# University of Florida Industry Partnership Matching Grants Program

**(UFLIPS)**

***UFLIPS Program Guidelines and Application Process***

## Application Deadlines

## 

## March 1 and September 1, Annually

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The University of Florida Industry Partnership Matching Grants Program (UFLIPS) has two funding opportunities. These are:

1- UFLIPS-General (UFLIPS-**G**); and 2- UFLIPS-Energy (UFLIPS-**E**)

Both opportunities promote early- to late-stage technology development and commercialization through collaborative research projects (for 12 months) between University of Florida’s Principal Investigators (PIs) and high tech (UFLIPS-G) and energy (UFLIPS-E) companies located in Florida.

The path from lab to market can be risky and financially burdensome for many companies. The UFLIPS Program has been created to aid Florida companies in their commercialization efforts of technologies by:

1. providing Florida companies with the maximum return on investment for R&D; and
2. leveraging UF’s intellectual resources and talents through translational research opportunities.

UFLIPS will enable Florida companies to engage UF Researchers and their teams in translational research opportunities and to train and engage new talent, while leveraging R&D.

Projects must support the following program goals:

* Contribute to attracting, retaining, and growing technology- and energy-based companies in Florida
* Increase the impact UF researchers have on developing technology and energy industries in Florida
* Increase competitive external funding for UF-Industry collaborative research
* Provide UF students with industrial research experiences and increase the student pipeline to Industry across Florida

### UFLIPS APPLICATION & AWARD OVERVIEW

**Eligibility for Application** (see Table 1)**:**

* + Industry partner MUST be a Florida-based company in the high tech- or energy-related sectors.
  + Company cash (and any in-kind contribution) requirements must be submitted and guaranteed in writing with the Application.
  + UF’s standard Facilities and Administration rate applies only to Company’s cash amount portion.
  + Completed full application must be submitted by UF PI to [uflips@research.ufl.edu](mailto:uflips@research.ufl.edu) & UFIRST on or before deadline date.
  + The PI and/or Company will not be eligible to submit additional proposals if progress reports/Annual Reports on previous/existing projects are delinquent.

**Eligibility for Award** (see Table 1 and details in “AWARDS” section)**:**

* + Proposal must be recommended for funding by Review Committee.
  + Company and UF sign research agreement (template available at [http://research.ufl.edu/faculty-and- staff/forms.html](http://research.ufl.edu/faculty-and-staff/forms.html)).

The UF UFLIPS match requires a 2:1 Cash Match from large companies (>100 employees) and 1:1 Cash Match from small companies (<100 employees). The UFLIPS portion of the award can range from $25,000 (minimum) to $100,000 (maximum). Company’s total cash has to be committed upfront before the UFLIPS award can be released. In addition, the company must provide a 1:1 in kind match (see sample budget in Appendix I).

**Table 1:** Application and Award Requirements.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1. Application** |  | |
| **Project** | **Any technology or energy discipline (see Table 2 for discipline examples)** | |
| **Eligibility** | **Industry Partner** | **UFLIPS** |
| Technology - or energy- focused company located in Florida | UF PI must be PI- eligible |
| **Cash** | 2:1 match for large companies (>100 employees)  1:1 match for small companies (<100 employees) | Starting at $25K and up to max of $100K per project |
| **UF standard F&A rate** | Applied to Company cash amount ONLY | N/A |
| **In-kind (Letter of**  **Commitment)** | Must be a minimum of 1:1 of Company cash amount | N/A |
| **2. Award** |  | |
| **Proposal** | **Must be recommended for funding by Review Committee** | |
| **Intellectual Property** | **Industry Partner** | **UFLIPS** |
| Must agree to UFLIPS Research Agreement terms & conditions | UFLIPS Research Agreement terms & conditions |
| **Payment** | Must agree to UFLIPS Research Agreement terms & conditions | UFLIPS Research Agreement terms & conditions |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table 2. Projects may be proposed in any high tech or energy discipline, including, but not limited to:** | |
|  | |
| * Life Sciences - including Biotechnology, Medical Device Manufacturing, Pharmaceuticals, or Health Care | |
| * Information Technology - including Products/Services, Software Development, and Cyber-Security | |
| * Modeling/Simulation/Training |  |
| * Photonics/Lasers/Optics | * Homeland Security/Defense |
| * Telecommunications | * Microelectronics |
| * Manufacturing | * Nanotechnology |
| * Biomedical Engineering | * Aviation/Aerospace |
| * Renewable Energy | * Financial/Professional Services |
| * Hydrogen-Based Technologies | * Agribusiness |

**Potential Industry Partners:** To determine if your company may qualify or if you need assistance identifying a UF PI, please email [uflips@research.ufl.edu](mailto:uflips@research.ufl.edu) for assistance.

Appendix II has concurrent steps for UFIRST and UFLIPS Proposal/Agreement/Award Set up.

**PRE-PROPOSAL DISCUSSION & DEVELOPMENT**

1. Proposal/Project discussion and development between UF PI and Industry Partner.

Please write to [uflips@research.ufl.edu](mailto:uflips@research.ufl.edu) to propose a new idea. This will ensure a smooth and efficient process as we can identify potential issues prior to execution of UFLIPS Research Agreement.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Any discussion involving confidential information **must** be preceded by execution of a Confidentiality Agreement by both UF and the Industry partner to protect both parties’ intellectual property (IP) rights.

**PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS**

* 1. UF PI and Industry partner to develop final Statement of work and budget which include.
     1. The statement of work must clearly define/describe what additional value/research can be accomplished by leveraging of the UFLIPS Matching Grants Program funds.
     2. Separate budget columns are required for Industry Partner portion and Requested UFLIPS Match amount – see sample budget in Appendix I.
  2. The UF PI must submit the completed Proposal to [uflips@research.ufl.edu](mailto:uflips@research.ufl.edu). This proposal will be reviewed by Review Committee and a decision to Recommend/Not Recommend for UFLIPS funding will be provided. See Proposal Merit Review Criteria.
  3. Concurrent with submission to [uflips@research.ufl.edu](mailto:uflips@research.ufl.edu), the proposal should be entered into UFIRST and routed for internal UF-Unit level approvals.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Only the Industry Partner’s Cash funding is to be entered into the UFIRST budget. Company In-kind support and UFLIPS Match amount are not to be entered into UFIRST (i.e. NO cost share).

* 1. Proposal title in both UFLIPS Application and UFIRST Proposal should begin with:

“OR-DRPD-UFLIPS-**E**-YYYY” (YYYY being the current year) for Energy companies and

“OR-DRPD-UFLIPS-**G**-YYYY” (YYYY being the current year) for non-energy companies. This will be **followed by the proposal title**.

**PROPOSAL COMPONENTS (See UFLIPS Proposal Form)**

Required Sections for UFLIPS Proposal *(page/character/space limitations are provided in the individual sections & must be followed)*:

1. UFLIPS Checklist
2. Cover Page
3. Project Abstract
4. Company Background
5. Statement of Work: Technical Proposal
6. Statement of Work: Master Schedule
7. Business Proposal
8. Business Analysis
9. Commercialization Plan
10. Measurable Results
11. Other Pertinent Factors
12. Budget (Refer to Program guidelines for sample budget and use Budget template provided)
13. Budget Justification (Refer to Program guidelines for details)
14. Company Commitment Letter of In-kind Support

The mandatory 1:1 In-Kind support from the Company is not to be included in the UFIRST budget section as a separate line item. It is to be included in the Company Letter of Commitment signed by an authorized company representative. In-Kind support is mandatory and will be considered during Merit Review process by the Review Committee.

The Commitment letter for In-Kind support from the Company should be emailed as part of the proposal to [uflips@research.ufl.edu](mailto:uflips@research.ufl.edu) on or before deadline, and must be uploaded as a single MSWord or PDF file into UFIRST as an attachment.

**Company In-Kind calculated as follows:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Company FTE time (indicate # hrs x $/hour) |  |
| Name of Employee 1 (hours x $/hour) |
| Name of Employee 2 (hours x $/hour) |
| Name of Employee 3 (hours x $/hour) |
| Materials Donated (Indicate Amount/Number of Samples x  $/sample or $/unit of materials donated) |  |
| Fair Market Value of Company Equipment used by PI (at no cost to PI that is otherwise captured in the Project Budget) to complete Project Scope of Work |  |
| **Total Company In-Kind** |  |

### PROPOSAL MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

The Review Committee will evaluate each proposal. Criteria for selection of awards (in order of priority) include:

* The Review Committee’s rating of the proposal’s technical merit.
* Commercialization potential of the technology/product proposed.
* Support of the goal of the program to attract, grow and retain energy technology-based industry in Florida.
* Amount of cash (and in-kind match) provided by industry partner.
* Strength of university / industry partnership.
* Student involvement in the proposed research. Industry funds should include tuition for students involved, but is not required.

**UFLIPS RESEARCH AGREEMENT PROCESS**

1. UFLIPS Research Agreement (URA) can be provided to the Company for review and execution at any time and certainly once Statement of Work and Budget have been finalized.
2. Intellectual Property (IP) and payment Terms and Conditions (T&C) are non-negotiable and will follow the UFLIPS Research Agreement T&C. Negotiation for any other URA T&C will commence once Review Committee has returned a verdict to Recommend proposal for UFLIPS Matching funds.

**AWARD**

If proposal is recommended for funding, a UFLIPS Notice of Intent to Award will be sent to appropriate parties and:

* 1. URA negotiations will commence, or
  2. UF will counter-sign URA that Company has previously signed, and
  3. Once URA is fully executed, internal UF Award/NOA process & set up of Grant project in MyUFL will proceed.

**PLEASE NOTE:** UFLIPS Notice of Intent to Award does **NOT** indicate that Company or UFLIPS funds will be released.

1. Once UFLIPS Research Agreement has been fully executed, an Award Letter providing details of Project, including project number(s) and/or spending chartfields, start & end dates, any project- specific funding limitations, etc., will be provided.
2. Company will be invoiced for the full cash support amount once the UFLIPS Research Agreement has been fully executed and project set up in MyUFL is complete. UFLIPS Matching funds will be released to PI once full payment from Company has been received.

**APPENDIX I**

**Sample budget**

Example of a Proposal Title:

**OR-DRPD-UFLIPS-E-2018: *Development of materials-based Energy Sources for Flying Submarines.***

**PROJECT PERIOD:** 12 months.

**COMPANY NAME: [Company Name]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Funds to be Provided By [Company Name]** | | | | **Requested UFLIPS Matching Funding** | | | **Total Costs** |
| **Personnel Salary & Wages** | **Effort** | **Rate** | **Cash Cost** | **Effort** | **Rate** | **Cash Cost** |  |
| PI Name | 3% |  | $8,255 | 5% |  | $13,716 | $21,971 |
| Grad Asst #1 Name | 19% |  | $5,292 | 31% |  | $8,748 | $14,040 |
| Grad Asst #2 Name | 19% |  | $5,292 | 31% |  | $8,748 | $14,040 |
| ***Total Salary/Wage Costs*** |  |  | ***$18,839*** |  |  | ***$31,212*** | ***$50,051*** |
| **Fringe Benefits** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PI Name |  | 27.40% | $2,262 |  | 27.40% | $3,758 | $6,020 |
| Grad Asst #1 Name |  | 10.20% | $540 |  | 10.20% | $892 | $1,432 |
| Grad Asst #2 Name |  | 10.20% | $540 |  | 10.20% | $892 | $1,432 |
| **Other Direct Costs** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Travel |  |  | $0 |  |  | $0 | $0 |
| Materials & Supplies |  | 55% | $6,100 |  | 45% | $5,060 | $11,160 |
| Access to Instrumentation |  | 62% | $2,015 |  | 38% | $1,215 | $3,230 |
| Tuition |  | 35% | $3,801 |  | 65% | $6,970 | $10,771 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Direct Costs** |  |  | **$34,095** |  |  | **$50,000** | **$84,095** |
| **Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)** | |  | **$30,294** |  |  | **n/a** | **$30,294** |
| **F&A** (52.5% of MTDC on Company Funds Only) | | | **$15,905** |  |  | **n/a** | **$15,905** |
| **TOTAL CASH COSTS** |  |  | **$50,000** |  |  | **$50,000** | **$100,000** |

#### Budget Justification:

Example budget justification is given below:

Faculty Salary: Funds are requested for 1.0 month of effort (8%) for the PI. PI will supervise the two students working on the project, oversee synthesis and functionalization, participate in data analysis and interpretation, and disseminate project findings through presentations, peer reviewed publications, and reports to UFLIPS Program Director and to Company. PI will contribute expertise in material synthesis, modification, and characterization.

Faculty Fringe: The applicable fringe rate for faculty salaries has been used.

Graduate Students: Funds are requested for two graduate students for 6 months each at 50% effort (standard effort for graduate students in their respective departments). GA #1 will synthesize and functionalize materials microspheres provided by Company, while GA #2 will investigate energy capture and storage options provided by Company and characterize their effectiveness.

Graduate Student Fringe: The applicable fringe rate for faculty salaries has been used.

Laboratory Supplies and Reagents: Funds are requested to acquire glassware, laboratory supplies, magnetic containment fields, and reagents (polymers, solvents, etc.) needed to synthesize the microspheres. These costs have been estimated based on the work performed during the first phase of the project. Funds are also requested to acquire supplements, consumables, and other supplies needed for storage options of energy in functionalized microspheres.

Access to Instrumentation: Funds are requested for instrument access fees at the College of Engineering Research Service Centers (RSC) and the Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research (ICBR) for microsphere characterization.

Indirect Costs: Indirect costs have been calculated as 52.5% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) for the portion of the budget supported by Cash contributions from Company.

### APPENDIX II

**Concurrent Steps in UFIRST and UFLIPS Processes (For UF PI)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **UFIRST** | **UFLIPS** |
| Proposal | Proposal submitted for internal UF approvals:   1. Company cash support to UF – detailed budget in UFIRST; 2. Company In-kind support – Letter signed by Company’s Authorized Official to be uploaded as Attachment in UFIRST; no Company In-Kind support to be included in UFIRST budget as a separate line item; 3. Research Agreement – Final negotiation (DSP Contracting Office) or execution of Research Agreement; 4. Award for Sponsor-funded portion of project processed in UFIRST; 5. Sponsor-funded Project established in MyUFL. | Proposal submitted to [uflips@research.ufl.edu](mailto:uflips@research.ufl.edu) for Review. Committee to decide Recommended/Not Recommended for UFLIPS Match Funding:   1. Not Recommended => UFIRST proposal to be terminated; No further action needed 2. Recommended => UFLIPS Letter of Intent to Award; 3. See (c) in UFIRST column, left; 4. UFLIPS-funded Project established in MyUFL; 5. Letter of Award from UFLIPS outlining Project details from UFLIPS funding source. |
| Proposal – Not recommended for UFLIPS  funding | UFLIPS Decision Letter uploaded into UFIRST Proposal and proposal is Terminated. | UFLIPS Decision Letter sent to PI & Company, cc sent to DSP & Office of Research Budget Office (ORBO) if appropriate) |
| Agreement – Proposal recommended for UFLIPS Match Funding | 1. Agreement signed by Company “as is” with no requested changes: Agreement record created from UFIRST Proposal & the signed Agreement uploaded for processing through to Award per usual practice. 2. Agreement – Company requests some changes (Payment and IP terms are non- negotiable): UFIRST Agreement record created from UFIRST Proposal. Research Agreement uploaded for DSP Contracts Office to finalize negotiations before full   execution and usual Award process. | Recommended for UFLIPS funding => Letter of Intent to Award, dependent upon final negotiation/execution of Research Agreement. |
| Award Set-up | Award finalized in UFIRST and sent to C&G for integration into MyUFL.  Grant Project set up in MyUFL for Company portion of funding  C&G sends invoice to Company – 100% due upon receipt of invoice. | UFLIPS Letter of Award advising UFLIPS funds will NOT be released until payment received in full from Company and providing details of UFLIPS Match amount, spending limits, etc. UFLIPS funds set up is dependent on source of UFLIPS funds, detailed below:   1. Fund 101 (UFLIPS-G): ORBO will do budget transfer via MyUFL, $0 in UFIRST. 2. Fund 209 (usually UFLIPS-E): Mod to UFIRST Award to set up Grant in MyUFL (email sent to [ufawards@ufl.edu](mailto:ufawards@ufl.edu)). 3. Fund 211 (usually UFLIPS-G): ORBO sets   up project in MyUFL, $0 in UFIRST. |