

## **Bioeconomy and Sustainable Technologies Research Center (BEST)**

**Request for Proposals Announced January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Due March 3, 2008**

### **Objective**

This solicitation announces the first round of research proposals requested by BEST, the BioEconomy and Sustainable Technologies Research Center.

### **Background**

BEST was established by the 2007 Oregon Legislature following the recommendations of the Oregon Innovation Council (OrInC) to promote the commercialization of technologies that support sustainable development in Oregon. The primary objective of BEST is to expand research within the OUS institutions in the areas of clean energy, bio-based products, and green development including buildings and infrastructure.

The total research funding for this biennium to be committed by BEST for this solicitation will not exceed \$400,000 and the funding for any individual project will be limited to \$50,000 including indirect costs. The projects will be of one year duration.

### **BEST Research Themes**

The overall goal of BEST is to promote new technologies for the sustainable industries business sector in Oregon. BEST has three Research Themes:

*Clean Energy.* Renewable energy and biofuels from Oregon natural resources. Areas include liquid and gaseous biofuels from Oregon biomass or other biological materials; electrical power from Oregon biomass or other biological materials; solar energy; wind and ocean energy for electrical power; geothermal energy; and improvements in energy efficiency.

*Bio-Products.* High-value, non-fuel products made from agricultural crops, agricultural and forest residues, and forest products found in Oregon.

*Green Buildings/Infrastructure.* Innovations and new technologies which support sustainable development in the build environment. Innovation in green materials, technologies, and strategies for buildings and infrastructure; sustainable resource management within the built environment (energy, water, toxics, etc); innovations in green manufacturing including resource reduction, recycling, reuse, and all forms of waste reduction.

### **Research Funding Opportunities**

For this solicitation, three types of research proposals are requested:

1. *Technology Development Proposals.* Proposed projects to demonstrate proof-of-concept for commercialization of university-developed technologies and to aid in the transfer of these technologies to Oregon businesses.
2. *Research Projects.* Proposed projects that will lead to key results and/or preliminary data to launch major collaborative (industrial and/or inter-institutional) research projects and will enhance the potential for external follow-on funding.

3. *Shared Instrumentation and Facilities.* Matching funding to support acquisitions of shared instrumentation or facilities which will support collaborative research related to any of the three research themes.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

The proposals will be reviewed based upon the following criteria:

*Relevance to BEST.* The proposed project must address one or more of BEST's research themes.

*Intellectual Merit and Innovation.* The proposed project must have a strong intellectual basis and demonstrate potential for significant new advancements and/or growth of nationally recognized programs within BEST.

*Leveraging Potential.* Successful leveraging involves both increased external funding and development of nationally recognized programs. The proposed research must have immediate or significant potential for follow-on funding from external sources (Federal government, industry, or foundations). The proposed research must show the potential of building programs of national significance, potentially through connection with strengths of the OTRADI and ONAMI Signature Research Centers.

*Inter-institutional Collaboration.* Proposed projects are encouraged to include collaboration to establish partnerships and cooperation among OUS institution with the goal of creating teams which are "greater than the sum of the parts."

*Technology Transfer Potential.* Proposed projects are encouraged which support technology development for established and emerging sustainable industries within Oregon.

*Industrial Involvement.* Proposed projects are encouraged which include industrial involvement (particularly with Oregon-based companies) and seek to commercialize university technologies. Such cooperative efforts must include substantial university intellectual involvement.

## **Evaluation Process**

Representatives from the BEST Technical Leadership and Interim Management Teams will evaluate all proposals against the Evaluation Criteria. Reviewers with potential conflicts of interest will be excused from certain elements of the selection process.

## **Eligibility**

Principal investigators at all institutions within the Oregon University System (OUS) are invited to respond to this solicitation. Private companies and non-profit organizations may partner with a principal investigator at an OUS institution as co-principal investigator(s).

## **Proposal Format**

***Project Description*** (4 single-spaced pages maximum, Times Roman 11 pt., 1" margins, numbered pages)

Title of Proposal, Names and Affiliations of Principal Investigator(s)

*1.0: Objective.* State the overall objective of the proposed research. Provide a brief overview of the proposed work and the rationale for the research. Describe the intellectual merit and innovative nature of the proposed project.

*2.0: Research Plan.* State research tasks. Briefly describe the work plan and experimental design around the Research Tasks. Provide project deliverables.

*3.0: Relevance to BEST Research Themes.* State which BEST Research Theme the proposal is responding to with a brief justification. Proposed research that deviates significantly from current BEST Research Themes will not be considered at this time.

*4.0: Leveraging*

*Technology Development Proposals.* Describe how the proposed research will provide proof-of-concept results for a new technology and how commercialization and technology transfer to Oregon business will be facilitated. Identify industrial stakeholders, particularly in the State of Oregon and potential impacts.

*Research Proposals:* Describe plans for attracting additional competitive funding and how this project will help to build nationally recognized research programs.

*Instrumentation and Facilities Proposal:* Describe how the additional instrumentation or facilities will improve the ability to conduct research around the BEST research themes or support the development of a nationally recognized research program in Oregon.

*5.0: Inter-institutional Collaboration & Industrial Partnerships.* List faculty and/or industrial collaborators involved in project including PIs and co-PIs. Provide brief statements on plans for partnerships with other BEST researchers, Oregon institutions, companies, or other Oregon Signature Research Centers. Describe the potential advantages from the collaboration.

**References.** One page limit.

**Budget:** Provide a one-page budget for a one-year project beginning April 1, 2008 in the following format.

Faculty, staff and graduate student time and cost

Faculty, staff and graduate student OPE

Graduate student tuition

Supplies

Equipment (>\$5k)

Travel

Indirect Costs (full university indirect cost rates)

Total Project Costs

**Biographical Sketch.** Provide separate Biographical sketches of PI and co-PI's, 2 pages maximum per PI; use NSF format [http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/nsf04\\_23/2.jsp#IIC2f](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/nsf04_23/2.jsp#IIC2f)

***Reporting:***

A final report for those projects funded will be due on or before March 31, 2009. A one-page progress report will be due September 1, 2008.

***Submission Details:***

Proposals are due by the close of business on March 3, 2008. E-mail the proposals in pdf format (single file named as Yourlastname\_BEST\_Solicitation\_3-3-08.pdf) to Janet Gillaspie at [janet@envirostrategies.com](mailto:janet@envirostrategies.com).