FY 2022 ICTAS Request for Proposals
VT COE Engineering Faculty Organization-Opportunity (EFO-O) Seed Investments

ICTAS is a Virginia Tech investment institute that provides seed funding to support pilot work that leads to the submission of highly competitive proposals for external funding. The objective of the EFO-O program is to support the transdisciplinary efforts of engineering faculty to improve the chance of success of proposals to targeted external research funding opportunities.

ICTAS is now soliciting applications for $10,000 grant awards through the EFO-O program. Applications for the grant consist of a 2-page proposal description and 2-page faculty bios, as detailed below. Applications are due by September 26, 2021. The PI must be an EFO member (i.e., faculty in the VT College of Engineering), but co-PIs are not required to be EFO members. Transdisciplinary partnerships across multiple colleges and/or departments are required, and multi-PI submissions are expected. Anticipated support of each $10,000 grant begins October 18, 2021, and funds must be used by June 30, 2022. Up to ten awards are anticipated for 2021-2022, and winners will be notified by October 15, 2021. Please note that there is a limit of one proposal submission per faculty member (as either a PI or co-PI).

The application for the EFO-O Seed Grant includes a proposal description (maximum of 2 pages), as well as faculty bios (maximum of 2 pages each) for each of the PIs/Co-PIs. The description must include:

1. Proposal Title
2. List of individual PI and Co-PIs (name, home department, and college).
3. Details of the external funding opportunity targeted for proposal submission (funding agency, program, award amount, due date, and link). More than one external opportunity can be identified.
4. Summary of research objectives and plans, including how the proposed work will improve the chance of success of your external research proposal(s).
5. Anticipated budget: Include a summary of anticipated uses for funds, such as graduate students, post docs, materials, travel, equipment, etc. Note: ICTAS funds cannot be used to cover AY or summer salary for T&R faculty, equipment purchases not expressly stated in proposal, or salary, wage, or travel for non-Virginia Tech personnel. All funds must be used by June 30, 2022.

The review process will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

1. Research Plan
2. Probability of successful proposal for external funding
3. Qualifications of research team
4. Appropriateness of budget

To apply for a $10,000 EFO-O grant, please incorporate your two-page proposal description and an individual two-page bio for each of the PIs/Co-PIs into one single pdf file, and email this to Dr. Mary Kasarda (maryk@vt.edu) by September 26, 2021 at 11:59PM EST.

Questions? Dr. Mary Kasarda, ICTAS Faculty Director of Scholarship (maryk@vt.edu or 231-8552).

We look forward to receiving your EFO-O Seed Grant Application!