



INSTITUTE FOR MATERIALS RESEARCH (IMR)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

IMR INDUSTRY CHALLENGE GRANTS

IMR Industry Challenge Grants are intended to seed and support collaborations in materials-allied research between IMR-affiliated faculty and external industry partners in areas of industrial relevance and strategic importance to the materials community. It is expected that support via the IMR Industry Challenge Grant Program will lead to fruitful research as measured by publications, student graduation and generating sustainable external funding of industrial relevance.

To aid in achieving these goals and to encourage greater levels of industry-relevant and industry-supported materials research, **IMR will provide cost share support to selected proposals made by IMR-affiliated faculty to industry sponsors on a 1:1 match basis up to a total of \$20,000 per year per 12-month grant/contract.** The use of matching funds is restricted to the support of graduate students or postdoctoral researchers working on the research project, in the form of salary, fringe benefits, and/or tuition and fees. Awards will be made on the basis of competitive review and each proposal must include a firm commitment of industry support as part of the application package to be eligible to receive IMR Challenge Grant support. **Strong preference will be given to new research efforts not already supported by other sources.**

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be approved Principal Investigators of The Ohio State University *and* a member of the OSU Institute for Materials Research to be eligible to apply for an IMR Industry Challenge Grant. The Principal Investigator must provide a signed commitment letter from the industrial sponsor detailing the amount of funding committed to support the proposed research.

DEADLINES

There is no deadline for the IMR Industry Challenge Grant Program. All decisions are on a rolling basis, and dependent upon available funds.

APPLICATION

Eligible applicants interested in applying for an IMR Industry Challenge Grant should submit a brief summary proposal to the IMR offices with the following information and page limits:

1. General Information (1 page maximum): the names, titles, and departments of the Applicant and any Co-Applicants and contact information for the Lead Applicant only (mailing address, email, phone and fax numbers), along with the name and contact information of the industrial partner and their technical point of contact.

2. Project Description (2 pages maximum): a brief summary describing the proposed research including the objective, scope of work, methodology, collaboration details, and research facilities that may be used to conduct the research. Applicants should avoid including any propriety information from industrial partners.

3. Relation to Planned External Proposal(s) (1 page maximum): a short statement listing the external agency(ies) and program(s) targeted by the Applicant with deadlines, if known, and how the Industry Challenge Grant is expected to strengthen the proposal.

4. Industry Partner Information:

Collaboration Description (1 page maximum): An explanation of the relationship between the research group and industry partner, including details of existing or past collaborations and a description of the strategic nature of the research partnership and future plans for collaboration.

Commitment Letter (1 page maximum): A letter of funding commitment from the industrial partner, detailing the amount of funding they are committing to support the proposed research.

5. Budget information (1 page maximum): A detailed budget for the proposed project and a brief explanation of the proposed budget items. IMR Industry Challenge Grants offer up to \$20,000 and requires a one-to-one match by the external industry partner for all IMR funding. Industry partners are, of course, encouraged to fund beyond this one-to-one match if appropriate. The use of these matching funds is restricted to the support of graduate students or postdoctoral researchers working on the research project in the form of salary, fringe benefits, and/or tuition and fees.

6. Curriculum Vitae of each Co-Applicant (2-page maximum per Co-Applicant)

All proposals should use a minimum 11-point font size. Proposals not following the page limits listed or omitting information requested above will not be reviewed. Please submit your proposal as an email attachment in PDF format to Layla Manganaro, IMR Program Manager, at manganaro.4@osu.edu.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The IMR will allocate resources based on the strategic importance of the industry collaboration and topical area, with relevance to existing and future initiatives at the federal and state levels playing a factor in order to gauge potential success in securing future external support. Review criteria are modeled after NSF-style review panels, which will prepare Applicants for major external proposal development.

Review criteria for IMR Industry Challenge Grants are:

- Intellectual merit of proposed research activity: originality, potential contribution to technology and education
- Plan for external proposal development with and/or to industrial partners
- Importance of research to the private sector and prospect for lasting industrial support in this area
- Availability of resources
- Broader impacts

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Awarded IMR Industry Challenge Grants will be released to the project's Principal Investigator upon successful establishment of an industrial contract through the OSU Research Foundation. Only after the Principal Investigator and industry partner have completed all OSU Research Foundation requirements to establish an industry-sponsored research project will the IMR Industry Challenge Grant be awarded. IMR Industry Challenge Grants are offered only as cost share for a current industry contract, and that contract is subject to all policies and procedures as required by the OSU Research Foundation.
2. IMR Industry Challenge Grants must be fully expended **within twelve (12) months** of award. Any unused funds at the end of the twelve-month award period must be returned to IMR.
3. Routing of the e-PA005 form must include IMR and the PI must work with the IMR Program Manager so that the cost share funds can be allocated appropriately, per OSU and OSU Research Foundation policies and procedures.
4. A brief technical and financial report will be due at the end of the award cycle.
5. Industry Challenge Grant recipients will be expected to share their research findings at future IMR events, including seminars and workshops.
6. IMR requests that all researchers inform IMR of external proposals and/or awards that result from IMR-funded projects.
7. Recipients of IMR funds shall acknowledge IMR support in publications resulting from IMR-funded research projects. The acknowledgement shall read as follows: *This work was supported in part by The Ohio State University Institute for Materials Research.*
8. Submission of a proposal to this IMR Industry Challenge Grant competition constitutes an agreement to follow the above terms and conditions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Potential applicants may contact Layla Manganaro, IMR Program Manager (manganaro.4@osu.edu or (614) 247-4685,) with any administrative or procedural questions. IMR Director Steven Ringel (ringel.5@osu.edu or (614) 688-3924) is the primary contact for technical questions related to potential research activities.