Request for Proposals in Energy and the Natural Gas Resource from Stanford Faculty
from
The Natural Gas Initiative
Issued: April 10, 2015
Letter of Intent to Submit Due: May 15, 2015
Proposals Due: June 29, 2015

Introduction

This call for proposals is open to Stanford faculty performing new research in Energy and the Natural Gas Resource, from the Natural Gas Initiative.

This is a general call for funding proposals related to the new Natural Gas Initiative, which will be supported by funds from the Initiative. Expected funding for each proposed project is up to $100,000 per year. Projects will be funded for a period of one year with an option to renew upon approval.

Natural Gas Initiative

The goal of the Natural Gas Initiative is to fund forward-looking research projects that create pathways to ensure that natural gas resources are used in ways that are economically, environmentally and societally optimal.

The Natural Gas Initiative’s key areas of focus for new research are:

- Resource Development
- Environmental Impacts and Climate Change
- Natural Gas as a Fuel, Feedstock and Catalyst
- Global Markets and Economic Impacts
- Policy and Regulatory Reform
- Geopolitical Impacts

Research in any specific area or combination of these areas is of particular interest. Proposals that involve interdisciplinary efforts, especially those that bring together faculty in new ways, are encouraged. The proposed work may involve the broad range of disciplines involved in energy, for example, science, engineering, policy, and/or social science, individually or in combination.

Additional program information is available at:
Proposal Submission and Review Process

Letter of Intent to Submit
Faculty members who intend to submit a proposal should provide a brief letter of intent by May 15, 2015. The letter should describe the project in a paragraph. That description will allow assembly of a review panel with appropriate background.

Please submit your letter of intent to: Claudia Baroni (cbaroni@stanford.edu)

If you have a proposal idea and would like a judgment on how well it fits within this solicitation’s goals, please contact: Mark Zoback (zoback@stanford.edu)

Proposal Submission
Full proposals (format and submission instructions described below) are due by June 29, 2015.

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. Proposals must be self-contained with no links to additional information.

Proposal Format
• The proposal is subject to a five-page limit with fonts no smaller than 11 points this includes the text, figures, tables, and references.
• 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.

Proposal Review
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.

NB: The review process will be done in conjunction with the TomKat Center for Sustainable Energy and the Precourt Institute for Energy's seed grant programs. 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
It is anticipated that awards based on this solicitation will be announced by mid-August, 2015, and projects selected for award may begin on October 1, 2015 or anytime thereafter. Award decisions do not require further approval.
Project Funding and Duration

Expected funding for each proposed project is up to $100,000 per year.

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. *Follow-up funding in subsequent years is not anticipated.*

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.

Eligibility for Future Grant Funding
Interim and/or final Reports must be current for all projects in order to apply for either future grants 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/](https://ngi.stanford.edu/)).

Requests for 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.

Project Reporting

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.

Contacts

For technical issues or questions please contact: Mark Zoback (zoback@stanford.edu)
For submission of your proposal and questions associated with the submission process contact: Claudia Baroni (cbaroni@stanford.edu)