

**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**INDUSTRIAL TIES RESEARCH SUBPROGRAM (ITRS) AND
PROOF-OF-CONCEPT/PROTOTYPING INITIATIVE**

Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals

FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

Request for Proposals Number 2023-12

IMPORTANT SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

Mandatory Notice of Intent: September 11, 2023, 4:30 p.m. Central

Proposal: October 31, 2023, 4:30 p.m. Central

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, FY 2023-24

BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND

INDUSTRIAL TIES RESEARCH SUBPROGRAM/PROOF-OF-CONCEPT/PROTOTYPING INITIATIVE

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. BASIS OF AUTHORITY

Article VII, Section 10.1 of the Louisiana Constitution established two funds in the State Treasury: the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (hereinafter referred to as the Trust Fund) and the Board of Regents Support Fund (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the Support Fund or BoRSF). The Trust Fund was established with approximately \$550 million received from settlement of disputed oil and gas revenues generated in the so-called 8(g) stipulation of the Federal Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Twenty-five percent of the interest earned from investment of monies in the Trust Fund, as well as 25% of recurring 8(g) oil and gas revenues, will continue to be returned to the Trust Fund, until it reaches a cap of \$2 billion. Each fiscal year the remaining 75% of the interest earned and 75% of the recurring oil and gas revenues are placed in the Support Fund for appropriation by the Legislature.

B. PURPOSES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND

On an annual basis, Support Fund money is divided equally between the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Board of Regents (hereinafter referred to as the Board) for higher education. According to Article VII of the Constitution, the funds available for higher education from the Support Fund are to be utilized “. . . as that money is appropriated by the Legislature and allocated by the Board of Regents for any or all of the following higher educational purposes to enhance economic development:

- i. the carefully defined research efforts at public and private universities in Louisiana;
- ii. the endowment of chairs for eminent scholars;
- iii. the enhancement of the quality of academic, research, or agricultural departments or units within a university; and,
- iv. the recruitment of superior graduate students.”

The Article further stipulates that “The monies appropriated by the Legislature and disbursed from the Support Fund shall not... displace, replace, or supplant other appropriated funding for higher education...”

Reflecting these Constitutional mandates, the Board of Regents Support Fund policies affirm that awards in all categories will be based on the following considerations:

1. the potential for the award to enhance the overall quality of higher education in Louisiana; and
2. the potential for the award to enhance the economic development of the State.

C. R & D PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR; QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS RFP

Specific questions concerning this RFP and the requirements set forth herein should be directed to Mr. Bryan Jones, Senior Grant Programs Administrator, at bryan.jones@laregents.edu. In compliance with R. S. 39:1503, questions will be accepted and answered until October 16, 2023 (or until 4:30 p.m. of the first working day following this date). As soon as possible after that date, all questions asked about this RFP and answers provided in response to these questions will be posted on the Board of Regents Research and Sponsored Initiatives website, <https://rsi.laregents.edu>. To ensure that all interested parties receive the same information, no inquiries, whether oral or written, will be accepted after the deadline date.

II. TYPES OF R & D SUBPROGRAMS

The Board of Regents Support Fund R & D Program consists of three subprograms: the Industrial Ties Research Subprogram (ITRS) with Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping (PoC/P) Initiative, the Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS) with one-year Research component, and the Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Subprogram. Potential applicants should be aware that: (1) the requirements for research proposals vary, depending upon the subprogram or component in which they are submitted; (2) several sets of criteria have been established to evaluate these proposals; and (3) the ATLAS and RCS with one-year research component are administered under separate RFPs, available on the Research and Sponsored Initiatives website. See

in-depth evaluation forms for research proposals in Appendix A for the criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals submitted in the appropriate subprogram or component.

III. THE INDUSTRIAL TIES RESEARCH SUBPROGRAM with PROOF-OF-CONCEPT/PROTOTYPING INITIATIVE

A. OBJECTIVES

Industrial Ties Research Subprogram (ITRS)

The specific objective of the ITRS is to fund research proposals with significant near-term potential for development and diversification of Louisiana's economic base. Accordingly, all proposals submitted in this subprogram must show evidence of involvement of the private sector. Applicants who anticipate submitting proposals in non-science or non-engineering areas should see the note at the end of this section.

The ITRS is also a stimulus program. To be funded, proposals must provide evidence that the project will: (1) involve significant private-sector or federal funding or, at a minimum, develop a plan to greatly increase the likelihood of receiving federal or private-sector funding in the near future; or (2) result potentially in the enhancement or establishment of a Louisiana business or industry which will attract significant revenues to the State. All faculty at Louisiana institutions of higher education, including senior researchers, who have research ideas that might promote significant near-term economic development in Louisiana are encouraged to apply. In the case of proposals in non-science and non-engineering areas (e.g., tourism), private-sector involvement is not necessarily a requirement, if the applicant can justify the reason for lack of involvement. The stimulus/leveraging concept is relevant, however, and non-science/non-engineering proposals must, at a minimum: (1) present a plan to leverage Support Fund monies in the manner most appropriate to the proposal; and (2) demonstrate how the project will promote and/or enhance economic development in the State.

Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping Initiative (PoC/P)

The specific objective of PoC/P is to solicit science and engineering proposals from the State's tenured, tenure-track, or full-time research professors seeking funding to enable proof-of-concept activities and/or prototype development with research commercialization and technology transfer potential; and contribute to the economic development of Louisiana. Since the goal of PoC/P is to advance innovation toward commercialization, proposals for basic research projects that do not further advance commercial development of an innovation will not be considered.

B. ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. **ELIGIBLE FACULTY:** Only tenured, tenure-track or research professors employed on a full-time basis by an eligible Louisiana institution of higher education may act as principal or co-principal investigators. **An eligible faculty member may serve as a principal or co-principal investigator on a maximum of two ITRS, two PoC/P, or a combination of two projects at any one time.** Individuals who are not eligible to serve as principal or co-principal investigators (e.g., out-of-state scholars, scientists, and/or engineers or employees of industry) may serve as consultants on applications; however, they may not be listed as principal, co-principal, or other (senior advisory faculty) investigators and must not be cited on the cover page of the proposal. If currently holding multiple ITRS/PoCP contracts, the applicant should note that at least one of the previously awarded ITRS or PoC/P contracts must be fully closed out, i.e., all final reporting submitted and approved by BoR including the return of any unobligated funds, before submission of a new notice of intent or proposal. Failure to adhere to this requirement will result in disqualification. Section III.A of this RFP provides more information on the type of researcher targeted in the ITRS and PoC/P component.

Principal investigators who are delinquent in submitting contractually required reports for prior or existing Board of Regents Support Fund and/or federal awards managed by the Board of Regents Research and Sponsored Initiatives Section are precluded from submitting a proposal in response to this RFP until the required report(s) has been received and accepted by the Board.

2. **ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS:** Board policies stipulate that all Louisiana public institutions of higher education and those independent institutions of higher education which are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities are eligible to compete under the Support Fund R & D Program.

3. **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:**

(ITRS): Board policies further stipulate that both basic and applied research proposals that have the potential for contributing to the State's economic development will be considered. Potential applicants should be aware, however, that R & D program funds must be used for research. For example, proposals will not be considered that are designed only to: (1) keep museums and/or laboratories open; (2) add to collections; (3) fund conferences or workshops; (4) purchase instrumentation; (5) provide services; (6) support ongoing operating costs of existing or proposed programs, entities, or projects; or (7) conduct literature reviews and/or develop protocols.

(PoC/P): Proposals must support proof-of-concept and/or prototype development related to an innovation which has been previously disclosed and is actively managed by the institution's Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and has high potential for commercialization and technology transfer to an existing or spin-off company. Any proposal for a project to develop a previously disclosed innovation which is either (1) subject to an unexpired obligation under any university grant or contract, or (2) already licensed or optioned to a company at the time of application for an PoC/P grant, is not eligible and will not be considered.

4. **ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES:** To align the Support Fund more closely with the State's emerging economic initiatives while targeting scarce resources for maximum effect, a modified approach was adopted in FY 2016, in which all disciplines/focus areas are eligible for funding consideration in ITRS and PoC/P provided the project meets subprogram/component goals. However, preference will be given to those applications in areas that have been identified by the BoR and Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED) as targeted industry sectors (see **Table I**). Potential applicants should note that the topic of the research proposal, not the academic training of the potential applicant(s), should be used to determine eligibility under **Table I**.

**TABLE I
TARGETED INDUSTRY SECTORS**

**Advanced Materials and Manufacturing
Life Sciences and Bioengineering
Digital Media and Enterprise Software
Coastal and Water Management
Clean Technology and Energy**

C. MONETARY LIMITATIONS

ITRS: No applicant may seek more than \$350,000 over a three-year period. The total request for the first year may not exceed \$150,000, and the total request for each successive year may not exceed \$100,000. Applicants should be aware, however, that the average first-year ITRS award in FY 2022-23 was \$96,335 with first-year awards ranging from \$77,413 to \$114,239. Applicants may not request increasing amounts of funding in years two and three; requests in these years must be equal to or less than the amount requested in year one.

PoC/P: No applicant may seek less than \$10,000 or more than \$40,000 for a one-year period. The average one-year award in FY 2022-23 was \$38,311, with awards ranging from \$29,864 to \$40,000.

D. PROJECT DURATION

No applicant may seek more than three years of support under the ITRS or one year of support under PoC/P.

E. FUNDS AVAILABLE

The FY 2023-24 Support Fund Plan and Budget allocates \$750,000 to fund new awards in ITRS and PoC/P; funds will be apportioned based on proposal submission pressure. The Support Fund has in recent years received substantially less income than projections indicated, thus the actual amount available for new awards across R & D subprograms may be reduced.

F. COST SHARING, MATCHING COMMITMENTS, AND INDIRECT COST RATE

For all equipment requests under the ITRS subprogram and PoC/P Initiative, the submitting institution must provide and cite on the appropriate budget page(s) a cash match equal to or greater than 25% of the total cost of the requested equipment. Review panels will have authority to recommend to the Board that any R & D application requesting funds for equipment, but lacking the required equipment match, be reduced or not funded.

In calculating the Support Fund request, an indirect cost rate of 25% will be permitted only on salaries, wages, and fringe benefits. If provided as institutional match, indirect costs may be calculated using the submitting institution's federally negotiated rate.

Potential applicants and university officials should note that any institutional cost-sharing commitments are binding. Institutions should note that discounts received on equipment purchases may NOT be included as part of an institutional match. Cost sharing and matching commitments of any kind (e.g., private-sector, federal, institutional) which are pledged in the proposal MUST be honored in full if the proposal is funded at the requested level. Depending upon consultants' recommendations, matching commitments may have to be honored in full even if the award level is reduced. Support Fund money will not be disbursed until appropriate written assurances of all matches and cost sharing promised in the proposal have been received, reviewed, and approved by the Board's staff. Electronic submission of the proposal by the campus serves as certification to the Board that the fiscal agent is aware of the claimed commitment(s) and has determined said commitment(s) to be consistent with all applicable guidelines, regulations, and/or statutes. The fiscal agent's signature, which is required on the budget page(s) of funded projects, is a certification to the Board that commitments pledged in the proposal have been honored. All matching funds must meet the same tests of allowability as Support Fund money requested except as noted in the budgetary restrictions included in this RFP.

ITRS: All ITRS applicants are required to have an "up front" matching commitment from the private/federal sector for at least the first year of the request. A plan to secure subsequent-year matching commitments must be addressed in the budget section of the proposal. If all other criteria are equal, it is likely that those applicants with strong matching commitments will fare better than those lacking such commitments. Grants, awards, and "in-kind" contributions received prior to **June 1, 2023**, may not be applied toward any matching commitments required during the contract term. Additionally, applicants should be aware that inclusion of a private-sector entity as both an industrial partner and a paid consultant/subcontractor represents a potentially serious conflict of interest and is therefore not permitted, except when the participation of a private-sector entity in both roles is essential to conducting proposed research. The proposal must clearly and strongly justify this circumstance and submit a letter signed by the President/Chancellor of the submitting institution certifying that this vendor is the only provider for services to be supported with BoRSF funds. Lastly, any investigator listed in the proposal who has any financial affiliation with a private-sector supporter must fully disclose this affiliation and provide a certified letter signed by the institution verifying that no significant conflict of interest exists. Failure to report this information may result in disqualification of the proposal.

PoC/P: A letter of support from the PI's Department Chair, College Dean, or Center Director that reflects commitment of the necessary time and effort to achieve the goals of the project is required. Letters of interest/support from potential users/developers/investors of the prototype are strongly encouraged.

G. INSTITUTIONAL SCREENING COMMITTEE

Proposals should be carefully screened by a campus committee to ensure that no conflict of interest exists (as defined in the "Code of Governmental Ethics," R.S. 1950, Title 42, Chapter 15, as amended) and that only the most meritorious proposals from each campus, which meet objectives and eligibility requirements as defined in this RFP, are submitted to the Board.

Electronic submission of the proposal by the institution is considered a guarantee that no conflict of interest exists and that the proposal: (1) has been reviewed and approved for submission to the Board by all appropriate institutional officials who regularly are required to review proposals submitted for external review, including the submitting organization's authorized fiscal officer; (2) has met the objectives and eligibility requirements of the subprogram in which it was submitted as described in this RFP; (3) is in the format required by the Board; and (4) where appropriate, has been reviewed by officials within a particular system to ensure that the proposal does not duplicate research currently or formerly funded on a member campus.

H. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS BY OUT-OF-STATE EXPERTS

Board policies stipulate that proposals submitted to the Board of Regents for funding consideration will undergo a merit review by out-of-state experts in the priority areas. Considerable care will be taken to ensure that these reviewers are: (1) expert researchers in their fields; (2) impartial evaluators; and (3) selected, when appropriate, from both academic and non-academic settings.

Separate reviews are conducted for ITRS and PoC/P. The review process for the ITRS subprogram will consist of a subject-area and final panel review; the PoC/P component will consist of a single panel review by experts in specified targeted industry focus areas. All panels may suggest budgetary revisions as they deem necessary and appropriate.

The final panel may also consider certain information provided by economic development experts at the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED). These experts will be asked: (1) to review certain portions of each proposal included in the subject-area review and (2) to comment on the extent to which proposals appear to have significant potential for the development and/or diversification of Louisiana's economy. Applicants should note that the information provided by LED is simply another piece of information that the final panel may or may not use in arriving at its decisions. Individuals from LED do not convene with the final panel, nor are they involved in recommending projects for funding. Even though LED may believe a project has high potential for economic development and/or diversification, the final panel is directed to disregard that information if it believes either that the project: (1) is not scientifically meritorious, technically feasible, and/or sound; and/or (2) does not appear to have significant potential for economic development and/or diversification.

I. FINAL SELECTION OF PROPOSALS TO BE FUNDED

After recommendations from out-of-state experts are submitted, the Board makes final determinations of which proposals will be funded based on the competitive review process.

J. DEBRIEFING

Copies of subject-area ratings completed by out-of-state experts will be provided to affected applicants in late July 2023.

K. TIMETABLE

The following schedule for submission, assessment, and approval of grants through the Support Fund R & D program will apply for FY 2023-24.

July 2023	Request for Proposals Issued
September 11, 2023, 4:30 p.m., Central	Mandatory ITRS and PoC/P Notices of Intent Due through LOGAN
October 16, 2023, 4:30 p.m., Central	Last Day that Potential Applicants May Ask Questions About the RFP
October 31, 2023, 4:30 p.m., Central	Deadline for Receipt of ITRS and PoC/P Proposals through LOGAN
November 2023 – March 2024	Proposals Transmitted to and Reviewed by Out-of-State Experts
April 2024	Reports and Recommendations of Out-of-State Experts Forwarded to Institutions of Higher Education
April 2024	Final Action by the Board
May – June 2024	Contracts Negotiated and Executed
July 2024	Dissemination of Debriefing Information

L. EVALUATION OF FUNDED PROJECTS AND REPORTS REQUIRED

The Board of Regents requires that institutions receiving monies from the Support Fund report periodically on the utilization of these monies. All programs supported by the Support Fund will be reviewed at least annually. As appropriate, the services of out-of-state consultants may be utilized in the evaluation process. Data and information collected for review will vary depending upon the type of activity involved, but all information necessary to assess the effectiveness of each project will be gathered. Annual progress and financial status reports will be required of the principal investigator.

M. PREVIOUS SUBMISSIONS AND REQUESTS FOR CONTINUATION FUNDING

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR PREVIOUS APPLICANTS: Submission of a notice of intent and a research proposal in a previous funding cycle does not relieve the applicant of the requirements set forth in this RFP of submitting another notice of intent and full proposal if he/she wants the same or a similar proposal to be considered in the current funding cycle. This rule holds true regardless of whether the proposal was among those that were considered meritorious and recommended for funding by a peer review panel.

2. **REQUESTS FOR CONTINUATION FUNDING:** Except for those principal investigators whose projects are currently being funded and/or to whom multi-year research contracts have been awarded, all principal investigators who received funding in the past for a particular research project and who want to continue that same project or a very similar project must submit another notice of intent and full proposal in the fiscal year in which they desire continuation funding. If the continuation request is for a project which has been completed, a copy of the final report must be included in the appendices. If the continuation request is for a project which is ongoing, the research proposal must contain a separate section which describes progress to date.

All continuation requests must compete on an equal basis with all other projects submitted for funding consideration in the year in which the continuation request is submitted. If the proposal survives the screening process, out-of-state experts participating in the review panels will be told to base their funding recommendation on their evaluations of both the new proposal and the information concerning past progress, whether it be the final report provided by the principal investigator or a progress and financial status report provided by Support Fund R & D Program staff.

IV. PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF NOTICES OF INTENT & PROPOSALS

A. NOTICES OF INTENT

Before a full proposal will be accepted, the applicant must first submit a completed notice of intent form for each research proposal to be submitted. The notice of intent (NOI) must be submitted via LOGAN to the Board of Regents by 4:30 p.m. Central, September 11, 2023. One of the primary purposes of the NOI is to assist the Support Fund R & D Program staff in identifying potential reviewers based on the targeted areas of focus.

NOTE: All rules, regulations, and limitations in the RFP for ITRS and PoC/P research proposals (e.g., limitations on the maximum amount of funds that may be requested per annum, the number of proposals that may be submitted, etc.) also hold true for NOIs. Note that both NOI and proposal submission processes include two steps: submission by the PI to the campus, and campus approval with submission to the Board or Regents; a proposal cannot be accepted by the Board until both steps are completed.

B. PROPOSALS

Full proposals must be submitted via LOGAN to the Board of Regents by 4:30 p.m. Central on October 31, 2023. After the applicant submits the completed proposal to his/her designated campus office via LOGAN, he/she will receive a sequence of three emails: (1) immediately following the applicant's submission to the campus, confirmation of receipt of the electronic proposal by the campus; (2) following institutional approval and submission, confirmation that the Regents have received the proposal; and (3) as soon as possible after the subprogram submission deadline, an indication of whether the proposal has been submitted in compliance with RFP instructions or disqualified for lack of compliance. The campus will be copied on all confirmations. If necessary, the title of the proposed research and the amount of funds requested in the notice of intent may be changed slightly when the full proposal is submitted. The subprogram or component and focus area under which the proposal is submitted, however, must be the same as that under which the notice of intent was submitted. The substance and subject matter of the proposal may not change.

C. COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS ON OR BEFORE CITED DEADLINES

Submission deadlines are absolute; all campus work on the proposal, including final approval and submission to the Board of Regents by the designated campus office, must be completed on or before the deadline date and time. The online proposal submission system is programmed to close at the deadline(s) cited in this RFP. A proposal sent to the Board of Regents through LOGAN may be released upon request of the submitting institution if additional changes are needed, provided such request is made before the deadline for receipt. A released proposal must be resubmitted through LOGAN prior to the deadline to be eligible for funding consideration.

V. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT

The following requirements and format for research proposals must be followed closely. Proposals which do not adhere to these guidelines will not be accepted for noncompliance and eliminated from funding consideration.

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND STIPULATIONS

NOTE: The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the proposal is complete and correct upon submission to the Board, and no changes may be made to any proposal after the submission deadline. Disqualification of a proposal and/or any reviewer misunderstandings that occur because proposal contents (including all required forms) are incomplete, out of order, or contain incorrect information are solely the responsibility of the applicant.

1. LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS THAT MAY BE SUBMITTED: An applicant may submit a maximum of two research proposals in the ITRS or two PoC/P or combination of the two with the applicant listed as "Principal or Co-Principal Investigator"; however, the same or similar proposal/s may not be submitted under both ITRS and PoC/P in the same competitive cycle. An applicant may be listed as "Other Investigator" on additional proposals in the ITRS or PoC/P.
2. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: The NOI and proposal must be submitted via LOGAN. The LOGAN submission system may be accessed at <https://rsi.laregents.edu> by clicking LOGAN on the menu at the top of the page.
3. GENERAL FORMAT STIPULATIONS: All narrative sections of the proposal must be presented in a single PDF document with pages numbered, 1-inch margins at the top, bottom and on each side, and in type no smaller than 12 point. Forms must be completed, and proposals submitted via LOGAN.
4. ADDENDA SUBMITTED BEFORE OR AFTER RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL: Proposals submitted to the Board must be complete upon submission. No addenda (e.g., letters of support) will be accepted after receipt of the proposal or separate from the LOGAN submission.
1. GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING, LABELING, AND CERTIFYING THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN RESEARCH PROPOSALS: Without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure and except for purposes of evaluation, the Board of Regents will limit dissemination of, or access to, information certified to be of confidential or proprietary nature which falls into a category described by R.S. 44:4(16), as long as the following conditions and assurances have been met and guidelines have been followed.
 - a. The information to be protected must accompany the full proposal and each component of the information to be protected must be clearly and conspicuously identified and marked as confidential. Revisions, amendments, and addenda will not be accepted after the proposal has been submitted or separate from the LOGAN submission.
 - b. A letter must be included in the appendix which:
 - i. Briefly explains and certifies the need for confidentiality;
 - ii. Contains complete identification and mailing addresses of all entities (faculty or staff members, private or public concerns) which have a right to, or ownership of, the confidential information;
 - iii. In the case of public institutions of higher education, provides assurance that this request is in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the institution's management board with respect to R.S. 44:4(16); and
 - iv. Is signed by all entities identified in V.A.5.b.ii.
 - c. The information to be protected and the letter described in V.A.5.a. and V.A.5.b. must be reviewed by the chief administrator of the applicant's university or his/her designee, and he/she must certify in writing that the information is of a confidential or proprietary nature which falls into a category described by R.S. 44:4(16). This signed certification must be included in the appendix.

A person or entity wishing access to documents and/or records as defined previously in this section may request such access by making a specific request to the researcher(s) and any other entity having a proprietary interest. Concurrence among all entities having a proprietary interest is required prior to release of information previously deemed confidential. In cases of denial of a request for access to protected information, the only recourse is an appeal through a court of law. The Board of Regents does not assume any liability for the release of protected information when the release is ordered in accordance with State or federal laws.

7. GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS INVOLVING THE USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS OR VERTEBRATE ANIMALS

- a. Use of Human Subjects: Consistent with the relevant federal policy known as the Common Rule for Behavioral and Social Science Research (*Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects*, 45 CFR 690), Board-sponsored projects involving research with human subjects must ensure that they are protected from research risks. All proposals involving the use of human subjects either must have approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) before an award is made or affirm that the IRB has declared the research exempt from continued oversight. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with their institutional IRB during proposal planning and preparation, and prior to proposal submission.
- b. Use of Vertebrate Animals: Consistent with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act [7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq] and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the Secretary of Agriculture [9 CFR, 1.1-4.11], the Board requires that proposed projects involving the use of vertebrate animals for research or education be approved by the submitting institution's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) before an award can be made. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with their institutional IACUC during proposal planning and preparation.

For proposals involving the use of vertebrate animals, sufficient information should be provided within the narrative and bibliography (see V.B.4), or in the proposal appendix, to enable reviewers to evaluate the choice of species, number of animals to be used, and any necessary exposure of animals to discomfort, pain, or injury. **It is no longer necessary, however, to complete the process of IACUC approval unless and until the proposal is recommended for funding.**

If the proposal is recommended for funding, a letter of approval for intended human/animal protocols by the appropriate IRB or IACUC involving experiments (i.e., surveys, etc.) with human subjects and/or animal subjects **must** be provided prior to contract execution. Also, if applicable, any changes in protocols from that contained in the original proposal should also be indicated and accompany the assurance of IRB/IACUC approval.

B. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT

For access to LOGAN submission instructions, go to <https://rsi.laregents.edu> and click LOGAN on the menu at the top of the page.

1. COVER PAGE: The form is available and must be completed in LOGAN.
2. PROJECT SUMMARY: The project summary may contain a maximum of 250 words and must be entered in the appropriate section in LOGAN.
3. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The final goal to be reached by the end of the grant period, as well as annual goals for any intervening years, must be clearly specified. Major changes in research programs and/or scientific personnel that can be expected when these goals are achieved must be described. This section of the proposal must be no longer than the equivalent of one, single-spaced, typewritten page and uploaded to LOGAN as a separate .pdf document.
4. NARRATIVE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY: The proposal narrative must be uploaded to LOGAN as a PDF and adhere to requirements. The narrative should be succinct and must not exceed fifteen (15) pages (ITRS) or ten (10) pages (PoC/P), single-spaced and with a type size of 12 point or greater. The page limits do not include the bibliography. The bibliography shall not exceed two (2) pages. Pages must have 1-inch margins and be numbered. Reviewers are not required to read additional narrative pages. Information applicable in multiple places may be referenced by page and paragraph. The narrative should conform to the following outline, including all major sections and subsections. For multi-institutional proposals, as appropriate throughout the narrative section, explain the multi-campus agreement(s) in the context of shared funding, resources, arrangements by which the various institutions will share the benefits of the proposed project, and/or cost savings to the State. Also provide documentation in the proposal appendix describing the exact nature of the agreement between/among the institutions involved.

a. Rationale of the Project

ITRS Proposals Must Include:

- i. A description of the relationship of the proposed research to significant near-term economic development and/or diversification in Louisiana, including a description of the target economic sector for which the research is

proposed; potential for the proposed research to remedy problems identified in this economic sector; the manner in which the results will foster economic development or diversification (e.g., the transfer of research results, private-sector/industrial linkages, etc.); and the potential impact of the research if successful (e.g., the research has a broad national/international market, would create new jobs, would allow for the stabilization of an existing industry, etc.).

- ii. A detailed description of private-sector/industrial participation in the project, including past, scheduled, and potential scheduled or potential contacts with industry or the private sector. Contributions of funds, equipment, and services by the private sector on a past, scheduled, or potential basis must also be described in detail.
- iii. Identification of an existing industry that will utilize proposal results or of a new industry that will be created as a result of the proposed research.

In the case of non-science and non-engineering disciplines (e.g., tourism), the rationale should include a description of how the proposed research will enhance/promote economic development in the State. It is understood that the impact of the proposal may be direct or subtle, depending on its focus; however, to the extent feasible, applicants should respond to the items described in this section.

- iv. Include projected mechanisms to transfer results of research to economic development or diversification. Additionally, where appropriate, a technology transfer certification describing the specific actions that have been taken to protect intellectual property and license the technology must be included. The certification must also indicate any spin-off companies that have been formed as a result of the project. This certification should be provided by the technology transfer officer or other appropriate administrative officers of the institution of higher education.

NOTE: The information provided in response to this section of the RFP (V.B.4.a) must also be provided with the abstract of all proposals, either as an integral part of the abstract itself or as an attachment.

PoC/P Proposals Must:

- i. Describe proof-of-concept activities to be undertaken or prototype to be built, the work that has already been performed, and the status of disclosures, patents, etc.;
- ii. Describe the project's significance relative to commercialization, creation of spin-off companies, and economic development both in and out of the State;
- iii. Discuss the market for the product(s) to be developed;
- iv. Provide a statement of work, listing the major tasks to be carried out, a timeline with milestones for accomplishing the tasks, and expected outcomes; and
- v. Describe next steps after the PoC/P project is completed and specific plans for further development after the concept has been proven and/or the prototype has been built and tested.

b. Research Plan

Both ITRS and PoC/P Proposals Must:

- i. Briefly summarize the expected significance, methods, limitations, and relationship of the study to the present state of knowledge in the field and to comparable work in progress elsewhere;
- ii. Provide a schedule of proposed activities with benchmarks indicated throughout the proposed grant period;
- iii. Provide performance measures which indicate how the Board of Regents or other entity will determine whether the project has been a success and the degree to which it has achieved its goals;
- iv. Include plans for publications (ITRS) and/or commercial development (PoC/P) and a description of how the level of competitive research or development achieved during the period of the Board's grant will be maintained after funding ends; and
- v. Include projected mechanisms to transfer results of project activities to economic development or diversification. Additionally, where appropriate, a technology transfer certification describing the specific actions that have been taken to protect intellectual property and license the technology must be included. The certification must also indicate any spin-off companies that have been formed as a result of the project. This certification should be

provided by the technology transfer officer or other appropriate administrative officers of the institution of higher education.

c. Involvement and Qualifications of Investigators, Other Faculty, and Students

Qualifications of investigators to undertake the proposed research should be indicated. A brief statement should be included that describes the responsibilities of each person involved, the amount of time/effort each person will devote to the project, whether release time will be given and, if so, the amount, type, and duration of release time (see also Section V.B.5.d for information on salary requests).

A description of any supportive and/or interdisciplinary expertise needed to enhance the potential success of the research, including joint research activities with other researchers or research groups at the same or other institutions, must be included.

If funds for graduate or undergraduate assistants, postdoctoral appointments, visiting faculty, etc., are requested, the roles of these staff in accomplishing objectives of the project must be clearly defined.

d. Institutional Capabilities and Commitment

Institutional capabilities and commitment with respect to the proposed research must be described, including available facilities and major items of equipment especially adapted or suited to the proposed research.

e. Bibliography

5. BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE: (Also see Section III.F of this RFP relative to cost sharing commitments, matching commitments, and indirect cost rates.)

Budget forms must be completed in LOGAN. Corresponding budget narratives are required and will be uploaded separately.

Applicants may not request increasing amounts of funding in years two and three; requests in these years must be equal to or less than the amount requested in year one.

a. Format

A completed budget must be submitted in LOGAN for each year for which support is requested. A corresponding budget narrative must be provided for each year which fully explains every item for which the expenditure of Support Fund money is proposed. **A full line-item explanation of institutional cost sharing and/or matching support must also be included.** A cumulative budget will automatically be generated from the annual budget. No cumulative narrative is required.

NOTE: All matching funds for which the principal investigator has received a commitment from an external source and which are cited in the text of the application must be listed on the budget page and explained in the budget justification section. This is especially crucial for applications submitted in ITRS, for which industrial/private-sector support is an important consideration in funding decisions.

b. Project Activation Date and Anticipated Date of Completion

ITRS: The project activation date is June 1, 2024, and the termination date is no later than June 30 of the year in which the principal investigator envisions the project should terminate, not to exceed a total of three years. No-cost extensions may be requested to complete project activities per Louisiana R. S. 39:1514. This statute specifies that “contracts or amendments to existing contracts issued to institutions of higher education under the authority of the Board of Regents to awards for educational purposes with funds available from the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund, the Louisiana Fund, and the Health Excellence Fund may be entered into for periods of not more than six years. However, such contracts may be extended beyond the six-year limit up to an additional two-year period provided no additional costs are incurred.” Board-approved no-cost extensions for ITRS projects shall not exceed two years.

PoC/P: The project activation date is June 1, 2024, with the project completed within a maximum of 13 months from the start date, or June 30, 2025. No-cost extensions will be considered only upon request, in exceptional circumstances, and for a maximum period of one year, with sufficient justification and documented evidence of continued progress towards defined project milestones.

c. Disallowed Budgetary Items

As indicated in Section I.B of this RFP, “Purposes of the Board of Regents Support Fund,” Article VII, Section 10.1, of the Louisiana Constitution stipulates that “The monies appropriated by the Legislature and disbursed from the Support Fund shall not ... displace, replace, or supplant other appropriated funding for higher education...” Applicants must make a case in their proposals that what they are proposing does not violate this stipulation. Applicants should also be aware that the Support Fund Program staff will make the final panel of out-of-state evaluators aware of this Constitutional prohibition, as well as the current economic climate for higher education in Louisiana. The panel will then be asked to develop recommendations relative to whether providing Support Fund money for specific proposals under serious consideration would violate this constitutional stipulation. Board of Regents Support Fund money may not be used to support regular, ongoing operating costs of existing or proposed programs, entities, or projects.

The scope of the Support Fund R & D Program also does not permit: (1) purchase of office furniture or routine office equipment (e.g., standard desktop computers for faculty offices); (2) construction of facilities; (3) maintenance of equipment, whether existing or purchased through the Support Fund; (4) routine renovation, expansion in size, or upgrading; (5) compensation of faculty from the submitting university to train other faculty at the same university, or faculty at other universities who are a part of an interinstitutional project; or (6) similarly, the payment of honoraria to faculty, whether they are involved in or external to the proposal, to learn how to use Support Fund-purchased equipment. Faculty professional development time in question should either be provided as part of the institutional match or donated by the faculty concerned.

Support may not be requested for shortfalls or deficits in budgets, scholarships or tuition, augmentation of salaries of individuals pursuing regularly assigned duties, or unspecified contingencies. Finally, funds may not be requested for proposed centers or institutes which require Board of Regents approval prior to their establishment and which have not been previously approved.

Potential applicants should note that funds may be requested for foreign travel. If the project is funded, however, permission for foreign travel must be obtained from the Division of Administration, as stipulated in the State General Travel Regulations. Discounts received for equipment purchases are not eligible as part of the institutional match.

Only under exceptional circumstances may Support Fund dollars be used to support institutional memberships to business, technical, and/or professional organizations. Individual faculty memberships to any of the above are disallowed.

Costs for cell phone, internet, postage, or printing annual/progress reports to the Board of Regents are disallowed.

d. Funds for Project Personnel

Principal Investigators

Requests for academic-year salary support are to be based on the investigator’s regular compensation for the continuous period which, under the policy of the institution concerned, constitutes the basis of the investigator’s salary. Summer salary requests are to be at a monthly rate not to exceed the base monthly salary multiplied by the number of months for which summer salary is to be paid. All salary paid by ITRS or PoC/P must be accompanied by a pledge of equivalent release from regular duties by the institution.

ITRS: Principal Investigator(s) may request partial salary support at an annual amount not to exceed 25% academic-year salary plus two months’ summer support.

PoC/P: Principal Investigator(s) may request partial salary support at an amount not to exceed one month of academic-year or summer support. Requested salary must be strongly justified based on project needs.

Support Personnel

If funds for graduate or undergraduate assistants, postdoctoral researchers, visiting faculty, etc., are requested, the roles of these staff in accomplishing objectives of the program must be clearly identified, and the budget must clearly show the percentage of time they will be involved and the rate of pay. **The principal investigator must request the Board’s prior approval to compensate support personnel, including postdoctoral research associates, research**

technicians, and/or graduate assistants, at higher levels than those requested in the proposal and/or specified by the funding stipulations for a grant.

Current annual or academic-year salaries (FY 2023-24) for principal and co-principal investigators and support personnel requesting salary support must be stated in the proposal. Moreover, if salary support is requested, the applicants must certify that: (1) Support Fund monies will not supplant State funds; and (2) full-time employees will not, under any circumstances, receive funds in excess of 100% of their regular salary through Support Fund monies. Institutions are encouraged to supplement salaries, if necessary, in the form of an institutional match.

No-cost extensions granted by the Board will not entitle principal or co-principal investigators to rebudget funds for additional salary support.

e. Support for Graduate Education

Graduate assistant funding requested from the Board or pledged as an institutional and/or private match must be maintained in full if a proposal is recommended for funding. If suitable graduate students are not available, the principal investigator must request the Board's prior approval to rebudget these funds and may use them for the support of postdoctoral researchers, technical personnel, and/or qualified student workers only.

Support Fund money may not be requested to pay tuition or fringe benefits for graduate assistants or graduate and undergraduate student workers. However, tuition and fringe benefits for graduate and/or undergraduate students may be provided as part of an institution's match. Small institutions in which summer school enrollment is not possible as a result of course selections that are inconsistent with the student's planned program of study may request Support Fund money for the payment of federally required fringe benefits only.

f. Equipment

Equipment may be requested only in the context of the particular research initiative proposed and the request must contain, at a minimum, a cash match equal to or greater than 25% of the total cost of the requested equipment. Applicants should note that priority will be given to proposals with a match greater than the minimum. If equipment is requested, the proposal must contain: (1) a description of the equipment, as well as who would use it and in what capacity; (2) a plan for shared use, if appropriate; (3) a plan for the technical operation and maintenance of the equipment both during the award period and after the Support Fund award ends; and (4) a justification of need for the equipment. Equipment must be retained and owned by the institution.

6. CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT/HISTORY OF SUPPORT: Applicants **must** complete both the "Current and Pending Support" form, and the "History of Support" form, both available in LOGAN. The "History of Support" form must describe, at a minimum, the last five years of support. Where appropriate, the applicant must include information [including the BoRSF contract number(s)] about all previous Support Fund awards received for which he/she was the principal investigator or a co-principal investigator.
7. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Biographical sketches for all key personnel and consultants (if appropriate) are limited to two pages and must be provided in the form available in LOGAN.
8. PROPOSAL APPENDIX: Essential material supplementary to the text of the proposal should be uploaded as a single .pdf document. The appendix must be referenced in the proposal narrative, and under no circumstances may the total page count for all materials exceed 15 pages (ITRS) and 10 pages (PoC/P). All material must be submitted in LOGAN; supplementary documents (published books, compact discs, printed photos, etc.) will not be accepted.

a. Attachments/Supplemental Information

All general supporting materials (e.g., charts, photos) to which reference is made in the narrative section must be clearly marked and included in this section.

b. Letters of Support

ITRS: Letters of support are strongly encouraged in instances where (1) the support of industry is required to conduct the research; and (2) an agency (other than the applicant's employing institution) or a person (other than the project personnel) will assist or collaborate in the research in some manner. Either in the letter of support or in a separate

statement, the extent to which the collaborating agency and/or individual will assist or collaborate must be made clear. Additionally, if the agency or person is to be paid from money provided by the Support Fund, the rate of pay should be included in the budget justification. **If the project is selected for funding, any letters of support included in the proposal must be updated and resubmitted when contract documents are submitted to reaffirm the level of commitment made to the project.**

Letters of support that are forwarded to the Board's office separately from the full proposal—either before or after submission—will not be accepted. Letters of support indicating private-sector involvement are strongly encouraged for Industrial Ties Research Subprogram applicants.

PoC/P: All letters of interest/support from potential users/developers/investors of the concept/prototype are strongly encouraged. Letters are to be included at the end of the proposal and are not considered part of the ten-page project narrative. A letter of support from the PIs' Department Chair, College Dean, or Center Director that reflects commitment of the principal investigator's and other investigator'(s) time and effort to achieve the goals of the project is required.

APPENDIX A

SAMPLE PROPOSAL EVALUATION FORMS

BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND
INDUSTRIAL TIES RESEARCH SUBPROGRAM (ITRS)
Science/Engineering

A. RESEARCH INNOVATION AND SCIENTIFIC RIGOR (35 Points) _____

- Does the proposal show innovative approaches and potential to advance the state of the art in science, engineering, or technology?
- Are the procedures and research methods clear, appropriate, and realistic within the amount of time proposed?
- Are the objectives clearly defined and able to be accomplished by the proposed approach?

COMMENTS:

B. CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (30 Points) _____

- What is the expected economic impact of the proposed study on the Louisiana economy, and in general?
- Does the project have significant potential to achieve the following?
 - a. The establishment of a new business or industry
 - i. Evaluation of the potential for commercial use of research results within the Louisiana economy
 - ii. Extent to which technology-based business would be interested in the project
 - b. The enhancement of existing business or industry
 - i. Evaluation of the extent to which the proposed project would establish a new relationship between the researchers and one or more corporate sponsors (rather than simply reinforce--or subsidize--an existing relationship)
 - ii. Evaluation of the extent to which the project is part of a coherent plan for expanding university R & D activities in this area over a multi-year period
- To what extent has the principal investigator demonstrated private-sector involvement and/or support?

COMMENTS:

C. POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS (25 Points)

- Do the training, past performance, and potential of the investigators suggest a high potential for success?
- Do the institutional commitment, support, and capabilities suggest high potential for success?
- Have the personnel been appropriately assigned to specific tasks?

COMMENTS:

D. APPROPRIATENESS OF BUDGET (10 Points) _____

- Is the budget reasonable for the scope of work to be performed?
- Is the request for personnel costs reasonable?
- Is the request for equipment/supply costs appropriate?

COMMENTS:

TOTAL SCORE (Out of 100) _____

OVERALL RATING OF PROPOSAL

Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent

BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND
INDUSTRIAL TIES RESEARCH SUBPROGRAM
Non-Science/Non-Engineering

A. RESEARCH INNOVATION AND ACADEMIC/INTELLECTUAL RIGOR (35 Points) _____

- Does the proposal demonstrate conceptual originality and clear potential to advance the quality and/or availability of Louisiana's academic and/or cultural resources?
- Are the procedures and research methods clear, appropriate, and realistic within the amount of time proposed?
- Are the objectives clearly defined? Can they be accomplished by the proposed approach?

COMMENTS:

B. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (30 Points) _____

- Will the proposed research have a broad positive impact on state/national academic and/or cultural resources?
- Does the proposed research address an important problem or need and represent an improvement upon, or a valid departure from, an existing practice?
- Will the project yield products and/or outcomes, such as information, materials, processes, or techniques, that can be disseminated to and/or utilized in other settings?
- Did the applicant explain how the project would promote and/or enhance economic development in Louisiana?

COMMENTS:

B. POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS (25 Points) _____

- Do the training, past performance, and potential of the investigators suggest a high potential for success?
- Do the institutional commitment, support, and capabilities suggest high potential for success?
- Have the personnel been appropriately assigned to specific tasks?
- Has the applicant demonstrated a commitment to the project and a capacity to build upon the project when BoRSF support ends?
- Does the proposal offer the strong prospect of attracting private-sector and/or federal funds or present a plan to leverage Support Fund dollars?

COMMENTS:

D. APPROPRIATENESS OF BUDGET (10 Points)

- Is the budget reasonable for scope of work to be performed?
- Is the request for personnel costs reasonable?
- Is the request for equipment/supply costs appropriate?

COMMENTS:

TOTAL SCORE (Out of 100) _____

OVERALL RATING OF PROPOSAL

Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent

**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND
PROOF-OF-CONCEPT/PROTOTYPING (PoC/P) INITIATIVE**

A. TECHNICAL MERIT (40 Points) _____

- Is innovation reduced to practice and not subject to near-term obsolescence?
- Are the R&D methods, procedures and budget sustainable?
- Is the scope of work consistent with timeline and budget?
- Are the project milestones and projected project outcomes reasonable?

COMMENTS:

B. COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY (40 Points) _____

- Does the proposal present a disruptive product or significant improvement over existing commercial solutions?
- Is the potential scope of intellectual property protection adequately described?
- Is a compelling justification presented for the need to explore commercial viability?
- Is evidence presented for commercial viability and the need for further R&D documented?

COMMENTS:

C. POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS (20 Points) _____

- Has interest been demonstrated by potential users/commercial partners?
- What are the size and scope of the potential target market or patent application filed?
- Is the prior art search completed, with meaningful scope of claims?

COMMENTS:

TOTAL SCORE (Out of 100) _____

OVERALL RATING OF PROPOSAL

Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____