

REQUEST for RESEARCH PROPOSALS

We are pleased to announce the 2018 request for research proposals (RFP) from The Alliance for Advanced Sanitation. The intent of this RFP is to provide faculty affiliates of the Alliance and interested researchers (university faculty, staff and graduate students) the opportunity to seek support for applied research related to the mission of the Alliance.

It is envisioned that projects supported by this RFP could potentially be evaluated by The Alliance for scale up and technology development based on the outcomes of such projects. Investigators interested in submitting a proposal for funding should review the attached priorities of the Alliance prior to completing their application and submit all required materials by the deadline.



More information about The Alliance can be found at <http://sanitationalliance.org/>

INTRODUCTION

The Alliance is a public-private partnership between the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and a group of private companies in the food and allied industries, focused on improving sanitary procedures, products, equipment and facilities and educating industry professionals responsible for sanitation. Current private partners include Cargill, Commercial Food Sanitation, Ecolab, Hershey, Kellogg's, Neogen, Frontier Co-Op, 3M and others.

SCOPE, FUNDING AND TIMELINE

The purpose of this request for proposals is to encourage innovative research in the area of sanitation and assist investigators to initiate and/or develop concepts that will deliver improved technologies and methods to the food industry. Funding for this cycle of projects is \$50,000 in total, with the expectation of accepting a minimum of 2-3 projects completed 6-12 months from the date of project initiation. Longer term projects may be submitted for consideration, with the understanding that a portion of the project (if appropriate) may be prioritized by The Alliance for the current budget cycle.

The following focus areas will be considered:

1. Improving Applied Cleaning Methods
2. Materials Science for Hygienic Facility and Equipment Design
3. Improvement Methods Cleaning in Dry Processing and Conveying Systems
4. Microbiological, Allergen or Chemical Analytical Methods related to Improving Food Safety and Manufacturing.
5. Next Generation Sequencing for Improving Hygiene
6. Predictive Modeling in Food Safety Risk Assessment
7. Antimicrobial Effectiveness Studies
8. Advanced Sanitation Education Curriculum Development and Delivery

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTION

Project proposals will be accepted via e-mail. Verbal applications will not be considered. Interested parties are strongly encouraged to submit a short pre-proposal prior to submitting the full application. Pre-proposals will be accepted anytime between the RFP announcement date (March

1, 2018) and the submission deadline (April 15, 2018). Pre-proposals will be reviewed and comments will be provided within 2 weeks of submissions. Final proposals must be submitted by midnight on April 15, 2018. Applicants will be informed of the status of their proposal by the 11th of May.

The Technical Advisory Committee will invite selected PIs to present their proposals (in person or via videoconference) at the annual meeting of the Alliance scheduled for May 23, 2018. Approved projects must commence by July 1st 2018.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION FORMAT

University faculty, staff, graduate students and representatives from current Alliance member companies are eligible to apply. Project proposals should include the following information:

1. Research Team – Principal Investigator(s) and Key Personnel. Include a 1 page biographical sketch/vitae for summary of all PIs.
2. Project Title – Provide a clear and descriptive title.
3. Abstract – Summarize the project (300 words or less).
4. Introduction – Provide background information, preliminary research and/or data to present the case for your proposed project. This section should provide a clear problem statement or definition of the existing gap in data or solutions (1000 words or less).
5. Approach – Address the questions of relevance and novelty of the proposal (500 words or less).
6. Methods – Include a brief summary of the methods to be utilized with the rationale for your choice (1000 words or less).
7. Equipment and Facilities – Provide a complete list of necessary equipment and facilities.
8. Expected outcome(s) – Provide your best assessment of what results are expected and their relevance and potential use to solve the defined problem or fulfil a data gap.
9. Start and End Dates for the project.
10. Matching funds, in kind or other financial support available for this project.
11. Intellectual Property Considerations – Provide information on existing intellectual property rights used to further this project or potential intellectual property that may arise from this project.

PROJECT BUDGET

Include an estimated project budget including materials, personnel, equipment and consumable costs. F&A or other overhead costs may not be included. If your project is chosen, you will be required to submit a detailed budget within 5 working days.

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