

*Tyndall National Institute of Ireland - OSU Institute for
Materials and Manufacturing Research*
Partnership Program:
TNI-OSU/IMR Catalyst Funding

Request for Proposals [Autumn 2025]

KEY DATES:

Request for Proposals (RFP) Release	Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Virtual Proposer's Info & Teaming Session	Friday, September 26, 2025: 9:00am – 10:00am ET 2:00pm – 3:00pm IST <u>Meeting Link</u>
Proposals Due	Monday, October 27, 2025: 5:00PM ET / 10:00PM IST
Anticipated Award Decisions	Monday, November 3, 2025

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Technical & Reporting Questions	OSU/IMR – Steven A. Ringel, ringel.5@osu.edu TNI – Graeme Maxwell, graeme.maxwell@tyndall.ie
Proposal Submission & Questions	OSU/IMR – Joanna Gardner, gardner.306@osu.edu TNI – Louise Lucey, louise.lucey@tyndall.ie
Fiscal Questions	OSU/IMR – Greg Godic, godic.3@osu.edu TNI – Graeme Maxwell, graeme.maxwell@tyndall.ie

GOALS OF TNI-OSU/IMR CATALYST FUNDING:

- Stimulate collaborative research between TNI and OSU/IMR investigators in areas of mutual interest
- Enable access to core research facilities for partners
- Accelerate and enable joint authorship of scholarly works
- Strengthen jointly authored research proposals through programs such as the NSF & NIH U.S. – Ireland schemes and other third parties, including industry

- Nucleate a broad-ranging **TNI-OSU/IMR Partnership** that over time may include numerous joint research efforts, exchanges of personnel and research sabbaticals

DESCRIPTION OF THE TNI-OSU/IMR CATALYST FUNDING:

This is an opportunity to accelerate high impact collaborations between colleagues at The Ohio State University's Institute for Materials and Manufacturing Research (IMR) and the Tyndall

National Institute of Ireland (TNI). Both TNI and IMR recognize that each have many common interests along with complementary assets, some of which might be unique to one organization. This program aims to greatly increase the success of research by enabling collaborations and access to state-of-the-art research facilities at TNI and IMR.

WHAT IS COVERED BY TNI-OSU/IMR CATALYST FUNDING:

- Facility access and user fees
- Sample preparation, processing, fabrication, and measurement costs
- One trip to the partner site to enable face to face meetings and to strengthen collaboration and knowledge of each other's capabilities. Seminar presentation at partner site expected.

WHAT IS NOT COVERED:

- Subsidizing an existing funded project
- Substituting for other funding opportunities
- Salary, student stipends/tuition, travel outside of the site visit mentioned above, conference attendance, etc.

SCOPE OF FUNDING:

TNI and IMR are committing approximately equivalent matching funds:

- €15K for TNI PI and \$15k for OSU PI, per award, including up to €/\$2.5k maximum for travel to partner site, if desired
- TNI funds are to be spent at TNI; OSU funds are to be spent at IMR
- Funds must be fully spent within 6 months of award date

EXPECTATIONS:

- Monthly, 1-page max, technical progress report
- Final report 30 days after project close (2-page technical, plus list of pending or current publications and proposals, and a plan for next steps in collaboration)
- Project Management:
 - TNI participants will attend an introduction to project management course (max 2-day duration) if they have not already done so.
 - OSU participants are expected to familiarize themselves with the Project Management for Research Toolkit, to be provided upon award.

PROPOSER ELIGIBILITY:

1. A Principal Investigator (PI) may only submit one proposal in response to this RFP.
2. Each team should be comprised of one PI at OSU/IMR, and one PI (typically a staff researcher or higher) at TNI.
3. All proposed research must be clearly distinct from ongoing externally or internally funded research.
4. If a PI from OSU or TNI is interested in proposing, we invite you to attend the **Virtual Proposer's Info & Teaming Session to be held on Friday, September 26, 2025: 9:00am – 10:00am ET / 2:00pm – 3:00pm IST**. The purpose of this 1-hour virtual meeting is to provide potential proposers with the following:
 - Program vision
 - RFP clarifications
 - Prior awardee presentations/ Do's and Don'ts / How to leverage catalyst funding/ Teaming opportunities

ELIGIBLE FACILITIES FOR EXPENSES:

- All IMR-supported core and other facilities are available:
<https://imr.osu.edu/research-and-innovation/core-facilities>. Preference is given to projects requiring access to one or more of:
 - Nanotech West: <https://nanotech.osu.edu/>
 - CEMAS: <https://cemas.osu.edu/>
 - NSL: <http://ensl.osu.edu/>
 - SEAL: <https://seal.osu.edu/>
- TNI supported facilities:
 - SP&S facilities – including fabrication, characterization, and analysis
 - <https://www.tyndall.ie/services>
 - <https://www.tyndall.ie/process-and-product-development>
 - <https://www.tyndall.ie/oacf-characterisation-facility>
 - <https://www.tyndall.ie/emaf>
 - <https://www.tyndall.ie/electronics-packaging-and-reliability-services>

PROPOSAL FORMAT:

- Title page
 - Project Title
 - Names and contact information for the PIs from both institutions
- Maximum of 3-page proposal consisting of:
 - 200 words or less Executive Summary or Abstract
 - Project Description and Objectives
 - Statement of Work outlining tasks, risks, and schedule
 - Facilities needed
 - Detailed Budget

- Expected 6-month outcomes
- Targeted publication and follow-on funding opportunities
- CV for each PI (not included in page count)

Note 1: IMR will administer its part of the TNI-OSU/IMR Catalyst program under IMR's Global Partnership Grant (GPG) program. IMR's share of each project will be spent within IMR.

Note 2: TNI will administer its part of TNI-OSU/IMR Catalyst program under TNI's Catalyst Program. TNI's share of each project will be spent within TNI.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Proposals should be simultaneously submitted as a PDF by email to both OSU-IMR and TNI.

- OSU-IMR Submission Contact: OSU/IMR – Joanna Gardner, gardner.306@osu.edu
- TNI Submission Contact – Louise Lucey, louise.lucey@tyndall.ie

Note 1: Proposals not conforming to the required format and deadlines will not be reviewed.

EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA:

Proposals will nominally be considered up to twice per year. The selection of awards will be made by the OSU/IMR-TNI leadership team. The proposals will be evaluated based on these criteria:

1. Technical quality and uniqueness – ambition combined with realism.
2. Strategic alignment with TNI and IMR research areas (for IMR see <https://imr.osu.edu/research-and-innovation/signature-areas>)
3. Likelihood to lead to near term joint publication and proposal development
4. Capabilities and promise of the proposing team
5. Appropriateness of planned use of funding and executing in less than 6 months