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Subject: NSF Partnerships for Innovation: Building Innovation Capacity (PFI: BIC), NSF 13-587

Date: August 28, 2013

The Partnerships for Innovation: Building Innovation Capacity (PFI:BIC) program supports academe-industry partnerships, which are led by an interdisciplinary academic research team with a least one industry partner, to collaborate in building technological and human innovation capacity. This innovation capacity is intended to endure beyond the initial award. Partnerships that build the capacity to innovate are expected to be effective at innovating and able to continue to innovate. They are highly intentional about creating an environment that fosters innovation. These partnerships not only develop new technology but also foster the development of human capital that embraces a culture of change, nurtures the generation of new ideas, and considers feedback an integral part of the innovation processes. Partnership members are diverse, representing a spectrum of backgrounds, perspectives, and skills. Partnership activities that drive sustained innovation include the targeted allocation of resources such as capital, time, facilities; and sharing of knowledge in a cross-organizational and interdisciplinary context.

The PFI:BIC partnership team should focus on technological innovations with potential for significant economic/societal impact. The team collaborates on research, focusing on novel applications motivated by existing research discoveries and based on a platform technology with the potential to achieve transformational change in existing service systems or to spur entirely new service systems. To attain this goal, these partnerships, which inherently require interdisciplinary research, must address what is needed to advance this technology so as to enable a “smart” service system or systems to enter into the commercialization process, succeed in the marketplace, and achieve positive economic, social, and environmental outcomes. Such advancement involves not only engineering, computer science, and other fields of science, but also an understanding of the potential interaction of the technology with customers and the broader public affected by the technology, the “socio-technical system.” A full understanding of the socio-technical system will require interdisciplinary teams that include social, behavior, and/or cognitive sciences. Finally, the team should demonstrate an understanding of potential commercial applications and markets, which should contribute to guiding the project activities. Examples of technology applied to service systems include smart healthcare, smart cities, on-demand transportation, precision agriculture, smart infrastructure, and other technologies enabling self-service and customized service solutions. **WEBINARS:** Webinars will be held to answer questions about the solicitation. Register on the BIC website where details will be posted (<http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/pfi/bic.jsp>). In addition to potential applicants and their partners, Vice Presidents for Research and academic personnel concerned with the review of their institutions' selection of candidates for submission as well as individuals from Sponsored Research Offices are encouraged to attend.

NSF will make awards subject to the availability of funds and quality of proposals. Awards may be up to \$800,000, with an award duration of three (3) years. *In other words, the total budget request to NSF for the lead institution and all others participating in the project cannot exceed \$800,000.*

As appropriate, awardees have the option to allocate funds for the participation of industrial partners and other primary partners in the project research activities in the form of subawards. Whether or not the option to allocate funds to the partners is exercised, it should be clear how the funds and other resources of the project (e.g., special facilities, equipment, and students) are shared by the partnership.

Please note additional eligibility information for BIC proposals:

- The PI cannot concurrently be a PI on more than one active PFI: BIC award.
- A PI who submits a proposal in response to this program solicitation **may not submit a proposal for funding consideration in the same fiscal year** to the Partnerships for Innovation: Accelerating Innovation Research (PFI: AIR) program.
- One (1) U.S.-based industrial partner organization must participate on the BIC proposal.
- The industrial partner must have commercial revenues including sales, services, and licensing. Grants may contribute to its revenues but may not constitute the entirety of its revenues.
- Only industrial partners that qualify as a small business per the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program definition can receive subawards.
- Because service systems are socio-technical systems requiring understanding of people, organizations, and information, the team and the project must contain expertise and activity that reflect these requirements.

More details can be found at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13587/nsf13587.htm>. The NSF deadline for the **required** letter of intent is November 18, 2013, with full proposals to the agency due January 27, 2014.

**This is a limited competition. Each institution is limited to two (2) Building Innovation Capacity (BIC) proposals. Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus budget and CV; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 to [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu) with the subject line indicating: NSF-BIC- your name.** No late submissions will be considered. The pre-proposal should address the major points that will be included in the proposal narrative, including: important aspects of the project, such as information about the three required components: engineering, computer science, and social, behavioral and/or cognitive science and other scientific components, as applicable. Describe briefly the **platform technology** and its potential to enable a "smart" service system or systems. Provide for each **industrial partner**: Name, Founding Date, Number of Employees, Location (City & State), Commercial Revenues for the preceding calendar year, and Mission/Technical Foci. Reasonable abbreviations can be used. For the **activities advancing** platform technology that enables "Smart" service system(s), list several major activities proposed as leading to barriers being overcome and/or the identification of new applications. The narrative should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** and an **abbreviated PI CV**. The scoring will be weighted as follows: proposal narrative (70%), draft budget overview (15%), and abbreviated PI CV (15%).

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Susan De Los Santos ([sdelossa@unm.edu](mailto:sdelossa@unm.edu) or 277-0272) or Monica Fishel ([mlfishel@unm.edu](mailto:mlfishel@unm.edu) or 277-8114).

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford at 272-6950 for more information.