Call for Proposals

Research and Development Science Team Seed Grants

Due: May 31, 2021

Funding available: typically up to $125,000 over 18 months

Apply Here

DPI invites you to join your colleagues in building DPI's research and development portfolio by applying for a DPI R&D Science Team Seed Grant. Science teams should be interdisciplinary and inter-institutional with the goals of creating new economic value, answering significant research questions, and addressing societal challenges. Applicants should address these goals by establishing innovative research teams or new businesses. The 2021 cohort will add to our list of successful and dynamic teams created in 2020.

For this funding opportunity DPI is seeking proposals in the following sectors:

- Digital Government
- Finance and Insurance
- Food and Agriculture
- Health and Wellness
- Information Technology
- Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Water and Climate

Proposals should draw upon on the advances in and the applications of data analytics or computing technologies (e.g., AI/ML, Big data, security/privacy) to problems facing these sectors in order to address important societal challenges. We also expect proposals to be interdisciplinary and substantially well-rounded to address the broader aspects/impacts of the problems tackled – for example, through the active participation of researchers from the social sciences and humanities, art, design, education, law,or public policy.

About DPI The Discovery Partners Institute's ambition is to propel Chicago and Illinois into a pre-eminent and inclusive tech economy over the next decade. Led by the University of Illinois System in partnership with top research universities, it does three things: tech talent development, Research & Development, and business building. DPI prepares diverse students and workers to step into high-demand tech jobs. It also builds research teams and matches them with new funding. With state

investment and a new innovation district in development, DPI has the resources to attract, develop and leverage the most ambitious people and companies into its ecosystem.

You can read more about the vision of DPI and plans for the future [here](#).

Successful DPI R&D Team Science Seed Grant proposals will have the following characteristics:

1. A minimum of two researchers with a lead faculty member from the University of Illinois System. Proposed teams are encouraged to include members from multiple partner universities or other organizations. We expect no more than four co-PIs. You are not limited in the number of senior personnel. The team (PI or one of the Co-Pis) must have at least one member with a 0.5 FTE appointment on a University of Illinois campus.
2. Focus on the application of Computing technologies (e.g., Analytics, Big Data, Networks, Edge/IoT, or Cybersecurity & Privacy) to one of DPI's Scientific Sectors:
   a. Digital Government
   b. Finance and Insurance
   c. Food and Agriculture
   d. Health and Wellness
   e. Information Technology
   f. Infrastructure
   g. Transportation
   h. Water and Climate
3. Economic impact and Commercialization potential. The project should address DPI's mission of economic impact. We expect teams to be interested in realizing the commercial potential of their research, however, no prior experience in commercialization is expected.
4. Propose research and related activities that will lead to the submission of external grant applications and/or proposals for industry-funded R&D partnerships. Priority will be given to teams that propose specific large grants that they hope to pursue in the coming year.
5. Meaningful existing external engagement with private, public, or non-profit entities
6. Proposed team's distinction and leadership in the field
7. Budget accurately reflects the needs of the proposed activities
8. Research team that is well organized and qualified to conduct the proposed activities
9. Reasonable timeframe and milestones

Resources offered: In addition to providing seed funding, DPI will provide services and support including, but not limited to, administrative support, proposal development support, connections to faculty and researchers from existing DPI Science Teams and partner institutions (identified below), connections with industry, business plan development support, and access to downtown Chicago office and meeting space.

Use of Funds (Applies to University of Illinois System Faculty only)

While the use of funds is not limited to specific types of expenses, they are not intended to substantially cover faculty salaries. Rather, their aim is to cover the costs necessary to jumpstart activities that will be supported by external funds. The review process will closely examine expenses, such as salaries/wages,

materials and supplies, travel, and other participant support costs for proposed activities. PIs may not receive more than $5,000 in salary from this program. Facilities and Administration (Indirect) costs are not allowed.

Guidelines for Faculty from DPI partner institutions (external to the University of Illinois System) appear elsewhere in this document.

R&D Team Science Seed Grant Proposal Preparation

Cover page(s) must include the following:

a.   Project Name
b.   Name and Title of Lead Researcher
c.   University, College and Department of PI
d.   Names and Titles of Co-Investigators
e.   Institution(s), College(s) and Department(s) of co-PIs

Proposal Sections:

1) Abstract (maximum 250 words)
2) Description of team and activities including timeline and milestones (not to exceed four pages)
3) Brief description of team/DPI alignment and potential for economic impact (not to exceed one page)
4) Brief description of the broader societal impacts of the proposed research. This may include a focus on DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), which is a core commitment of DPI. (not to exceed one page)
5) Statement of work and timetable for the seed grant activities (not to exceed one page). DPI engagement period will be a minimum of 18 months.
6) Statement on external (governmental, foundation, corporate, NGO, etc.) funding.
     a.   List any existing external funding commitments which currently support the applicants' research activities that relate to the proposed team
     b.   List any identified external funding programs/prospects that the proposed team intends to pursue
7) Faculty and team members, include short CVs (not to exceed two pages each)
8) Letters of support from partners (if any) that describe their role on the project
9) Bibliography of relevant scholarship that is related to the project
10) Budget for requested funding, typically up to $125,000

DPI University Partners:

- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Illinois at Springfield
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Argonne National Laboratory
- Cardiff University
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- MS Ramaiah Medical College
- National Taiwan University
- Northwestern University
- Tel Aviv University
- University of Chicago

DPI is a member of the Illinois Innovation Network.

Information Session and Team Facilitation Meeting

DPI will hold an information session on May 13 from 8:30 – 10 am. Please register at the following link by May 10. The meeting will include an informational presentation and include time for questions and answers. The second half of the meeting will be devoted to facilitating team formation. If you plan to attend the team facilitation portion of the meeting please provide information on your research interests to the event registration link. Opportunities to network and form teams offline will also be made available to those who register. While we encourage participation, your involvement in this meeting will not impact the review of a subsequent proposal.

Register Here

Partner-specific Guidelines

Tel Aviv University

Only active senior staff faculty at TAU are eligible to submit.