

# South Texas Technology Management (STTM)

## *POCsparc*

### Proof of Concept: Short Proposal to Accelerate Research Commercialization

#### Eligibility:

Effective September 1, 2009, funding for *POCsparc* grants has been made available through the San Antonio Life Sciences Institute (SALSI), a joint program of UTHSCSA and UTSA formed to promote greater scientific collaboration between the two institutions.

Proposals eligible for a *POCsparc* award must support:

- Collaborative projects between faculty from UTHSCSA **and** UTSA, **or**
- Collaborative projects between UTHSCSA **or** UTSA faculty **and** UTB or UTPA faculty.

For *POCsparc* awards, PIs at both institutions must be tenured or on the tenure track.

Proposals received from UTSA faculty may also be considered for *POCroadrunner* (*POCrr*) grants, which are funded through a supplement to the Emerging Technology Fund award that established the UTSA Institute for Cyber Security.

#### Key questions to consider include:

- What is the technical merit of the invention and the current state of development? If the project aims are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced?
- What is the commercial potential for the technology? How can the proposed project lead to a marketable product, process, or service?
- What are the competitive advantages of the technology? How sustainable are those advantages? What may be the anticipated commercial and societal benefit derived from the proposed research?
- Can the invention be practiced freely or would commercialization require additional licenses from other companies/institutions?
- How would the *POCsparc* funds be applied to advance the technical or scientific aspects of the invention? What specific experiments or product development activities would be enabled by the *POCsparc* award? How would those results affect the commercial and/or clinical viability of the invention?
- Would successful completion of the proposed research position the technology to be licensed to an established firm? Alternatively, could the invention become the core technology of a new company, and how would completion of the research position the new company to attract additional funding, such as ETF, SBIR/STTR, or angel/VC investment?

#### Selection:

*POCsparc* applications are judged by STTM on the value proposition for the use of the funds, i.e. validating the commercial opportunity and advancing the technology to the marketplace.

# Application Instructions

## I. Project Summary

Provide a *high-level description of the research* assuming the reader does not have detailed knowledge in the field. Briefly describe the problem to be solved and shortcomings of existing solutions. Do not focus on the technical details of your proposed solution; one sentence to the effect of “We propose to deliver X with characteristics Y” is adequate. This section should be readable by a technically inclined person only slightly familiar with your field. Do not disclose any proprietary or confidential information. Contents of this section may be summarized and appear on the STTM web site. *Must not exceed 1 page.*

## II. Project Description

Describe the proposed project (strategy, key experiments, and goals) with a statement of the problem to be solved and how the proposed solution addresses this problem. Include identification and significance of the invention, background and technical objectives of the research, and commercial potential. Emphasize the point of novelty and risks associated with the project. How do you foresee the next steps towards commercializing this technology if this phase were successful? *Should not exceed 2 pages.*

## III. Project Work Plan

What are the expected commercial impacts of this work? If successful, what will this prove/disprove? What is the technical and commercial significance of those results? What would the next steps be in development of this concept? *Should not exceed 1 page.*

## IV. Dollars Requested and Budget (request up to \$25k)

Summarize funds you require to complete the project and create a detailed budget indicating where dollars will be spent. STTM funds awards of up to \$25k. Note: Term of funding must not exceed 6 months and funds should not be designated for Principal Investigator salaries. No overhead charges will apply to the *POCsparc* award. *POCsparc* funds must be used primarily for applied research, testing, prototype development, and other technology-focused activities consistent with the proof-of-concept purpose of the grant. *Should not exceed 1 page.*

## V. Appendix (if necessary)

Please include any references you feel are relevant to your proposal, any additional financial support (and whether or not such support is contingent on receiving the *POCsparc* funding), letters of support, and biological sketches of the PI and other key personnel involved in the proposal. *Should not exceed 5 pages.*

## Additional Requirements

### Grantee's Responsibilities

The grantee must follow all applicable regulations and policies regarding the conduct of research. No project may be started until relevant compliance regulations have been met regarding human or animal test subjects (if applicable).

### Communication

The Principal Investigator shall communicate the project's progress through various means, including the following:

- **Invention disclosures**
- **Notification of milestones achieved**
- **Information, as needed, for compliance with federal funding requirements**
- **A final report presented to STTM in writing and in person**
- **Publications** – Publication of results from work sponsored by the *POCsparc* program is encouraged. The authors should provide advance notification to STTM, with appropriate acknowledgement of the support received.
- **Media relations** – Grant recipients will be announced to the media shortly after they are selected and placed on the STTM web site.

#### **Special Instruction for UTSA Faculty:**

*All UTSA POCsparc Request for Proposals need to be entered and routed through [Cayuse](#), the University's on-line proposal submission and routing system, and reviewed/approved by the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP). Once the PI receives an automatic email generated from Cayuse stating the proposal has been approved by an AOR, the PI may submit the approved proposal to STTM as instructed below.*

*Effective January 1, 2009, OSP will be requiring a new electronic routing form. Paper routing form will no longer be accepted by OSP. You can find the new routing form at: <https://comal.it.utsa.edu/routing/login.php>. If you have any questions, please contact your department pre-award Grants and Contracts Specialists or call x4340.*

**To submit completed POCsparc Application to STTM, send to:**  
**Mr. Claude C. Longoria E-mail: [longoriacc@uthscsa.edu](mailto:longoriacc@uthscsa.edu) Fax: 210.567.1337**