UCF/imec Seed Funding Opportunity

Required Pre-proposals must be submitted to reinhart@ucf.edu by March 22, 2021 at 5pm. Earlier submissions would be appreciated. Proposals, submitted with permission only, must by uploaded to InfoReady by April 30, 2021 at 5 pm. Documents submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Overview: The Office of Research and imec are sponsoring a university-wide seed funding opportunity for UCF faculty that promotes competitiveness in attracting external funding and enhances the visibility and recognition of our faculty members. A total of $500,000 will be allocated for this program to engage in joint research and development activities with imec researchers at NeoCity. Proposals should focus on the following topics: high performance integrated electro-optical devices, novel device concepts for integrated optical coherent transceivers, integrated RF transceiver architectures and devices for operation above 100GHz, lens free imaging and microfluidic devices to study bone cell activity in microgravity.

Go here for more information about imec.

UCF/imec Seed Funding Opportunity Application Process:

Description: The Office of Research (OR) is supporting a UCF/imec research awards program for UCF researchers (PIs) to initiate new high risk, high reward activities which will strengthen faculty collaborations and make them more competitive for external grant funding applications. All proposals must clearly address this objective.

Eligibility: All UCF employees eligible to submit proposals through the OR may submit. Each faculty member may submit or be included in only one proposal.

Funding: A total of $500,000 will be awarded assuming availability of funds. Five to seven proposals are expected to be funded during the current fiscal year. Maximum funding request is $100,000. Requests for maximum funding should be well justified. Investigator salary is not permitted (e.g., PI or Co-PI). Other expenses are allowed including research personnel, GRAs, travel, materials, equipment purchase, and equipment use.

Required Pre-proposal Submission Process: The first step in the application process is a one-page pre-proposal that is responsive to imec research topic areas. Pre-preproposals must be submitted to reinhart@ucf.edu by March 22, 2021 at 5pm. The pre-proposals will be sent to imec for review and selection for continued consideration. Positively reviewed pre-proposals will lead to dialog between imec staff and submitting faculty.
Required Full Proposal Application Process: Assuming a positive discussion with imec partners results, UCF PIs should prepare and submit full proposals as described below. PIs must receive notification of approval prior to submission of a full proposal.

Full Proposal Submission Deadline: April 30th at 5pm

All sections of the application should be single spaced, Times New Roman 11 pt or Arial 10 pt, 1” margins. Complete applications must be submitted through the InfoReady portal by the deadline. Each application must contain the following components in this order:

1. **InfoReady Form Fields:** Complete all required fields that appear in the submission portal for this opportunity.

2. **Application Cover Page (1 page):** PI/Co-PI(s) Information (Name, Title, Affiliation, Email, Phone), proposal title, project start and end dates, budget total. Expected performance time is one year, however, no cost extensions will be granted if well justified.

3. **Project Description (3 pages):** For all internal competitions, it is the PI’s job to have a convincing argument that would be sufficiently understandable to experienced researchers, but not necessarily experts in their field. The Project Description may not exceed 3 pages and must contain the following elements:
   a. **Background Statement:** Include a brief statement on related prior work in the field (how is it done today), existing challenges or limitations of the current approaches, and how the proposed research will address those challenges.
   b. **Statement of Objectives:** Explain the objectives of your proposal (what are you trying to do) without any jargon. Identify a clear relationship with background statement methodology and note significance of anticipated results. Explain what difference it will make if your proposed research is successful. Discuss the match with imec research interests.
   c. **Plan of Work:** Provide an appropriate plan for meeting objectives, with a clear explanation of procedures, activities, risks, timeline, and milestones; if appropriate, include a plan for effective human subjects/animal use and safety. For multi-PI proposals, identify the contribution of each PI and provide a clear plan of collaboration among PIs and imec staff.
   d. **Description of follow-up activities**, such as a proposal for externally funded research, must be included in the plan.
   e. **References Cited (no page limit):** This section must include bibliographic citations only and must not be used to provide parenthetical information outside of the 3-page Project Description.

4. **Budget with Justification:** Complete the Standard budget template provided under “Available Documents.” All requested funds (e.g., student support, consumables) must be integral to the research and not available within the department, college, institute, or center. Funds may not be used for travel to attend conferences. Funds may not be used for PI salary. Budget should not include F&A.

5. **CV For PIs/Co-PIs (required)** must follow NSF or NIH format. For Senior/Key Personnel: If applicable, a one page summary of other key personnel may be included, in addition to the...
PI and Co-PI biosketches.

6. **Letters of Collaboration (if applicable, no page limit):** If collaborators are not PI/Co-PI, letters of collaboration are allowed. No budget information is needed but justify why they are essential to the success to the project. Letters of support are not allowed.

7. **History of previous internal funding** received from any UCF internal sources (OR/college/department) during the last 3 years and outcome (how many external proposals written and whether funded). OR internal sources include VPR Advancement of Early Career Researchers (AECR), seed funding, and Salary Support for Large Proposal Development. These internal sources **do not make PIs ineligible**.

**Submission Instructions:**

- Go to the InfoReady website at: [https://ucf.infoready4.com/](https://ucf.infoready4.com/)
- Select the opportunity “UCF/imec Seed Funding” from the InfoReady landing page.
- Once you open the opportunity, click on “Apply”
- Click on “University of Central Florida Login” blue box and type in your NID and password
- Fill out all required information
- Upload the full application, including the budget
- Submit application
- You will receive an automatic email confirming your application has been submitted.

**Review Process, Criteria, and Announcement of Awards:**

**Review Criteria:** Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Potential impact of the proposed research on the field as well as on the faculty member's research program,
- alignment with imec and UCF research missions,
- the quality of the plan of work (what new information will be learned/achieved if the proposed program is successful),
- potential for follow on external funding.

**Review Process:** Individual reviews by UCF and imec personnel will be used to evaluate the merit of proposals. The VP for Research will make the final decision.

**Announcement of Awards:** Awards will be announced no later than June 15, 2021.

**Deliverables:** Recipients of funding for this program must submit a progress report in InfoReady to the Vice President for Research within 30 days of the end of the award period. This report should include an abstract of the completed work.

*Failure to comply with the indicated deliverables will result in disqualification in participation in OR seed funding programs in the future.*
Questions: For questions regarding this program, please contact Debra Reinhart, Associate VP for Research and Scholarship (debra.reinhart@ucf.edu)