Request for Proposals:
CSU Ventures LAUNCHPAD FUEL program

Letter of Intent Deadline: August 24th, 2020

LAUNCHPAD is excited to announce the request to submit Letters of Intent for participation in the 2020-2021 FUEL program.   The FUEL program is designed to help CSU innovators access funding to accelerate commercialization of innovations developed at CSU.

- The FUEL program will select a cohort of teams whose innovations are at an early stage of development and need proof of concept data to validate the commercial potential.
- Support consists of two essential components, **R&D Proof of Concept (POC) Funding** and participation in targeted **Commercialization Workshops**.
- The FUEL program incorporates the [Advanced Industries Acceleration (AIA) Proof of Concept grant program](#) that is provided by the State of Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade and is administered through CSU Ventures.

The FUEL program essential components:

- [R&D POC Funding](#): The cornerstone of the program provides FUEL participants grants of up to **$200K (including match fund) for up to 2 years of support**.   Most of the funds for this program are provided by AIA POC program. While the state of Colorado program requires a 1:3 matching requirement for access to State funds (for every 1 dollar provided by the applicant, 3 dollars will be provided by OEDIT), **CSU Ventures will ensure matching funds are provided for applications with no identified match**. *Applications that have identified their own sources of funding for a match will receive priority status in the review process.* FUEL grants are intended to support commercially focused innovations requiring additional R&D critical for product validation and demonstration of commercialization potential.
- [Commercialization Workshops](#): The second main component of the FUEL program are the workshops and seminar programs provided to each FUEL cohort. Teams will participate in *LAUNCHPAD's Research to Market (R2M) workshop* that focuses on market/customer discovery. R2M is intended to ensure product-market fit. R2M leverages proven methods to clarify customer problems in specific markets and helps teams optimize R&D strategies to enter those markets. Knowledge gained in this program will be incorporated in each team's final grant milestones and budget. This program includes classroom instruction, as well as $3K travel grants available to conduct customer discovery.

Program Specifics:

- Applicants who are invited to submit full applications will be emailed the application template, which needs to be completed by 11:59pm on October 12th, 2020
- The AI POC grant funding is available to any Colorado State University non-temporary, salaried, stated classified or general faculty employee. Individuals with other types of appointments (e.g. temporary, non-salaried, and/or retired) must be approved by the department and college and then should be listed as the co-principal investigator with a non-temporary, salaried employee serving as the prime principal investigator. Graduate research assistants and post-doctorals are considered temporary, non-faculty appointments. Faculty affiliates are non-salaried appointments.
- The State's intent in awarding AIA POC grants is to stimulate economic development in Colorado, e.g. technology and manufacturing jobs (see State program details.)

Application Instructions:

- To begin the application process, please submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to info@csuventures.org by **11:59pm on August 24th, 2020**, using the template provided on the CSUV [website](#).
- Competitive applications demonstrate significant economic impact or competitive advantage for Colorado and the advanced industries by accelerating the pace of applied research and leading to the rapid commercialization of products and services.

About the State of Colorado's Advanced Industries (AI) Accelerator Program

- The AI program was created in 2013 by the Colorado Legislature to promote the success of seven designated industries in the State of Colorado. These industries include: Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing, Bioscience, Electronics, Energy and Natural Resources, Infrastructure Engineering, and Technology and Information. A portion of these funds are made available for proof of concept (POC) research occurring at Colorado research institutions and are allocated through the technology transfer offices. For FY2021, CSU Ventures has been allocated over $600,000 to award to POC projects at Colorado State University.
- The AI POC grant funding is intended to identify and pull technologies developed at research institutions and connect them to the private sector where they can be developed into products.
- For AI POC program specifics, guidelines, and expectations, please see the State of Colorado AI Accelerator Programs Grant Guidelines.

2020-2021 FUEL Program