CASE University-Industry Collaboration Seed Funding Program

CASE is pleased to announce a new program to provide funding, on a rolling basis, for Syracuse University faculty to establish new research collaborations, or initiate new projects within existing collaborations, with New York State companies.

CASE will select up to three (3) proposals per fiscal year to receive funding, each with a maximum budget of $50,000 for up to one year.* No cash match is required from the industry partner. However, commitment of industry resources, cash or in-kind, to the project, as well as a clear plan for future research investment by the participating company if the seed project is successful, will be considered in evaluating the proposal.

Proposals can be submitted throughout the year, any time that a New York State company requires initial support in order to move forward with funding for a larger project with an eligible faculty researcher. CASE will convene ad hoc review panels drawn from our Industry Advisory Board, the New York State business community, and non-SU faculty for each proposal.

Requirements:

Who Can Apply? Any full-time Syracuse University faculty member, including research professors and professors of practice, regardless of school or college affiliation, in collaboration with a New York State industry partner.

Qualified projects must meet the following criteria:

1) Fall within CASE's technology focus area of complex information-intensive systems. Broadly, data and information should play a central role in proposed work. Topics include but are not limited to: data mining and analytics, information fusion, autonomy/UAVs, data and network security/assurance, information processing, wireless and social networks, internet of things, natural language processing, and "smart" applications.

2) Committed New York State industry collaborator. *Each proposal must include a letter of support from a company with full-time employees and permanent operations in New York.*

3) Strong potential for ongoing collaboration once seed funds are expended.

Proposals:

Potential seed funding projects should be submitted to CASE in the form of a five-page proposal, with at least one-inch margins and minimum of 12-point font size, plus a letter from the industry partner. Proposals longer than five pages will not be considered. Each proposal should contain the following sections:

1) Executive Summary: Not to exceed one page, the executive summary should summarize the research project in language accessible to a broad audience. This is not an introduction, but a brief sketch of the application area, proposed work, and the technology and benefits to the ongoing project or product line within the industry partner.

2) Statement of Work: A concise statement of the problem to be solved, intellectual property to be developed or translated, product to be developed or improved, concept to be tested, etc.

along with a detailed description of the work to be conducted for the industry collaborator. Include importance and relevance to the industry partner's business goals (new product, product improvement, proof of concept for possible federal funds, new approach to solving production problem, etc.).

3) Technical Approach: A technical synopsis describing the technical background, tools/methods, and scientific approach to conducting the research. Proposers should describe the anticipated results and advancements expected from the work.

4) Team and Capabilities: Describe all of the performers, including principal investigators, industrial collaborators, graduate students, and staff, and describe the role of each.

5) Budget and Budget Narrative: Resources required for the proposed work, including salaries, equipment, materials and supplies, travel, and other expenses. Include budget justification explaining why each line item is necessary for the project.

6) Letter from industry partner: A signed letter, on company letterhead, from the company for which the work will be conducted or with which the faculty member will be collaborating. The letter should detail any resources, cash, or in-kind contributions the company plans to make to the project, as well as plans for continued investment if the project is successful. It should also outline the project's eventual potential for generating revenues and capital investments, creating jobs, acquiring federal funds, or other positive impact the company expects if the project is funded. (NOTE: this letter will not count toward the 5-page limit.)

Evaluation Criteria:

Each project will be evaluated based on the following:

1) Sustainability: If this proposal is awarded, will it launch, expand, or strongly benefit a long-term relationship between the faculty member, Syracuse University, and the industry partner? Will the work continue after the seed funds have been expended?

2) Potential benefit to the industry partner: If funded, will this project generate significant revenues, attract federal funds, create jobs, and inspire capital investment? Will it result in substantial cost-savings for the industry partner?

3) Technical approach: Does the project fit well within CASE's area of interest? Is it well designed and feasible, from a technical standpoint? Will it generate novel intellectual property, new technology, or meaningful improvements in existing technology? Are the personnel appropriate to the tasks?

4) Use of Resources: Does the budget reflect thoughtful, efficient and appropriate use of funds? Is it adequate and realistic to complete the work described? Could the project be completed for less?

5) Innovation: Is the project and/or technology novel? Will it result in new or unique products, technologies, business approaches, etc.?

* Number and size of awards will depend on the quantity and quality of proposals received. If we do not receive proposals that meet all criteria, CASE reserves the right to make fewer or no awards.