



Third Frontier

Innovation Creating Opportunity

Technology Validation and Start-Up Fund

The goal of the Ohio Third Frontier Technology Validation and Start-Up Fund (TVSF) is to increase economic growth in Ohio through start-up companies that commercialize technologies developed by Ohio institutions of higher education and other Ohio not-for-profit research institutions. The TVSF has been designed to:

- Support protected technologies developed at eligible Ohio research institutions that need to be validated/proven and that will directly impact and enhance these technologies' commercial viability and ability to support a start-up company; and
- Support Ohio start-up and young companies that license these validated/proven technologies from these Ohio institutions.

Two separate mechanisms have been set up to achieve these goals:

Phase 1 – Technology Validation

The specific objectives of this phase are as follows:

- To generate the proof needed to move technology to the point that it is either ready to be licensed by an Ohio start-up company or otherwise deemed unfeasible for commercialization. The applicant is encouraged, prior to applying for Phase 1, to work with potential Ohio licensees to identify the proof needed.
- To fund validation activities, such as prototyping, demonstrations, and assessment of critical failure points in subsequent development, scale-up, and commercialization. This will generate the needed proof, with a strong preference for these validation activities to be performed by an independent source.

Phase 2 – Start-Up Funds

The specific objectives of this phase are as follows:

- To support Ohio start-up companies that have licensed technology developed at Ohio research institutions during the critical early life of the company, and accelerate the time to market of this technology.
- To generate the proof needed to either commercialize the technology or move the technology to the point where additional funds needed for commercialization can be raised. The applicant is encouraged to have a clearly identified path to subsequent funding opportunities and work directly with potential investors to identify the proof they require to invest in the company.
- To fund activities – including, but not limited to, beta prototype development and deployment to potential customers for testing and evaluation and market research/business development – in order to generate the needed proof.

The TVSF will support an Ohio institution-developed technology that falls within the following technology areas:

- Advanced Materials related to advanced polymers, ceramics, composites, carbon fibers and nanotubes, and specialty metals and alloys;
- Aeropropulsion Power Management;
- Agribusiness;
- Fuel Cells and Energy Storage;
- Medical Technology related to imaging, surgical instruments/equipment, implant devices, and regenerative medicine;
- Software Applications for business and healthcare;
- Sensing and Automation Technologies;
- Situational Awareness and Surveillance Systems; or
- Solar Photovoltaics.

Lead Applicants/Collaborators

- Phase 1 – Ohio higher education institutions or other Ohio not-for-profit research institutions with prior review and selection of the application by the institution's Technology Transfer Office
- Phase 2 – Ohio start-ups and young, emerging Ohio companies that will execute an exclusive license with an Ohio higher education or other Ohio not-for-profit research institution for a technology within nine months from the date of the Phase 2 application

Funding/Cost Share

Program funds of \$6 million are available for fiscal year 2013 (\$3 million each for Phase 1 and Phase 2).

RFP Timeline

- RFP Released – November 7, 2013
- Technology Transfer Office Qualification Document – 2:00 p.m. on December 2, 2013
- Proposals Due – 2:00 p.m. on December 13, 2013
- Awards – Late Winter 2014

Program Website

http://development.ohio.gov/bs_thirdfrontier/tvsf.htm

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