

**Office of Technology Partnerships**  
**Call for Applications**  
**Proof-of-Concept Grants Spring 2024**

The Office of Technology Partnerships (OTP) is pleased to announce a solicitation for **Proof-of-Concept Funds** for Spring 2024.

This is a special grant available for UCR faculty and research staff who have UCR owned intellectual property or technology, including inventions and copyrights, and are interested in the transfer and commercialization of your UCR technology.

This cycle, the total available award pool is \$150,000 for Track 1 and Track 2. We will be offering a one-time competitive selected award of up to \$100,000 for up to 3 qualified applicants, depending on the requested budgets. Allocation of funds will depend on achievable milestones proposed and the aggregate total of all the selected proposals will not exceed \$150,000. A single award of \$35,000 is available for Track 3 to an early career faculty or postdoctoral researcher. If awarded, grant recipients must participate in the [UCR INNOVAR Workshops I-Corps program](#) during course of the award.

Funding can be used to support students, postdoctoral researchers, or research scientists to conduct technical and market validation studies to determine interest from the private sector to further develop and commercialize the UCR intellectual property. Funding may NOT be used for procuring equipment or services by external non-UCR parties.

Grant recipients will be assisted by an assigned **Entrepreneur in Residence** (EIR) who will provide guidance with respect to definition of technical and market validation milestones. The EIR will also provide coaching and mentoring as well as access to a broad network of resources throughout the funding period and beyond.

Funds for the projects in Track 1 and Track 2 have been secured through a gift from **Eurosemillas, S.A.** under the Eurosemillas Technology Acceleration Program (ETAP) to UCR and managed by OTP. Funds for Track 3 are from a University of California grant to support innovation and entrepreneurship to advance California's climate action goals. Information regarding previous year's awardees can be found in past [OTP Annual Reports](#).

Applicants may submit a **Notice of Intent** in one of the following Tracks:

**Track 1** technology areas:

- Clean Energy & Fuels
- Clean Transportation & Infrastructure
- Natural Resource Management
- Agriculture Technology & Food Security
- Health & Health Disparity

**Track 2** is all other technology areas not listed above, including but not limited to:

- data science, digitalization / digital transformation, automation, entertainment, and the creative arts.

**Track 3** (special one-time award for a single proposal of up to \$35,000 and funds expire on February 2025) for an early career tenure-track faculty hired to UCR within last 5-year academic years or a postdoctoral researcher with support from their faculty advisor) to conduct translation and technology commercialization activities from their research in areas related to climate adaptation and resilience:

- Extreme Heat
- Wildfire
- Drought
- Flooding
- Air Quality, Human Health, and Ecological Hazards (e.g., Salton Sea desertification)
- Extreme Wind
- Severe Weather
- Landslides

Multidisciplinary, multi-PI proposals are especially encouraged.

Eligible projects will be selected to present to an external panel of industry executives in May of 2024 who will select grant recipients.

**Eligibility:**

- A PI must be a tenure-track faculty member or research staff at UCR and may submit no more than one application. All awardees must be active and NOT on Sabbatical.
- A completed intellectual property disclosure with an assigned UC Case number by UCR Technology Commercialization, and/or resulting patent application(s) must be in place to be eligible for the award. The proposed project must be covered under this intellectual property disclosure and the resulting patents.
- Past recipients of awards are eligible to apply.

To be considered for the award, interested applicants need to submit a **Notice of Intent** by **11:59 PDT on Sunday, March 31, 2024**. Please send your submission to [judy.swineford@ucr.edu](mailto:judy.swineford@ucr.edu).

The **Notice of Intent** needs to contain the following information:

1. Title of the project
2. Key team members, department/center affiliation of applicant(s) and contact information.
3. Identify the Track and technology area(s), listed above, that your proposal addresses.
4. Description and quantification of the problem, need, and market size that your technology/invention addresses.
5. Description of the project and technology associated.
6. Why will your technology or solution be more effective in addressing the problem or unmet need? Include relevant data and results that support your claims of performance, benefits, and effectiveness of your technology.
7. Describe other research groups and/or companies that are addressing the same problem.

8. Who do you think are the customers, users, or potential licensees of the technology? Have you received any interest in your project or technology from an outside entity?
9. How will you use the award? A proposed plan of action/timeline, milestones, deliverables, and budget.
10. Indicate the UC case number and title of the invention disclosure submitted to UCR Technology Commercialization.

Please limit your response to no more than three pages, singled spaced font 11 pt. Arial or Times New Roman.

The **Notices of Intent** will be reviewed by the OTP team. Applicants that meet the review criteria will be notified by **Friday, April 12, 2024**, and will be asked to complete a PowerPoint slide deck to present to the external review panel in **May of 2024**.

**Review Criteria:** In support of the goal of this initiative, external reviewers will focus on the strengths and weakness of each presentation in these areas:

1. Unmet need or potential opportunity.
2. Impact and innovation of the project compared to other solutions.
3. Feasibility for the project to achieve proposed goals within the specified timeline (project must be completed within a 6-to-12-month timeframe).
4. Potential for translation and commercialization.
5. Strength of the intellectual property.

To be clear, the **Proof-of-Concept** funding is NOT intended to be used for continued research, but rather further development, translation, and commercialization of the UCR intellectual property.

Awards will be announced in **June of 2024**. Projects are expected to commence on **August 01, 2024**.

Award recipients will be expected to work with their assigned EIR to:

- Develop detailed plan of action/timeline, milestones, and deliverables.
- Provide a budget and timeline for expenditure of funds. Funds will be released in tranches based on the final agreed upon plan of action/timeline, milestones, and deliverables.
- Provide a quarterly report detailing their project progress and use of funds, including mid-year and end-of-project reviews.
- Must participate in the UCR INNOVAR Workshops I-Corps program (during the course of the award) to receive feedback from prospective customers or partners through a customer interview process.
- Develop a commercialization plan for your UCR intellectual property.

The awards are to be used during the 12-month period immediately following issuance of the award. All unused funds must be returned to OTP.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Brian Suh ([brian.suh@ucr.edu](mailto:brian.suh@ucr.edu)).