Request for Proposals INS-2013-1

UT Institute for Nuclear Security Seed Grants Initiative

The University of Tennessee
Institute for Nuclear Security
Knoxville, TN 37996

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INS Contact:
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I. Background

The University of Tennessee Institute for Nuclear Security (INS) was formed by the University of Tennessee – Knoxville (UT) and began operating in January 2012. The INS is organizationally located within the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy. More information can be found at the INS website, nuclear.utk.edu.

The Institute builds on a traditionally strong relationship between the University and the federal facilities in east Tennessee, specifically those that have major nuclear security missions. A regional-centric interdisciplinary entity such as the INS helps build greater efforts that cross many academic disciplines.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12), and Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) joined with UT as charter members of the INS when it was formed.

The mission of the INS is to align the collective expertise and capabilities available within the membership to grow an internationally recognized resource that plays a pivotal role in global nuclear security efforts by:
- Providing expertise to shape and support the national and international enterprises for nuclear security;
- Enhancing U.S. and international security by providing effective support for all aspects of the nuclear security mission — from policy analysis through research, education, training, and field activities; and
- Expansion of our contributions and reputation in these communities, and concomitant growth of the levels of funding and influence available to our membership.

INS serves as a facilitator for collaboration among its members to tackle multi-organizational, multidisciplinary work critical to national and global needs in nuclear security. This framework leverages the strengths of all of the members to address global challenges in the broad field of nuclear security in a more effective manner than any single partner can accomplish alone.

II. Objectives

The objective of this Seed Grant Initiative is to both increase and diversify the number of UT faculty leading proposal development efforts in nuclear security under the auspices of the INS. Nuclear security is an interdisciplinary field, and we are seeking to broaden our participating faculty – particularly in those academic units that have not typically worked with INS in the past. We especially want to support new "entrants" into nuclear security proposal writing (including junior faculty, faculty in lower research activity departments, etc.) and hence enrich the University's (and INS's) portfolio of work in this field.

III. Scope of Seed Grants

Seed grants are to fund the growth of high-quality and meaningful research output in the area of nuclear security, specifically by fostering new proposals and broadening the participation of faculty in the INS. The principle metric of success for these seed grants is the net increase in externally funded research within the INS umbrella for the recipient faculty.

Seed grant requests are open to and solicited from all academic units within the University of Tennessee-Knoxville campus. Individual investigators and small teams are encouraged to apply.

IV. <u>Schedule</u>

- Seed Grant Proposals due to INS – September 6, 2013
- Proposal Review Concluded – September 27, 2013
- Notification and award – October 1, 2013
- Funding cannot extend beyond June 30, 2014

V. <u>Review Criteria</u>

- Priority will be given to expanding the pool of proposers rather than supporting existing successful proposers in nuclear security studies.
- Proposals must identify at least one, preferably more, possible external sponsors for the work.
- Proposal must present a credible plan for developing a high-quality external proposal and explain how seed grant funding is necessary to support the development of the external proposal.

VI. <u>Submission Instructions</u>

A.   Deadline

- All proposals are to be submitted via email to Prof. Howard Hall (howard.hall@utk.edu). Deadline for submission is 11:59:59 PM Eastern Time on September 6, 2013.

B.   Format of the Proposal Narrative

The proposal narrative must identify the following elements:

- Title of Proposed Work
- Description of proposal to be developed and how it fits within the INS thematic structure
- Targeted funding source(s) and any relevant calls from those sponsors which this work seeks to support
- Funds requested from this Seed Grant Initiative
- Schedule of activities and deliverables

The proposal narrative should not exceed 2-3 pages, and should use legible fonts and reasonable margins.

C.   Required Elements

The following components are required for the proposal to be considered. Please provide the entire package as a single pdf file attached to the email.

- A proposal narrative prepared in accordance with Section B above.
- A validated budget for both the INS funding and costs to be shared.
- Brief budget justification.
- Signed commitment letter and account for cost-sharing from proposer's Department Head or Dean.
- CV of the Principal Investigator(s).

VII.Allowable Costs and Cost-Sharing Requirements

Cost sharing will be required. These seed grants may not support faculty time, administrative supplements, additional pay, or course release time. The seed grant funding may support students, post-docs, or grant-writers effort. Research faculty time is an allowable expense. These funds may also support supplies/expense, etc., as needed to develop the proposal. In the event travel is requested, INS will work with the PI and the Office of Research to attempt to support travel out of UT SARIF funds as the first choice.

Cost sharing will be required, and the unallowable costs specified above do not apply to cost-shared funds. Each proposal requires 33% cost sharing (so a request for $15K from INS must be cost-shared $5K by the requesting organization), and the cost sharing must be properly documented and tracked.

We anticipate funding up to six seed grants of approximately $15K each from INS funding, depending on the proposals received and availability of funding. Seed grants may not exceed $20K of INS funding.

VIII. Deliverables and Obligations

The key deliverable for a proposal development activity supported under this Initiative is a high-quality, competitive grant or contract proposal. Therefore, at least one high-quality proposal submitted or in process of being submitted to the potential sponsor (by the end of FY14, via INS in PAMS) will be required of all grantees as the minimum deliverable.

Recipients are responsible for properly crediting INS for proposals in the field of nuclear security. This is done by designating INS as the approving organization in subsequent PAMS entries for external grants/contracts that grow from this work.

Recipient faculty will be designated as affiliated faculty with INS and are expected to provide their faculty information for INS communications efforts. Please note, INS affiliation is open to all faculty members, research staff, and students regardless of the outcome of this RFP.

IX. Acknowledgements

This Seed Grant Initiative is made possible through the support of the UT Office of Research, through the Organized Research Unit funding process.