

# 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](http://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