

As part of the implementation of “Accelerate Alabama”, the State of Alabama has created the Alabama Innovation Fund. The purpose of this fund is to maximize the use of the State’s economic development resources by leveraging annual research and development expenditures by Public Institutions of Higher Education to generate resources which can be used to support economic development activities. The Alabama Innovation Fund shall support and operate two distinct programs: (i) The Renewal Program; and (ii) The Research Program. The budget available for disbursement for the current fiscal year is \$4.5M.

The Renewal Program: Sixty (60%) percent of the annual funding available to the Alabama Innovation Fund (\$2.7M), net of expenses shall be used to fund the Renewal Program. The purpose of the Renewal Program is to strengthen and renew the high technology research capability in Alabama universities and other eligible institutions to help bring in federal research funds to the State, to attract existing high technology businesses to the State, and to create new high technology businesses in the State. Renewal proposals can fall into the following categories:

- Purchase of critical equipment that enables and facilitates new types of high tech research with job creation potential.
- Purchase of critical cyberinfrastructure that enables and facilitates new types of high tech research with job creation potential.
- Financial support (e.g., start up packages for an identified out-of-state candidate^{*}) for adding to the intellectual firepower within the State by recruiting outstanding faculty researchers (often referred to as “*Commercialization Scholars*”) that will bring in significant external research funding and/or have a track record of utilizing their respective intellectual property to create successful new companies and/or licensing agreements.

The criteria used in making awards under the Renewal Program shall include without limitation:

1. The likelihood of a Project to create patentable or other proprietary innovative technology capable of successful commercialization,
2. The likelihood of a Project to stimulate further research and development within the State,
3. The likelihood of a Project to contribute directly or indirectly to the creation of additional jobs within the State,
4. Expertise of the research team in fields which would contribute to the success of a Project,
5. Participation by the research team in past projects of a similar nature which have led to successful commercialization and related job creation,
6. The amount of useful technological, economic, human and intellectual property resources available to the research team.

A maximum of two Renewal proposals per university or other eligible institution is allowed to be submitted, for no more than \$500K per proposal, with a one-to-one match required. The proposal should be submitted by the Institutional Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) by COB August 13, 2015 † to: Angela.Till@commerce.alabama.gov, and please copy Roaslyn.Frank@commerce.alabama.gov. Proposal selection will occur via a State-wide

^{*} It is allowed for the candidate to be identified, but they should have not started work in Alabama as of the date of proposal submission.

[†] Note that all Renewal and Research Proposals need to be submitted to the institutional OSP for subsequent institutional down-select with an internal due date to be determined by that OSP.

competitive proposal evaluation process.

The Research Program: Forty percent (40%) of the annual funding available to the Alabama Innovation Fund (\$1.8M), net of expenses, shall be used to fund the Research Program. These funds shall be distributed, in keeping with the State's goals to stimulate economic development as set out in Accelerate Alabama, to Public Institutions of Higher Education and other eligible institutions who submit an Application through a competitive process described in this chapter. The criteria used in making awards under the Research Program shall include without limitation:

1. The existence of a Public-Private Partnership involving a Project,
2. The likelihood of a Project to create patentable or other proprietary innovative technology capable of successful commercialization,
3. The likelihood of a Project to stimulate further research and development within the State,
4. The likelihood of a Project to contribute directly or indirectly to the creation of additional jobs within the State
5. Expertise of the research team in fields which would contribute to the success of a Project,
6. Participation by the research team in past projects of a similar nature which have led to successful commercialization and related job creation,
7. The amount of useful technological, economic, human and intellectual property resources available to the research team.

A maximum of two Research proposals per university are allowed to be submitted, for no more than \$250K per proposal, with a one-to-one match required. The proposal should be submitted by the Institutional OSP by COB August 13, 2015[†] to: Angela.Till@commerce.alabama.gov, and please copy Roaslyn.Frank@commerce.alabama.gov. Proposal selection will occur via a State-wide competitive proposal evaluation process.