



Science and Technology Grants RFP

Dear prospective applicant,

We provide this Frequently-Asked-Questions (FAQ) section to provide answers to common questions raised by Bidder Briefing sessions attendees or questions received through email. Please, note that reading this FAQ is not a substitute for reading the RFP Program Guideline to understand the whole process, what is required and important due dates. If after reading the RFP Program Guideline and this FAQ you still have questions, you may contact us through rfp@prsciencetrust.org and we will answer in 24 to 48 hours.

We thank you for your interest in this initiative.

Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust

RFP – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the objective of the Trusts' RFP Program?

In general, the Trust designed its RFP program as a call for proposal mechanism to select competitively for funding science and technology projects in Puerto Rico. This RFP provides applicants with a systematic, open and competition-based process to select projects with the highest probability of success and attaining economic development.

Who is eligible to apply?

Proposals are solicited from the following entities duly incorporated in Puerto Rico according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico:

1. Startups
2. Established companies
3. Private and State Academic Institutions
4. Other Non-Profit Research Institutions

Natural persons are not eligible to submit proposals.

My project is to be developed in collaboration with a research institution located outside of Puerto Rico? Is this allowable?

Yes, collaborations between the applicant and entities located out of Puerto Rico are allowable. Entities located out of Puerto Rico may participate as subwardees, following the guidelines provided in the RFP Program Guidelines addressing this issue.

Could an entity located out of Puerto Rico be the prime recipient of the award?



No. Only entities duly incorporated in Puerto Rico are eligible to apply as prime recipients of the award. In addition, people who reside outside of Puerto Rico may only submit proposals if they work for a company or organization that is fully registered in Puerto Rico.

Which projects will be considered for funding?

To be eligible for funding, basic/translational research, technology/products development for commercialization projects must be presented in one of the following strategic fields:

- (a) Biotechnology and Natural Sciences
 - (b) Information and communications technology
 - (c) Aerospace Technology
 - (d) Medical Devices
 - (e) Clean Technologies and/or Renewable Energy
 - (f) Electronics
 - (g) Agriculture
 - (h) Environmental Sciences
 - (i) Other related sciences
- (g) Other areas that the Trust, in its discretion, determine will result in the growth of research, development and

If you have questions as to whether or not our project qualifies for this or any other reason, just send us an email to rfp@prsciencetrust.org and we will be providing answers on case-by-case basis.

Would my application be rejected only by the fact that if I don't include a strong narrative to address commercialization potential?

If you are submitting a project with commercialization potential, this is one out of four areas to be addressed by applicants in the Letter of Intent. Each area will be given the same weight for evaluation purpose. We encourage applicants, however, to address commercialization potential section in the Letter of Intent as best as they can.

Who will be evaluating the applications?

Proposal selection and award recommendation decisions will be based on the advice of an External Review Committee (ERC). The ERC will be comprised of experts in areas of relevance to the funding priorities of the Trust and appropriate to the topics covered by the letters of intent selected for the second round of applications. To ensure a fair and open competition, ERC members will not take part in the review and selection deliberations



involving any situation which could create a clear conflict of interest. Finally, ERC members will be required to sign a Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Statement and respect the confidentiality of the information provided in proposals.

If my Full Proposal application is rejected, will I receive a reviewers' debriefing?

The Trust might send evaluation debriefings for Full Proposal but not for Letters of Intent.

Will the Trust sign confidentiality agreements with applicants for the purpose of reviewing proposals?

No, the Trust will not sign confidentiality agreements with applicants for the purpose of reviewing neither Letter of Intents nor Full Proposals. However, reviewers will all need to sign a conflict of interest and confidentiality certification. Further, as addressed in the RFP Program Guidelines, the Trust discourages the inclusion of confidential/proprietary information as part of the proposal. Patentable ideas, trade secrets, privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, disclosure of which may harm the applicant, should be included in applications only when such information is necessary to convey an understanding of the proposed project.

If the application includes such information, clearly mark each line or paragraph on the pages containing the proprietary/privileged information with a legend similar to: "The following contains proprietary/privileged information that (name of applicant) requests not be released to persons outside the Trust, except for purposes of review and evaluation."

Do I need to present a budget as part of the documentation in the Letter of Intent?

No. The presentation of a budget and its budget justification is only required for those applicants invited to submit Full Proposals.

I saw in the RFP Program Guidelines that matching funds are not required, but are encouraged. If I present the matching funds that I can provide for the project as part of the documentation in the Letter of Intent, will that "give me an edge over" other applicants?

No, the availability matching funds (in the form of cash, in-kind, etc.) is not part of the evaluation criteria for Letter of Intent.

Can I answer the Letter of Intent in Spanish?

Yes.

I could not attend any of the Bidder Briefing sessions. Was it mandatory to be able to apply? Would that disqualify me?

Absolutely not. All the information about this program, and how to apply, can be found through this website: <http://prsciencetrust.org/projects/fy2014-15-01-introduction/>



Please, start by reading the RFP Program Guideline to get an overview of the process and what is required. If you have questions, send us an email to rfp@prsciencetrust.org and we will answer in 48 to 72 hours.

Could you provide a timeline of important RFP process due dates?

Yes, please [click here](#).

How can I contact the Trust for questions about the RFP?

For questions about RFP, you might contact us only through rfp@prsciencetrust.org. Answers will be provided in 48-72 hours.