



DPI-Argonne Research Partnerships Seed Grant Awards Call for Proposals

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Overview

Due Date: June 1, 2022, 11:59 PM CT

Funding available: Proposals can request awards of \$250,000 for a target period of up to 24 months. \$125,000 is reserved for salary and expenses of the team from University of Illinois campuses. \$125,000 is reserved for salary and expenses of the team from Argonne

Details

The [Discovery Partners Institute](#) (DPI) and [Argonne National Lab](#) (Argonne) invite faculty from the University of Illinois System (DPI, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Illinois at Springfield, and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), researchers from Argonne, and other institutions to submit seed grant proposals to conduct joint research on topics outlined below. Our goal is to leverage the complementary research expertise and resources from both organizations to develop the next generation of technologies with inspiring impacts on science, the economy, and society.

Proposals should demonstrate the ability to advance fundamental knowledge in research technologies, including those in computing and data, with potential for industry application in one or more of the following sectors:

- Energy-Water-Food Nexus
- Energy Infrastructure and Transportation
- Climate and Sustainability

Proposals should draw upon the advances in technologies, including the applications of data analytics or computing technologies, to problems facing these sectors in order to address important societal challenges in the Chicago area and beyond. We encourage applicants to consider impact from their work on underrepresented communities in the Chicago area. We expect proposals to be interdisciplinary and substantially well-rounded to address the broader aspects and 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](#).

About Argonne

Argonne is a multidisciplinary science and engineering research center, where talented scientists and engineers work together to answer the biggest questions facing humanity, from how to obtain affordable clean energy to protecting ourselves and our environment. Ever since we were born out of the University of Chicago’s work on the Manhattan Project in the 1940s, our goal has been to make an impact — from the atomic to the human to the global scale.

The laboratory works in concert with universities, industry, and other national laboratories on questions and experiments too large for any one institution to do by itself. Through collaborations here and around the world, we strive to discover new ways to develop energy innovations through science, create novel materials molecule-by-molecule, and gain a deeper understanding of our planet, our climate, and the cosmos.

Surrounded by the highest concentration of top-tier research organizations in the world, Argonne leverages its Chicago-area location to lead discovery and to power innovation in a wide range of core scientific capabilities, from high-energy physics and materials science to biology and advanced computer science.

Resources offered

In addition to providing seed funding, DPI and Argonne 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, connections with industry and

other potential partners in the Chicago area, access to downtown Chicago office and meeting space, as well as access to Argonne’s collaborative space at Harper Court in Hyde Park.

Use of Funds

Proposals can request awards of \$250,000 for a target period of up to 24 months. Of the total amount the following parameters apply:

- \$125,000 is reserved for salary and expenses of the team from University of Illinois campuses
 - For senior research personnel from the University of Illinois System, the maximum amount that each person may receive is \$5,000. A maximum of five senior personnel may receive this salary support.
 - The remaining funds may be used to cover project expenses such as wages of graduate students and postdocs, travel, materials, equipment, etc.
 - For the University of Illinois portion of the budget no overhead charges or tuition should be included in the proposed budget. It will be covered by other state funds.
- \$125,000 is reserved for salary and expenses of the team from Argonne
 - Overhead should be included in the Argonne component of the budget.
- Other institutions may provide additional matching funds. DPI partners institutions and contacts are listed below. Please inquire about the possibility of matching funds.

DPI Partners

Name of Partner Institution	Name of Representative	Title of Representative	Email
Cardiff University	Omer Rana	College Dean of International, Professor of Performance Engineering, School of Computer Science and Informatics	RanaOF@cardiff.ac.uk
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Oron Shagrir	Vice President for International Affairs	oron.shagrir@gmail.com
Tel Aviv University	Noam Eliaz	DPI Lead Contact, Department of Materials Science and Engineering	neliaz@tauex.tau.ac.il
DESY (Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron)	Arik Willner	Chief Technology Officer	arik.willner@desy.de
JUELICH (Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH)	Christian Cremer	Head Innovation and Strategy and Corporate Development	c.cremer@fz-juelich.de

University of Chicago	Juan J. de Pablo	Vice President for National Laboratories, Science Strategy, Innovation, and Global Initiatives	depablo@uchicago.edu
Northwestern University	Milan Mrksich	Vice President for Research	milan.mrksich@northwestern.edu
Illinois Institute of Technology	Peter Kilpatrick	Provost, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs	pkilpatrick@iit.edu
National Taiwan University and Center for Global Affairs and Science Engagement (GASE)	Hsiao-Wei Yuan	Vice President for International Affairs, Office of International Affairs, National Taiwan University, Director GASE	hwyuan@ntu.edu.tw

Characteristics of a Successful DPI-Argonne Seed Grant proposal

1. A minimum of two researchers with at least one member from the University of Illinois System and one from Argonne. Proposed teams are encouraged to include members from multiple partner universities or other organizations. You are not limited in the number of senior personnel. The team must have at least one member with a 0.5 FTE appointment on a University of Illinois campus and one member with a 0.5 FTE appointment at Argonne.
2. Focus on the application of technologies, including computing technologies such as analytics, big data, edge/IoT, or cybersecurity & privacy to one or more of the following sectors:
 - a. Energy-Water-Food Nexus
 - b. Energy Infrastructure and Transportation
 - c. Climate and Sustainability
3. Economic impact and Commercialization potential. The project should address DPI and Argonne's goals 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. Proposes broader Impacts to benefit the Chicago area or Illinois. This could include meaningful external engagement with private, public, or non-profit entities in underserved communities. One example could be working with local high school or community college students.
5. Potential for future external funding. The project should lay the groundwork for 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.
6. Proposed team's distinction and leadership in the field.
7. Project feasibility in the timeframe that is provided.
8. Budget accurately reflects the needs of the proposed activities.

Proposal Content

Cover page(s) must include the following:

1. Project Name
2. Name and Title of PI
3. University, College and Department (or Division if Argonne) of PI
4. Names and Titles of Co-PIs and other Senior Research Personnel
5. Institution(s), College(s) and Department(s) (or Division) of co-PIs

Proposal Sections:

1. Abstract (maximum 250 words)
2. Description of team, background, and proposed activities (not to exceed four pages)
3. Brief description of the potential for economic impact (not to exceed one page)
4. Brief description of the broader societal impacts of the proposed research, especially in connection with underserved communities in the Chicago area. This may include a focus on DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), which is a core commitment of DPI and Argonne. (not to exceed one page)
5. Statement of work and timetable for the seed grant activities (not to exceed one page)
6. Statement on external (governmental, foundation, corporate, philanthropic, 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 (up to \$250,000).

Information Session and Team Facilitation Meeting

DPI will hold an information session on May 11 from 9-10 am. [Please register at the following link by May 5](#) so that we can get an accurate count for the team facilitation portion of the meeting. The meeting will include an informational presentation and include time for questions and answers. A portion 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.

How to Apply

Please apply by visiting the [program website](#) and navigating to the proposal submission system. Note that only University of Illinois faculty can submit through this system so it should be submitted by the University of Illinois System Lead.

If you have any questions please visit the [program website](#) or reach out to Michael Fitzsimons (fitzm@uillinois.edu).