



The Robert Draper Technology Innovation Fund

Proposal Instructions Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) Last update: 8-15-2023

*****Please note that these instructions are periodically reviewed and updated. Please check the [website](#) to ensure you have the most recent version of this document. *****

Electronic proposal submission deadlines:**

Q1: May 15, 2023 (funding avail. July 1st)
Q2: Aug. 15, 2023 (funding avail. Oct. 1st)
Q3: Nov. 15, 2023 (funding avail. Jan.1st)
Q4: Feb. 15, 2024 (funding avail. April 1st)

****Contact your school/college to determine their deadlines for internal review of proposals. Internal review deadlines may be a week or more prior to submission to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education.**

Questions:

Application: D2P, 608-890-0904, engage@d2p.wisc.edu

Review of Applications: Andy Detienne, WARF, 608-262-7859, madetienne@warf.org

Award: D2P, 608-890-0904, engage@d2p.wisc.edu

The Robert Draper Technology Innovation Fund

Since 1981, the Technology Innovation Fund (TIF) has supported the additional research often necessary to bring new concepts and inventions to the patent and licensing stage. The program goal is the eventual introduction of new products and processes into the marketplace for the public good.

Draper Technology Innovation Fund (TIF)

Draper TIF grants are awarded to investigators in support of research to improve the patentability and/or licensability of their inventions. The targeted inventions must have already been disclosed to and accepted by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) for patenting or similar intellectual property protection. Examples of activities that could enhance patentability or licensability include, prototype development, expansion of studies to include additional exemplary demonstrations, and application testing.

Consult WARF before writing your proposal

Prior to writing a proposal, we highly recommended that you consult your WARF licensing representative to discuss the award qualifications as they pertain to your invention and experimental research findings. These consultations can prove helpful when describing in your proposal what additional research is required to improve the patentability or licensability of your invention.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty or academic staff
- Applicants must have submitted a formal Invention Disclosure Report (IDR) to WARF concerning the technology, and WARF must have accepted the disclosure for further patenting, licensing, or copyrighting activity.
- Any improvements to the invention or new innovation that occurs as a result of this funding must also be disclosed and assigned to WARF.
- Applicants must be in residence on the Madison campus during the funding period

Funding level and period

Proposals are funded at a level necessary to achieve research objectives. Awards cannot exceed \$50,000. Draper TIF awards are funded on 135 accounts which means that any salary awarded will have fringe benefits charged to this fund. Proposals are funded for a maximum of 12 months of effort.

Proposal submission deadlines

Proposals are reviewed on a quarterly basis. See front page or the Robert Draper TIF webpage for current deadlines. Contact your school/college for their deadlines for internal review of proposals. Internal review deadlines may be a week or more prior to submission to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education.

Final report required

If you are awarded TIF funding, a report summarizing your findings is due upon completion of the project. New TIF applications will not be accepted until reports from previous years have been completed. Final reports must be submitted to: upload.TIF_Fin.lpgias3qtm@u.box.com.

Report deadlines are based on the quarter during which funding was awarded. Final report due dates for funding are as follows:

Q1: August 15th

Q2: November 15th

Q3: February 15th

Q4: May 15th

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Your school or college research administrators can assist in formulating your grant proposal. Please contact your research office for more information.

Application Format and Instructions

Part 1 - Cover page (use provided template- 1pg)

- Enter the requested project, principal investigator, and department information
- Provide WARF case number
- Disclose any SEED, I&EDR, TIF, and/or UW-System funding received in the past five years

Part 2 – Proposal Narrative (include each of the following sections and points- 7 pages max)

Section A. Summary or abstract

- Identify the need, problem, or opportunity you are addressing with your research and its significance with respect to the invention.
- State the research objectives, research plan, and anticipated results.

Section B. Description of intellectual property and its status

- Identify your invention by citing the disclosure title, patent title and number (if available), WARF P-Number, and the names of other inventors.
- Describe the invention in detail.
- Provide a statement about the current stage or status of the invention, e.g., disclosure, patent filing, patent issuance, assignment, agreements.
- Explain why the invention is important. Include information about the potential impact of this technology, its uses, and users. If possible, estimate the size of the market and potential or actual corporate partners.

Section C. Enhancement of patentability or licensability

- Detail how the proposed research project is anticipated to improve patentability or licensability of your invention.
- Identify any additional research that may be necessary to allow commercialization of the invention, including an estimated timeline and cost.
- Include additional market analysis or commercialization information that may be pertinent for licensability.

Section D. Research objectives

- Describe your specific research objectives in order of priority, focusing on objectives that can be completed in one year.
- For each objective, estimate the cost and the time required for completion.

Section E. Research plan

Link your research plan to your research objectives, and address the following points:

- Experimental methods to achieve each objective or task
- Anticipated results
- 12-month work performance schedule, timeline, or GANTT chart.

- Possible problems you might encounter and proposed methods to surmount them

Section F. Related research

Describe significant and recent research related to your proposed effort, including your own work and that of others in the field (including citations).

Section G. Principal Investigator and key personnel

Provide a brief statement regarding the qualifications of the principal investigator and other key personnel participating in the research. Include only relevant biographical information and publications - do not submit curriculum vitae.

Section H. Equipment and facilities

Describe the facilities and equipment available to conduct the proposed work.

Section I. Sources of funding support for inventive research

- Identify past, current, and pending extramural and University sources of support related to the intellectual property and the proposed work described above.
- Describe any past, present, or future activities to solicit support from the industrial/business sector.

Part 3 - Budget form (use provided Excel template)

Section A. Worksheet/Justification

Personnel

- Enter full dollar amounts (no cents).
- List salaries at estimated rates for the fiscal year in which they will be charged.
- List fringe benefits at estimated rates for the fiscal year in which they will be charged.
- Enter the name and title, if known, and percent of full-time employment of the staff person or graduate student for whom funding is requested.
- Enter the total dollars requested for student hourly workers.

Travel, Equipment, and Supplies

- Funds are available for travel only when travel is a critical component of the research project. Travel to conferences is not funded.
- All travel requests require justification. Indicate the nature of the trip(s), destination, duration, and cost. Expenses should follow UW System travel guidelines and limitations.
- Provide a detailed list of supplies and expenses and the costs for each item.
- Any equipment over \$5,000 is considered a capital expense.

Budget Justification Narrative

- Briefly explain supplies, expenses, and equipment funding being requested along with any other information that would be helpful to reviewers.

Section B. Current and Separate Support

- List any other funding support that is relevant to this research program and commercialization efforts.

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Submission Instructions

Page limit

Please keep your proposal narrative to seven pages excluding the cover page and submit your budget using the form provided. Do NOT include a copy of your patent or Invention Disclosure Report.

Submit your proposal

Pls: Email your proposal to your department and have them sign the cover page as a way to document that they approve the proposal. They can then email it to your division for approval.

School/College: Please sign the cover page as a way to document that you approve the proposal and then email it to, tif@grad.wisc.edu.

Questions? Please email D2P at tif@grad.wisc.edu

Proposals are reviewed by a committee and results of pending proposals are typically available within 6-8 weeks of the application deadline.