. The balance of the project's direct cost is financed by cash funds provided by the Nebraska business enterprise. The university of the participating faculty will contribute the F&A (indirect) cost of the project. The F&A contribution of the university is limited to the F&A cost associated with a total direct cost of \$50,000. The maximum funding period for a project is 12 months. A funded project may be renewed only once under this program. A request for renewal will be treated as a new proposal.

Program outcome requirements: At least one National Science Foundation (NSF) GOALI or SBIR/STTR grant proposal must be submitted to NSF during the duration of the project. If appropriate, a SBIR/STTR proposal to a different federal agency may be substituted to meet this requirement. In addition, a final report must be submitted to Nebraska EPSCoR. This report must list major findings and contributions of the project and be less than six pages.

Proposal Funding Procedure: Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by a committee composed of industry and academic experts. Proposals to be funded will be selected by the State EPSCoR Committee.

Proposal Requirements: Proposals must be submitted jointly by the university-industry partners and must contain the following items: **1)** a proposal, with the exception of the budget sheet, prepared according to the NSF Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs Phase I Solicitation proposal requirements. More information regarding the proposal format is available from NSF at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs>; **2)** a two-page Nebraska EPSCoR Budget and Approval Form that is complete and contains appropriate signatures. The form is available on our web site at <http://epscor.unl.edu/forms>; **3)** a one-sheet budget explanation; **4)** an intellectual property agreement duly signed by the appropriate campus officer of the project's faculty PI; and **5)** an official letter signed by an officer of the company agreeing to provide the cash funds for the project.

What are the Criteria for Evaluating Proposals?

In evaluating proposals, the following questions will be addressed:

A. What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

- Is the proposed plan a sound approach for establishing technical and commercial feasibility?
- Does the proposal reflect state-of-the-art in the major research activities proposed?
- Are advancements in state-of-the-art likely?

B. What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

- What may be the commercial and/or societal benefits of the proposed activity?
- Does the proposal lead to enabling technologies (instrumentation, software, etc.) for further discoveries?
- Does the outcome of the proposed activity lead to a marketable product or process?
- How well is the proposed activity positioned to attract further funding from federal sources once the University-Industry R&D project ends?
- Can the product or process developed in the project advance Nebraska EPSCoR's goal of increasing university-industry collaborations and technology transfer?

When and How Should Proposals be Submitted?

Nebraska EPSCoR anticipates issuing two RFPs for this program each year depending on funding availability. Please visit our website for a list of active RFPs. Original proposals must be submitted to the Nebraska EPSCoR Office, W192 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0557. Proposals also must be submitted electronically.

More Information

More information about Nebraska EPSCoR and the University-Industry R&D Partnership Program is available at our web site: <http://epscor.unl.edu/programs>. To see if there is an active request for proposals, click on RFPs. You may contact Nebraska EPSCoR Director, Dr. Fred Choobineh by e-mail at epscor@unl.edu, by phone at 402-472-8946, or by Fax at 402-472-8948.