



Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

**2012 - 2013 REQUEST FOR VT EPSCoR SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION
RESEARCH
PROPOSALS for USE OF FACILITIES AT UVM**

**DUE DATE BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION – May 8, 2012 by 4:00 p.m.
WEB SITE AVAILABLE – December 15, 2011**

Vermont EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) has been supporting research in Vermont's colleges and universities with funds from the National Science Foundation and local sources since 1986. The impact of the EPSCoR program includes the private sector -- particularly small, technology-based businesses.

Vermont EPSCoR will provide the opportunity for Vermont small businesses to compete for grants to use facilities at the University of Vermont (UVM) to collect the data necessary for the submission of Phase (I) and Phase (II) federal grants.

Program Overview:

- There must be a federal SBIR program to which the work is eventually targeted. Vermont EPSCoR's intent is to identify those SBIR ideas that need additional data for applications at the Phase (I) and Phase (II) level.
- Awards will range between \$1,000 - \$5,000.

Obligations Associated with Funding:

- An electronic final technical report and an electronic financial report due to the EPSCoR office by the end of funding period.
- Annual reporting of progress, updates and follow-on funding to the EPSCoR office through 2016.
- Participation in annual VT EPSCoR Conference when appropriate.
- Notification of SBIR Phase I & II funding submissions and outcomes to VT EPSCoR Office.

Period of Support:

1 September 2012 – 31 May 2013

Proposal Content:

- Describe the proposal that you are preparing and the research that is the basis of this proposal (1-2 pages).
- Specify which Federal SBIR program you intend to submit the proposal.

- Describe in 2 pages the need for additional research for a successful proposal.
- Which facilities do you wish to use and what kinds of data you will collect through their use? Please note that individual faculty members' labs are not considered to be facilities. See the following web site to identify UVM facilities:
<http://vgn.uvm.edu/corefacilities/>
- If your project involves research on human subjects (e.g., work with human tissue, interviews or medical trials with human subjects, and collection or analysis of data and medical records, etc.), live vertebrate animals, or recombinant DNA, then your work must meet federal requirements for review and approval of these regulated activities. Please check details about protocol submission requirements and additional information at <http://www.uvm.edu/spa/> . If you have any additional questions about regulations regarding work involving human subjects contact the Office of Sponsored Programs (802) 656-3360.
- Include current resumes for key personnel.
- Include an expenditure budget and a detailed budget justification/explanation. Indirect costs are not allowed. (2 pages)

Evaluation Criteria:

A panel of local scientists and engineers representing Vermont's business, academic and government sectors will evaluate grant proposals. The review will focus on **scientific and technical merit as well as potential for federal SBIR support**, and will consider the following criteria:

- Significance and Originality
- Appropriateness of the Methodology
- Importance of the data to be collected to the potential for success of the SBIR proposal
- Suitability of Facilities for the purposes described
- Qualifications and Experience of the Investigators
- Relevance of the Budget including
- Clarity of the Proposal

How to Submit a Use of Facilities Proposal to Vermont EPSCoR:

Web based submissions are the only accepted form of submission. Please go to www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR and click on the SBIR link to access the proposal form, budget form and cover page information. **Forms will be made available on the web on December 15, 2011.** You are encouraged to submit early to avoid any potential submission complications.

1. **Web submissions are due May 8, 2012 by 4:00 p.m.**
2. **Cover Page* and Letters of Intent from potential collaborators are due at the**

VT EPSCoR office (no FAX), by May, 8, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Send to Vermont EPSCoR, Cook Building, 82 University Place, Room 528, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405.

*Note that signing the cover page will indicate your willingness to publicly share the abstract.

If you do not wish your abstract made public, do not sign the cover page. Any proprietary information will be treated with strict confidence. All results of any supported research will remain the property of the grant recipient unless there is an academic collaborator. In the case where an academic collaborator is not acting as an independent consultant paid through the company, or if the faculty member will use University/College facilities, there will need to be a Memorandum of Understanding negotiated with the appropriate institutional grants. This must be done before any work on the project commences and funding is released. With

respect to any invention developed with EPSCoR support, the grant recipient retains title (noting the exception described above). However, certain government use provisions and disclosures will apply due to the federal funding involved. Specifically, recipients will be required to disclose inventions to the University so that the University may make a disclosure to the federal sponsor. While the inventor retains full ownership of his/her intellectual property, the federal government retains the right to a non-exclusive license to practice inventions which result from federal funding. This requirement is rarely invoked and has never occurred in any disclosures from the University of Vermont.

Neither the State of Vermont, Vermont EPSCoR, or the University of Vermont will make any claim to any product or process developed with this funding with the possible exception of intellectual property developed by an academic collaborator.

Information, including proposal writing tips, can be found on the Vermont EPSCoR website: <http://www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR> where Phase (0) is described. For information on the Federal SBIR programs visit <http://www.zyn.com> and <http://www.thinkvermont.com>

For a list of research facilities available at the University of Vermont, please visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/~vgn/>

For more information about Vermont EPSCoR or the SBIR program, contact Lillian Gamache, Vermont EPSCoR Project Coordinator at epscor@uvm.edu