

NAASIC

Nevada Advanced Autonomous Systems Innovation Center

450 Sinclair Street, Suite 300
Reno, NV 89501

2016 SEED FUNDING FOR INNOVATIONS IN AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS – CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Issued: March 18, 2016

Due: 5:00 p.m. (PST), April 15, 2016

1. Purpose

The Mission of Nevada Advanced Autonomous Systems Innovation Center (NAASIC) at the University of Nevada at Reno (UNR) is to solve emerging complex problems in the development, application, and commercialization of autonomous systems through unique industry-university partnerships, innovation, cooperative research, and entrepreneurship.

In order to further this mission, NAASIC has identified focus areas for building core technologies and competencies. Among these are social robots; robots in medicine and manufacturing; unmanned vehicles; sensors and applications of autonomous systems. In addition to spur innovation and commercialization of technologies aligned with its mission, NAASIC is soliciting proposals from UNR Faculty desirous of commercializing their innovations/inventions. Proposals are expected to address one or more focus areas of interest to NAASIC and have strong potential for commercialization. The maximum request for a project should be limited to \$10,000 and the maximum duration is limited to nine months.

2. Eligibility

Any full-time faculty in UNR is eligible to submit a proposal. Faculty members are strongly advised to partner with businesses or companies willing to collaborate on the development of the innovation. Faculty members are encouraged to contact NAASIC Technical Director to discuss research ideas before submitting a proposal. Researchers are advised to consult with VPRI's office and understand the implications of confidentiality and intellectual property prior to submitting a proposal. Please contact **Dr. Ellen Purpus, Assistant VP for Enterprise & Innovation, University of Nevada Reno, Ross Hall 106, Reno, NV 89557. Email: epurpus@unr.edu; Phone: (775) 784-8228** for further information.

3. Size and Format

Proposals should be submitted electronically in pdf format and include the following items:

1. **Cover page (1 page)** including project title, PI and Co-PI(s) names and institutional affiliations, contact information, amount requested, and 3 key words.
2. **Proposal Narrative** addressing the following (maximum 3 pages, single spaced, 1-inch margin on all four sides, 12 point Times New Roman or equivalent font):
 - i. Purpose or goal of the proposed project and its primary objectives.
 - ii. Project plan including itemized study tasks and a timeline for implementation.
 - iii. Expected results and their significance to NAASIC.
 - iv. Path to commercialization and business case for seeking funding. Please indicate if an Invention Disclosure is on file with the Office of Enterprise and Innovation. If this is a joint proposal with external businesses, then please address the status of Nondisclosure Agreement (if any).
 - v. Outline of how this seed funding will advance the mission of NAASIC.
 - vi. Qualifications and synergy of the research team and industry partner.
3. **Budget and Justification** (maximum 2 pages). Itemized budget, including matching funds, if applicable (maximum 1 page). Cost sharing by industry partner is not required but is encouraged.
4. **Short vitae of PI and Co-PIs** (NSF-style, limited to two-page for each PI/Co-PI, highlighting interdisciplinary activities).
5. **Supporting documents** (maximum 5 pages). Support letters from industry/subject area experts, commitment of cost share, etc.
6. **Deadline**

Each proposal should be endorsed, on the Cover Page, by pertinent Directors/Chairs and budget deans. Please submit one original hard copy or email a pdf copy to the Technical Director, NAASIC before the deadline (**5:00 p.m. PST, April 15, 2016**).
7. **Review and Selection**

The review committee will comprise of NAASIC Staff and the Dean of the College of Engineering or his nominee. Among other criteria, emphasis will be given to Item 3 (collaborative relationship with industry partners) in selecting the awardee(s). The recipients of funding awards are expected to be announced by April 29, 2016. The selected projects could begin soon after that.
8. **Deliverables**

A short (one to two page) progress report half-way through the project duration (no later than August 26, 2016) will have to be submitted. A final report highlighting the accomplishments including specifics of external proposals submitted and/or expected, and external funds

received and/or expected from this funding should be submitted within 1 month of the completion of the project.

4. Questions

For questions regarding this Request for Proposal, please contact:
Sesh Commuri, Technical Director NAASIC scommuri@unr.edu