

# **FC<sup>2</sup> Collaborative Seed Grant Program**

## **Program Description:**

The Florida Center for Cybersecurity (FC<sup>2</sup>) supports and encourages collaboration across the State University System (SUS) to promote research innovation and productivity in cybersecurity. The competitive FC<sup>2</sup> Collaborative Seed Grant Program advances that objective by funding research teams with investigators from at least two different SUS institutions for projects that align with FC<sup>2</sup> strategic priorities and have strong potential to attract external funding.

## **Eligibility Information**

Applicants must be eligible to be principal investigators (PI) for external grants at their home institutions. The proposed project must designate one PI and one Co-PI, who meet the eligibility criteria, each employed by a different SUS institution.

A faculty member may submit only one application as PI or Co-PI per funding cycle but is not limited as a collaborator or team member on other projects.

## **Award Information**

### Estimated Funding and Number of Awards:

Approximately \$500,000 will be available from FC<sup>2</sup> annually for awards under this program. Budget for each award can be a maximum of \$50,000 for one year. It is anticipated that there will be 10 awards per solicitation. Awards may be renewed competitively for one additional year.

Applications that include matching funds from an institutional and/or industrial sources will be given more weight during the review process. Matching can be in cash, academic release time for faculty members, or student stipends.

### Scope of the Award:

Applications must pertain to cybersecurity, information assurance, or digital forensics. Preference will be given to applications that address current high-priority topics, which for 2014 include:

- Cyber Mission Assurance (to protect or ensure the continued function and resilience of capabilities and assets through risk management)
- Cyber Resilience (the ability of a system or domain to withstand attacks or failures, and in such events, to reestablish itself quickly)
- Network mapping, scaled visualization, and mission mapping
- Defensive Cyber Maneuver
- Enhancing Network Defense Analysis through Behavior Analysis
- Applying Multilingual Social Media Analytics in Information Assurance
- Improving the Discovery and Retrieval of Relevant Knowledge/Intelligence Products

- Mission Driven Data Management
- Insider Threat in the Cyber Domain

Award funds may be allocated for a variety of expenses, including pilot projects, prototype development, demonstration of educational/public service programs, domestic travel, data collection and analysis, and graduate student salaries. Funds cannot be used for construction, renovation, administrative assistance, or international travel. Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs are not allowed under this program. Summer salary for Co-PIs can be requested up to a total of \$10,000 per year (note: this is a total, not per Co-PI).

Project activities may include, but are not limited to

- Workshops on emerging multidisciplinary research areas (excluding food and beverage)
- Support of a high-level seminar series to promote networking for formation of an innovation program (excluding food and beverage)
- Development of concepts and white papers for large-scale centers, institutes or cluster hires
- Travel to establish partnerships or to interact with program officers
- Identification and recruitment of industrial, academic and/or government partnerships in support of initiatives
- Development of plans to promote industrial research collaborations
- Creation and support of resources such as research consortia, collaboration sites or social networking tools to facilitate large-scale inter-university research programs
- Collection of preliminary data needed for external proposal submission

Award recipients are required to submit a proposal for competitive external funding prior to the end of the Collaborative Seed Grant Program period.

## **Application Proposal Information**

### Proposal Format:

Application narrative should not exceed five pages, references, biographical sketches/CVs, budget and budget justification are not included in the page count The document should be in Microsoft Word (.docx) format, and single-spaced, using Times New Roman, 12-point font and one-inch margins.

Application Content: The proposal should include the following elements:

- Abstract (250 words maximum)
- Narrative:
  - Introduction: Introduction of the topic and clear statement of the project's purpose, its significance to the field, and its relationship to other scholarship the Co-PIs have done in the past or intend to pursue in the future.
  - Project Plan: Outline of proposed data/information sources, methodology, outcome measures and analysis plan. Describe how this project will support applications for

future external funding with reference to a specific opportunity (program and funding agency) if possible.

- Key Personnel:
  - A 2-page biographical sketch/vitae summary for each Co-PI and project faculty in the format used by the National Science Foundation (NSF).
- Prior, Current, and Pending Funding Support:
  - A list of external grants (past 5 years, current and pending) for each Co-PI including title, award amount, funding period, and funding agency.
- Project Budget:
  - 1-page budget and 1-page budget justification.
- Letters of Support as appropriate

## **Review Process and Selection Criteria:**

Applications will be assessed by review panels composed of subject matter experts from across the Florida SUS, which will be identified by members of the FC<sup>2</sup> SUS Advisory Committee. Experts from non-SUS institutions will be sought, if needed. Each proposal will receive at least three reviews addressing the following criteria and rated on a 100-point scale. The FC<sup>2</sup> director will make the final selection based on the rankings of the proposals and attention will be given to the diversity of ideas and the number of collaborative SUS and/or industry partners included. The following criteria will be used:

- Scholarly Merit and Feasibility (40 points)
  - Clear case to address (or has a plan to address) an important gap in existing knowledge or to significantly advance knowledge in the discipline
  - Project objectives are clearly specified, with appropriate outcomes metrics and are achievable and realistic for the project period
  - Clearly specified work plan
  - Aligns with FC<sup>2</sup> strategic priorities
- Qualifications of project personnel (20 points)
  - Co-PIs qualified to execute project plan, manage the team, and produce the deliverables
  - Team roles clearly defined
  - Includes multiple disciplines where appropriate
- Budget and facilities (20 points)
  - Appropriate amount. Properly allocated. Well justified. High return on investment.
  - Balance of involvement of participating SUS institutions.
  - Institutional or industrial matching funds.
- Broader Impact (10 pts)
  - Connections to collaborations with other SUS initiatives, industry in the state, and governmental assets in the state.
  - Technology transfer activities in terms of intellectual property generated, licenses and startup companies.
- Potential for generating external funding (10 points)
  - High potential for follow-up funding with a clearly defined plan to pursue a specific funding opportunity.

## **Timeline:**

RFP issued	September 15 <sup>th</sup> 2014
Submission Deadline	December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014
Award Announcement	January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2014

Subsequent years will follow a similar timeline.

## **Reporting**

Technical and financial reports are due 6 months after the end date of the project. The final report should include the following information (title of project, name of investigator(s), expected dates of performance, amount, and funding agency) about follow on proposal(s) submitted to other agencies for continued support of the project.

## **Additional Comments:**

FC2 may establish a special seminar or conference where all funded research will be reported. FC2 may contact PIs and students of approved projects from time to time for additional reporting information.

Any financial or programmatic changes will require prior approval of FC2 before such changes can be implemented.

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the proposer, should be included in proposals only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project. Such information must be clearly marked in the proposal and be appropriately labeled with a legend such as: "The following is (proprietary or confidential) information that (name of proposing organization) requests not be released to persons outside USF, except for purposes of review and evaluation.