

Foundation Bull Ring Accelerator Grant Program

University of South Florida Foundation

University of South Florida Research Foundation

Program Description:

The Foundation Bull Ring Accelerator Grant program (“Foundation BRAG” or “BRAG”) is a joint initiative of the University of South Florida Foundation (“FOUNDATION”) and the University of South Florida Research Foundation (“USFRF”). The Foundation BRAG is designed to support early stage Tampa Bay Technology Incubator (TBTI) affiliated start-up companies that were formed on the basis of licensed University of South Florida (USF) technologies. These companies, recognizing the academic mission of the University, have agreed to provide experiential learning, internship, and employment opportunities for USF students when possible.

BRAG provides up to \$25,000 of grant funding to support the entrepreneurial ecosystem at USF and help bridge the “valley” or “ditch” of death experienced by early stage technology companies. This gap can be defined as the point between when the availability of academic research funding runs out and when a team is credible enough (with enough customer and market knowledge) to raise private capital or license/partner with existing companies. The goal of this program is not to replace private capital, but to help reduce risk and develop start-ups to a point where they can attract other sources of funding.

The initial pool of applicants for the program will be drawn from the USF national and site I-Corps teams. Third in the nation for national I-Corps teams, USF was awarded a National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (NSF I-Corps) Site grant in 2014. I-Corps is a public-private partnership program that teaches university entrepreneurs with a targeted curriculum to identify valuable product opportunities that can emerge from academic research, and offers entrepreneurship training to participants. With the support and mentorship of the USF I-CORPs Site, the teams learn first-hand about entrepreneurship and work towards a “go” “no go” decision by exploring the transition of their ideas, devices, processes or other intellectual activities into the marketplace. USF has begun the process of incorporating the I-Corps curriculum into the training and curriculum in Engineering, Business, Global Sustainability, and the TBTI program. The first six week boot camp that is part of the TBTI program ended in February of 2016.



Funded projects will be performed under the supervision of staff and the grant program committee. The funding provided may be based upon completion of agreed upon project objectives with projects reaching completion in a year or less. Foundation BRAG funds may be used, for example, to build prototypes, obtain materials, pay salaries, contract for services and assistance outside the university, or cover other expenses as approved in the plan provided. Strong preference will be given to projects with clearly articulated measurable outcomes.

Proposal Preparation:

Proposals should focus on activities that will quickly improve the odds that current research results will lead to public availability of a new product or service.

Proposals should be directed to the Foundation BRAG Program. Submissions should be 10 pages or less. The first round deadline is May 2, 2016.

Submissions should include:

1. Foundation BRAG Standard Proposal Transmittal Form
2. Summary or abstract (1 page or less):
 - a. Identify the underlying invention or work and author/inventor(s).
 - b. Describe the task(s) that will resolve a problem, overcome an immediate obstacle or valley, or establish a new opportunity for commercialization.
 - c. State an objective, work plan, and expected outcome for each task.
 - d. Describe how these tasks advance the probability of commercial success.
3. Status and Significance of the underlying Intellectual Property:
 - a. Describe its significance from the viewpoint of commercialization
 - b. Describe its key advances from the present art
 - c. State its current patent and licensing status; e.g., provisional application filed, issued patent, exclusive or non-exclusive license or option
4. Objectives:
 - a. Describe the tasks to be performed, in order of priority. The highest priority tasks should resolve the highest risk or obstacle.
 - b. Provide an estimate of cost and time for each objective
5. Plan:
 - a. What method will be used to accomplish each task (simulation, experiment, economic study, beta test)?
 - b. What resources are required: personnel, skills, third party services?
 - c. What results are expected?
 - d. Show dependencies in time, outcome, or resources among tasks.
6. Related Work:
 - a. Described any significant and recent work or results related to this project, either academic or commercial, including competitors.



7. Key Personnel:
 - a. Provide a brief statement of the qualifications of the key personnel, management team, advisory board, and any consultants or third parties who have agreed to participate.
 - b. Do not include detailed CVs.
8. Equipment and Facilities:
 - a. Describe the facilities and equipment required for the project.
 - b. Indicate how these will be obtained, if not readily and locally available.
9. Other Sources of Funding:
 - a. Identify any potential or committed sources of alternate or additional funds or collaborative efforts.
 - b. Identify any matching funds provided by company
 - c. Identify any In-Kind match by company
10. Budget:
 - a. Identify and justify expenditures
11. Deadline:
 - a. Applications must be complete and submitted by the deadline announced.

Evaluation, Award and Reports:

Confidential materials provided must be marked as confidential. The form of grant agreement will be provided in advance of the Committee's action. Final approval will be made by the Committee.

Once funded, the company will report project progress and accomplishments at their scheduled checkpoints

At completion, a brief Final Report will be provided within thirty (30) days and a brief Annual Status Report will be required for 3 years following completion to assist in evaluation of the BRAG program and determining its impact at USF, including new products, new services, new jobs, student impact, and new related federal or other external grants.

Program Contact:

Submit your proposal to:

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