

**Office of Technology Partnerships**  
**Call for Applications**  
**Proof of Concept Grants 2020-2021**

The Office of Technology Partnerships is pleased to announce its solicitation for **Proof of Concept Funds** for the FY 20-21.

This is a special grant available for UCR faculty and research staff who have UCR owned intellectual property or technology, including inventions and copyrights, and are interested in its further development and commercialization.

This year, we will be offering a one-time competitive selected award of up to \$50,000 for up to 5 qualified applicants. Allocation of funds will depend on achievable milestones proposed.

Funding can be used to support students, postdoctoral researchers or research scientists to conduct technical and market validation studies to determine interest from the private sector to further develop and commercialize the UCR intellectual property.

Grant recipients will be assisted by an assigned **Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR)** who will provide guidance with respect to definition of technical and market validation milestones. The EIR will also provide coaching and mentoring as well as access to a broad network of resources throughout the funding period and beyond.

Funds for these projects have been secured through a gift from **Eurosemillas, S.A.** under the Eurosemillas Technology Acceleration Program to UCR and managed by the Office of Technology Partnerships. Information regarding last year's awardees can be found [here](#). This year, Eurosemillas has committed to grant at least two additional awards to partner international universities in Chile and Spain.

Applicants may submit a **Notice of Intent** in any technology or research area. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, agriculture, smart agriculture, agribusiness, health care, data science, digitalization/digital transformation, energy, environmental technology, sustainability, smart mobility, automation, and the creative arts. Multidisciplinary, multi-PI proposals are especially encouraged.

Eligible projects will be selected to present to an external panel of industry executives in early January of 2021 who will select grant recipients.

***Eligibility:***

- A PI must be a tenure-track faculty member or research staff at UCR and may submit no more than one application. All awardees must be active and NOT on Sabbatical.
- A completed intellectual property disclosure with an assigned UC Case number by UCR Technology Commercialization, and/or resulting patent application(s) must be in place to be eligible for the award. The proposed project must be covered under this intellectual property disclosure and the resulting patents.

- Past recipients of awards are eligible to apply.

To be considered for the award, interested applicants need to submit a **Notice of Intent** by **11:59 PST on Sunday, November 22nd, 2020**. Please send your submission to [judy.swineford@ucr.edu](mailto:judy.swineford@ucr.edu).

The **Notice of Intent** needs to contain the following information:

1. Title of the project
2. Key team members, department/center affiliation of applicant(s) and contact information.
3. Description of the problem or need that your technology/invention addresses.
4. Description of the project and technology associated.
5. Why will your technology or solution be more effective in addressing the problem or unmet need?
6. Who do you think are the customers or potential licensees of the technology? Have you received any interest in your project or technology?
7. How will you use the award?
8. Have you submitted a disclosure to UCR Technology Commercialization? (If yes, please indicate the title and case number).

Please limit your response to no more than three pages, singled spaced font 11 pt. Arial or Times New Roman.

The **Notices of Intent** will be reviewed by the Office of Technology Partnerships team. Applicants that meet the review criteria will be notified by **Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020** and will be asked to complete a PowerPoint slide deck to present to the external review panel on **January 11th or 12th, 2021**.

***Review Criteria:*** In support of the goal of this initiative, external reviewers will focus on the strengths and weakness of each presentation in these areas:

1. Unmet need or potential opportunity.
2. Impact and innovation of the project.
3. Feasibility for the project to achieve proposed goals within the specified timeline.
4. Potential for translation and commercialization.
5. Multidisciplinary nature of the project.
6. Potential strength of the intellectual property.

To be clear, the **Proof of Concept** funding is NOT intended to be used for continued research, but rather further development, translation, and commercialization of the UCR intellectual property.

Awards will be announced by **Sunday, January 31st, 2021**. Projects are expected to commence in March of 2021.

Award recipients will be expected to work with their assigned EIR to:

- Develop detailed milestone plan.
- Provide a budget and timeline for expenditure of funds. Funds will be released in tranches based on proposed milestone plan.
- Provide a quarterly report detailing their project progress and use of funds.
- Receive feedback from prospective customers or partners through a customer interview process by attending the UCR INNOVA'R I-Corps program.
- Develop a commercialization plan for your UCR intellectual property.

The awards are to be used during the 12-month period immediately following issuance of the award. All unused funds must be returned to the Office of Technology Partnerships.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Rosibel Ochoa ([rosibel.ochoa@ucr.edu](mailto:rosibel.ochoa@ucr.edu)) and Brian Suh ([brian.suh@ucr.edu](mailto:brian.suh@ucr.edu)).