NEED SUPPORT TO ADVANCE YOUR IDEA?

UMBC
AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

UMBC Technology Catalyst Fund

Request for Proposals
FY 2015_Spring

Announcement Date – January 5, 2015

Background: The UMBC Office of Technology Development (OTD), under the Office of the Vice President for Research, is continually seeking ways to help bridge the funding gap – support that can be difficult to obtain from traditional funding sources. With support provided by the State of Maryland, we are happy to announce a new initiative, the *UMBC Technology Catalyst Fund*, which is designed to advance innovations originating from UMBC research to more commercially viable technologies. Additional proof-of-concept studies, extending data collection and prototype development are examples of the essential steps needed to demonstrate commercial potential.

A total of $100,000 is available annually for this initiative. UMBC plans to make several awards up to $25,000. Projects will be funded at the level deemed necessary to achieve the goals outlined in the proposal. Awards will be for a six- to twelve- month period and only proposals that can demonstrate achievable milestones within that time period will be selected for funding. One-time, no-cost extensions may be granted, subject to approval by the review committee. No overhead will apply.

Requirements: All UMBC members with Principal Investigator status are eligible to apply as long as the technology to be developed has been previously disclosed to OTD. We welcome projects from all disciplines and encourage interdisciplinary collaborations.

Criteria: Proposals will be reviewed by a committee comprised of faculty, administrative research personnel and outside reviewers from the business community, and will be held confidential. Finalists will be invited to give a presentation to the Review Committee. The evaluation criteria will include factors such as:

- Significance of the market need and opportunity to impact the public.
- Competitive advantage the technology presents over current solutions.
- Probability that the project will result in additional funding or licensing.
- Probability that the research results will strengthen the patent position.
- Probability of reaching milestones within the time frame and budget.

Deadline: The final deadline for proposal submissions is **Tuesday, March 31, 2015.** Please be advised that several preliminary steps must be completed prior to final submission and applicants are advised to contact OTD at least 3 weeks in advance of the deadline. Awards will be announced in the fall with an anticipated starting date of June 1, 2015.

Contact: Interested applicants should contact Wendy Martin, Director, OTD at wmartin@umbc.edu or call 410.455.3658 to request the Proposal Process and Executive Summary Checklist and the Cover Form.