



Third Frontier

Innovation Creating Opportunity

Innovation Platform Program

The Innovation Platform Program (IPP) provides grants to support the linkage of commercialization and innovation capabilities and capacities of an already established Innovation Platform at an Ohio college or university or a not-for-profit research institution to specific late-stage development and innovation needs of Ohio companies. An Innovation Platform is defined as having unique technological capabilities and strengths, talent, equipment, facilities, engaged industry partners, a track record of research commercialization and innovation, intellectual property, and other resources of direct relevance to an Ohio industry.

The IPP objectives are:

- To support existing Innovation Platforms at Ohio colleges, universities, or not-for-profit research institutions that will serve specifically defined near-term commercialization objectives of two or more Ohio for-profit companies;
- To support Innovation Platforms that will develop and launch new products, innovations, or services into the commercial market within three to five years of the project start date;
- To kick-start the long-term, sustained use of the Innovation Platform by multiple Ohio industry partners; and
- To support Innovation Platforms that will create wealth and employment opportunities within Ohio through the Ohio companies that utilize and benefit from them.

The Innovation Platform must realize near-term (within three to five years of the start of the project) commercialization with the potential of on-going commercialization opportunities beyond the project period. Proposals must address at least one or a combination of the following technology areas:

- Advanced Materials related to advanced polymers, ceramics, composites, carbon fibers and nanotubes, and specialty metals and alloys;
- Aeropropulsion Power Management;
- Agribusiness and Food Processing;
- Fuel Cells and Energy Storage;
- Medical Technology related to imaging, surgical instruments/equipment, implant devices, and regenerative medicine;
- Software Applications for Business and Healthcare;
- Sensing and Automation Technologies;
- Situational Awareness and Surveillance Systems; and
- Solar Photovoltaics.

Lead Applicants/Clients

- Eligible lead applicants are Ohio colleges or universities, or Ohio not-for-profit public or private research organizations having business lines that include research and development. The applicants must have a significant portion of their research and development activities in Ohio and a Principal Place of Business in Ohio.
- Proposals must include client service relationships with at least two unrelated Ohio for-profit companies.

Funding/Cost Share

- Program funds of \$24 million are available for FY2013. The amount of each grant will be in the range of \$1 million to \$3 million.
- Cost share commitments are to be cash only and must be at least \$1 per every \$1 of program funds requested.

RFP Timeline

- RFP Released – November 19, 2012
- Letters of Intent Due – 12:00 Noon on December 21, 2012
- Proposals Due – 2:00 p.m. on February 13, 2013
- Awards – Approximately June 2013

Program Website

http://development.ohio.gov/bs_thirdfrontier/ipp.htm

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