C2IAS Call for Year Three Projects

The Commonwealth Center for Innovation in Autonomous Systems (C2IAS), a collaborative effort of Virginia Tech (VT) and Old Dominion University (ODU), is funded by the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) to provide pre-seed funding to accelerate the transition and commercialization of autonomous systems technology into the marketplace. A total of fifteen $50,000 year-long projects have been awarded in calendar year 2020 and 2021 to ventures within the universities or teams of small businesses partnered with university researchers. In calendar year 2022, we expect to fund between five to ten projects. While the standard award size will remain $50,000, larger projects will be considered; please recognize that larger projects will be expected to provide commensurately greater promise for return on the investment.

Requirements:

1. Projects may come in one of three categories.
    a. A new venture coming out of the university.
    b. A small Virginia business (as defined by the Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity) teamed with one or more faculty from VT or ODU, or
    c. A university team that seeks to license university intellectual property with a company headquartered in Virginia.
2. Projects should last no longer than twelve months.
3. Projects should aim to achieve clear business (rather than technical) milestones. For example, a project could aim to complete a proof of concept or a test and evaluation process that would pave the way for SBIR/STTR or CRCF awards, venture capital funding, direct sales or some other clear business milestone.
4. University personnel must participate and be funded in a meaningful manner in the project.
5. Indirect, overhead and profit may not be charged.
6. Each project must provide a minimum of 1:1 cost share. This cost share may include waived overhead costs, cash or in-kind contributions. No state funds may be used for cost share, however, the overhead (that must be waived) counts as cost share.

Project proposal:

The proposal should consist of a cover sheet and a two page (maximum) whitepaper in minimum 12-point font with one-inch margins. Smaller font size is acceptable for tables or figures provided text remains legible.

The cover sheet should include:
- Project Title

- Team members
- Proposed high level budget breakdown and cost-share
- Planned period of performance
- Invention disclosure submission status (if applicable)

The whitepaper should include the following sections:
- A description of the technology involved
- A description of the novelty, advantages and commercial viability of the technology (and the basis of this knowledge-in particular, what customer discovery activity has been completed).
- A description of what exactly the team intends to accomplish in this project.
- A description of how will this benefit the venture/company and what specific milestones will be achieved.

Proposers should feel free to contact the program points of contact to discuss project selection or development and to connect with faculty members for potential collaboration.

Prior awardees may apply for an additional year of funding, but will compete competitively with other projects.

The points of contact will engage with all proposal teams, whether selected for award or not, to connect them with available resources in the innovation ecosystem to assist in venture/company development and technology transition.

Proposals shall be submitted as a PDF email attachment I to Jon Greene greenej@vt.edu and Yiannis Papelis ypapelis@odu.edu not later than *5PM EDT Monday November 1, 2021.*

The intent will be to inform all proposers of award or declination not later than November 22nd and for funding to be available in early January 2022.

For any questions or assistance, please contact Jon Greene greenej@vt.edu or Yiannis Papelis ypapelis@odu.edu.