

Request for Proposals: Stanford Faculty Research Related to Natural Gas

from

The Stanford Natural Gas Initiative

Issued: 15 January 2016

Letter of Intent to Submit Due: 15 February 2016

Proposals Due: 15 March 2016

Introduction

This call for proposals is open to Stanford faculty performing new research related to any area of natural gas development, use, or impacts.

This is a general call for proposals related to the Natural Gas Initiative (ngi.stanford.edu); awards will be funded from the initiative. Awards may be up to \$100,000 per year and will be funded for one year with possibility for a second year of funding upon satisfactory progress and approval.

The Natural Gas Initiative seeks to initiate new, exploratory research related to natural gas that has potential for continued funding and impact in the field. The initiative also seeks to precipitate new research interactions, new collaboration, and entry of new researchers into the field of natural gas. Proposals from any discipline or combination of disciplines are encouraged; the initiative seeks to have active proposals in all of the six focus areas of NGI, which range from technical to policy and social disciplines:

- Natural Gas Resource Development
- Environmental Impacts and Climate Change
- Uses of Natural Gas as a Fuel or Manufacturing Feedstock
- Global Markets and Economic Impacts of Natural Gas
- Natural Gas Policy and Regulatory Reform
- Geopolitical Impacts of Natural Gas Development and Use

Research in any specific area or combination of areas is of interest. The initiative is especially interested in research that can address: (1) integration and optimization of natural gas in clean energy strategies; (2) comprehensive assessment of the benefits and risks of natural gas development; (3) how natural gas could help alleviate energy poverty and improve living conditions in the developing world.

Principal Investigators and affiliated researchers and students on NGI grants are expected to be active participants in the growing NGI community at Stanford and in the Natural Gas Initiative Industrial Affiliates Program.

Proposal Submission and Review Process

Letter of Intent to Submit

Principal Investigators who intend to submit a proposal should provide a brief letter of intent by **15 February 2016**. The letter should describe the project in 1-2 concise paragraphs, include a description of the research team and whether new collaborations are included, indicate the desired funding amount, and an assessment of the possible impact and likelihood of continued funding for the proposed research.

Proposal ideas may be discussed at any time with NGI Managing Director Brad Ritts (rittts@stanford.edu; 736-2716) or Director Mark Zoback (zoback@stanford.edu), who can provide a judgment of how well the proposed research fits within the current goals of NGI.

Letters of interest should be submitted electronically to NGI Program Manager, Claudia Baroni (cbaroni@stanford.edu)

Letters of interest will be reviewed by the NGI Managing Director and/or Director within 3 days of receipt. PIs of any proposed research that does not fit within the current goals of NGI, or that is otherwise unlikely to be funded will be notified. PIs of separate, but closely related proposed research may be contacted for a discussion of how the proposed projects are related and whether there are opportunities for collaboration on a full proposal.

Proposal Format and Submission

Full proposals are due by **15 March 2015**.

Format. Proposals must be five pages or shorter (with fonts no smaller than 11 point). The proposal length includes text, figures, tables and references, but not budget. The budget and budget justification are limited to three additional pages. Each Principal Investigator who will be associated with the proposed work should submit a brief background limited to one additional page per PI or co-PI. Proposals must be self-contained with no links to additional information

Budget. The source of funding is gift funds; therefore, no project may charge indirect costs, even if non-Stanford investigators would complete some part of the project. The budget should include direct costs plus the university infrastructure burden of 8%. Awarded projects will be funded through a newly created and designated PTA(s) less the 8% infrastructure charge; the infrastructure charge for the award will be paid directly by the NGI. Budgets should identify the level of effort committed to the project. Principal Investigator (PI) effort is not required on University Research awards. For projects that may seek a second year of funding, please provide a proposed two-year budget, although initial awards will only be for the first year of funding. Proposed budgets need not be routed through OSR for this internally funded research. Once the funding has been awarded a budget will need to be routed through SeRA.

Please note that the primary Principal Investigator (PI) must be a Stanford faculty member and be eligible per Stanford policy. Preference will be given to projects that build capability at Stanford, but projects that absolutely require collaboration with an investigator outside Stanford will be considered.

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School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences
and Precourt Institute for Energy

Proposal Review and Awards

Full proposals are due by **15 March 2015**.

The objective of the review process is to identify high quality projects that are consistent with the goals of this solicitation. The proposals will be screened for relevance and then reviewed by a committee of faculty with expertise related to the areas of research but who are not involved in the proposed projects. The opinions of additional experts at Stanford or outside of it may be sought, with the requirement that the reviewer maintain the confidentiality of the proposed research.

The review process will be done in conjunction with the Precourt Institute for Energy seed grant program. During this process if a proposal appears to fit better within a different program, the Precourt Institute for Energy might recommend the proposal be considered under the criteria of the more appropriate RFP, and in such cases, the PI will be contacted.

Please do not propose projects that are duplicative of ongoing projects sponsored by any other Stanford faculty grant programs without prior discussion with the program directors.

Awards from this solicitation are anticipated to be announced by August 2016 and may begin after 1 September 2016. Award decisions do not require further approval.

Project Reporting and Eligibility for Future Grant Funding

PIs of funded projects will be required to prepare an interim progress report at the end of the first year and a final project report and presentation. Project PIs and students will be expected to participate in annual technical review sessions, workshops in related areas, and other activities that report on the research being performed.

Interim and/or final Reports must be current for all projects in order to apply for either future grants, second year funding, or a no-cost extension involving a PI or Co-PI. Papers, abstracts, and project summaries will be posted on the NGI website (<https://ngi.stanford.edu/>).

Requests for second year funding or No Cost Extensions need to be submitted 3 months prior to the end date of the award for consideration and all reports must be up to date. The remaining unspent balance on the award will be transferred back to the awarding center during the closeout process.

Contacts

For technical or program issues, please contact NGI Managing Director Bradley Ritts (rittts@stanford.edu; 736-2716), or NGI Director Mark Zoback (zoback@stanford.edu).

For submission of proposals or questions with the submission process please contact NGI Program Manager Claudia Baroni (cbaroni@stanford.edu)