

Request for Proposals

Fund for Innovation in Engineering Research (FIER), Round IX Chevron Innovative Research Funds (CIRS), Round V

Introduction

The College of Engineering (COE) strives to support faculty research at all levels, ranging from large-scale multidisciplinary efforts (Research Clusters) to high-risk single investigator ideas. The latter is made possible through the generosity of the Chevron Corporation and the Longwell Family Foundation.

The **Longwell Family Foundation** made a philanthropic commitment of \$1,000,000 to the **Innovation in Engineering Research Fund (FIER)**. The **Chevron Corporation** made a philanthropic commitment of \$3,950,000 to the **Chevron Innovative Research Support Fund (CIRS)**. These funds are targeted at filling two particular gaps for LSU COE faculty in the funding lifecycle of an idea: early phase research and tech transfer. The first, is the infancy of an idea, when it may be considered too risky or exploratory for successful submission on the national scene without pilot data or preliminary groundwork completed. This provides the investigator an opportunity to “test drive” a new idea before formal submission for funding. The second is the so-called “valley of death” in technology development, where research is too mature for basic research funding, but not yet ready for sponsorship in the early commercialization phase.

Preference will be given to proposals focused on the College’s signature research area of energy, broadly defined.

Eligibility

College of Engineering tenured or tenure-track faculty members with research appointments in the COE are eligible to submit research proposals to the Research Facilitation Office for consideration of these awards. Faculty’s department chair must verify availability of resources (facilities, equipment, and personnel) for the proposed work. The appropriate department chair should sign the budget page indicating their approval of the proposal. Proposals from more than one department should obtain the signature of the chair of the lead Principal Investigator’s (PI’s) department. Faculty members who previously received funding through either program (FIER or CIRS) may submit after one year has elapsed since conclusion of their previous award.

Amount and Duration of the Award

The College of Engineering will spend the available funds annually to the fullest extent possible, taking into consideration the number and quality of proposals submitted for funding evaluation. Funding available per proposal is approximately \$30,000-\$33,000. The time period for work is a maximum of one year. Funds must be expended within the period.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria (in order of importance)

1. Innovation –Explain in your proposal what is truly innovative and novel. On the marketing side - if you were trying to get a venture capitalist to provide funds for this idea, what would you tell him/her?

2. Relevance and Benefit – Of key importance is the impact of your research project. The proposal should clearly articulate the relevance of the subject to industry and/or region and address the Strategic Plan of the College.

3. Deliverables – Clearly list and describe the tangible deliverables that will result from the funding and probability of implementation in the near term. This category seeks deliverables that show the research, if successful, will move along the development line towards either a significant proposal submission or something that can be commercially implemented.

4. Next Steps – If the proposal is in the tech transfer category, clearly indicate industrial sectors that may be interested in the results of this research, along with a plan to work with the College to identify corporate/industrial entities for future collaboration. If your proposal is early research, indicate your plan to pursue the next step in research sponsorship. Additional/future funding that may be applicable should be identified – agency, program, etc. It is recommended that the proposal is more specific than just indicating an agency – define the source program, RFP, etc.

Proposal Format

The proposal is limited to six pages (10 pt or larger font, 1" margins) plus a one page biosketch per faculty member. The proposal includes a project description of no more than four pages, a one page budget, a one page budget justification, and a one page biosketch per faculty member. The proposal should be formatted as follows:

- Project Description (4 pages)
 - Title, PI name, and contact information
 - Problem statement and rationale for work – Make sure items 1 and 2 from the Proposal Evaluation Criteria are clearly and succinctly described and discussed.
 - Approach – Methodology and Tasks to perform (including milestones for each task).
 - Deliverables and future work – Make sure items 3-4 are clearly delineated and discussed.
 - Expertise and Facilities – Describe PI expertise/facilities available to conduct proposed work. No facilities/equipment can be requested.
- Budget and budget justification (2 pages)
 - The funds requested may include supplies, travel related to research activities (foreign and conference travel is not allowed), graduate student salaries, and up to one month of summer salary. This fund is not intended to support administrative functions or build research infrastructure (equipment should be already available). The nature of the funding carries an exemption from indirect (F&A) costs and a waiver of graduate student tuition remission. The budget should include fringe benefits calculated at the prevailing LSU rate. To optimize the use of the fund, PIs are encouraged to limit budget items subjected to fringe benefits. Cost sharing is not required.
 - Department chair's approval should be indicated by signature on the budget.
- Biosketch(es) (1 page)

To Apply

PIs should submit each proposal package electronically in PDF format with the following file name format: last name_first name_FIER_CIRS_Spring2016.pdf through the following website <https://researchawards.eng.lsu.edu/fier>. The PI should log into the website (upper right-hand corner)

using their PAWS ID and password. Select *FIER*. Under the program menu, select *Apply for this program* and then *Spring 2016*. Proposals must be submitted by **5:00 pm** on **April 1, 2016**. Proposals will be reviewed by a Selection Committee for funding. It is anticipated that awards will be made by June 30, 2016. If you have any questions regarding the submission process, please contact the Research Facilitation Office.

Proposals are internal to the COE and do not need to be routed through LSU's Sponsored Programs System (SPS).

Final Reporting Requirements

The PI will submit, to the Dean of Engineering, a final report no longer than 5 pages within 60 days of the end of the funding period. The report will include:

- Major research findings
- Planned next steps of research results
- Patent applications submitted, technology transfer agreements implemented, and/or commercial collaborations established
- Plan for collaboration building

For three years following the end of the funding cycle, the PI will submit to the College information pertaining to the last three bullets to allow tracking the return on investment of the seed funds.