UTRF Technology Maturation Grant
Application Overview

*This is not an official application form. To apply for the UTRF Technology Maturation Grant, please download and complete the [UTRF Technology Maturation Grant Proposal](#) form. Other forms of submission will not be accepted.*

Proposals are due to your designated campus research office by 5:00 p.m., October 20, 2023.

Below is an outline of the questions asked on the official form, as well as a list of items to consider while answering each question.

1) **Project Description**

   a) **What problem is the proposed technology trying to solve and how is the problem currently being addressed?**
      Things to Consider:
      - How does the proposed technology compare to the state of art? What is lacking with other related technologies?
      - What is the competition for this technology?
      - What customer needs does the technology seek to satisfy?

   b) **What potential markets, applications, and licensees do you envision for the proposed technology?**
      Things to Consider:
      - Will it be feasible for a company to change what they are currently doing?
      - What barriers to entry do you think the proposed technology might face?
      - In your opinion which companies would be potential licensees and why?
      - Have you already interacted with any companies on this technology?
      - Have you engaged in any customer discovery?

2) **Specific Aims**

   a) **What is the technology’s current state?**
      What is the current level of development or stage of the invention?

   b) **Describe the work that will be done and provide a timeline with milestones for completion.**
      Things to Consider:
      - What are the license-enabling milestones you expect to achieve this year?
      - What data is needed to make it marketable?
      - What have you done thus far to improve the technology’s commercial potential?
      - Will the funding address one of the potential licensee concerns?
3) **Outcome and Impact**

Things to Consider:
- Describe the anticipated outcome.
- How it will further the UTRF’s ability to commercialize the proposed technology?
- What are the identifiable GO/NO GO endpoints?

4) **Budget and Budget Justification**

Things to Consider:
- Funds should be directed to labor, materials, and services necessary to achieve the proposed deliverable(s). Indirect costs are not allowed.
- Funds may not be used for PI salary but may be used for student, post doc, or technical staff support.

**Application Guidelines**

**Guidelines & Proposal Requirements**
- Open to all UT researchers, faculty, staff and students at all campuses and institutes.
- Projects must be related to an existing UT invention disclosure, OR a proposal can be accompanied by a new UT invention/creation disclosure: [idea.tennessee.edu](idea.tennessee.edu)
- All proposals should clearly respond to the four questions.
- Proposals that only generate basic research results should not be submitted.
- Please complete the UTRF Technology Maturation Grant Proposal form.
- The proposal should not exceed 2 pages, excluding references and figures, which may each be included as a 1-page appendix. Half a page is allotted for each main question on the form. Therefore, the proposal plus the appendices must not exceed 4 pages.
- The proposal should be received by the campus-specific research office (through CayuseSP/Evisions) by 5:00 p.m., October 20, 2023.

**Judging Criteria**

* A panel of technical and business experts from inside and outside of the university will rank-order projects based on the following criteria:
  - Demonstration of a path for commercial development
  - Market potential
  - Stage of development

**Examples of Eligible Projects**
- Establishment of application or proof-of-concept
- Prototype development
- Addressing specific questions or suggested improvements from potential licensees
- Meaningfully improving intellectual property related to a technology