

## 2021 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SEED GRANT FUNDING DUE DATE: December 15, 2020

The Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment (ISSE) at the University of Tennessee makes annual funding available for multi-disciplinary, multi-investigator research and support. This year, ISSE will award three or four seed grants to support research projects that are **related to environmental sustainability** and have potential for external funding opportunities. The topics of interest include but are not limited to

- Modeling sustainability and resilience, especially for regional systems, under climate changes and other social and environmental stressors;
- Systems or engineering solutions to reduce nutrient and pollution (e.g., microplastics) in water;
- Technologies and analyses for carbon sequestration; and
- Solutions or modeling to enhance environmental health.

The aim of this seed grant is to support project teams as they develop the capability to secure external funding. ISSE expects the funded teams to submit at least one external grant proposal and one article to a peer-reviewed publication with necessary acknowledgement to ISSE.

**Proposals should request no more than \$45,000/year**, but ISSE will consider larger amounts for extraordinary and exceptional proposals. ISSE seed grant funding will begin on January 1, 2021 and terminate on December 30, 2021. Multi-year funding will require submission and approval of a new seed grant proposal in subsequent funding years.

Please take note of the following:

- Project teams must include multiple investigators across multiple disciplines. PIs **must be** UT faculty or staff. UTIA faculty submitting a proposal must have at least one UTK faculty member as Co-PI. A collaboration with ISSE researchers is encouraged.
- Eligible expenses are shown on the budget worksheet. Funds **may be used for faculty support**, such as a “buy out” for teaching commitments if their department heads agree.
- ISSE encourages cost sharing by investigators and their departments.
- Researchers may be the PI on only one proposal submission.
- The UTK part of external follow-on grant proposals resulting from ISSE seed grants **must be submitted through ISSE**. ISSE staff is happy to assist with the proposal preparation and submission process. If the PI is a UTSI faculty member, there should be a partner at UTK, and the UTK part of the external proposal should go through ISSE.
- The enclosed coversheet must be completed and signed by each team member and his/her department head.

Proposals should be no more than three pages and contain the following:

- a) A completed and signed coversheet (see enclosed; it is not counted in the three pages),
- b) A detailed budget, including travel plans for developing external proposals submitted on the Seed Grant Proposal Budget Worksheet (see attached, it is not counted in the three pages),
- c) A list of the research team members and their affiliations,

- d) A description of the proposed research area and a work plan, and
- e) A list of at least two programs or agencies that could serve as possible funding sources for a follow-on external grant proposal (with a targeted grant amount) along with a detailed plan to develop the external proposal(s), and targeted publications for peer-reviewed articles. including a time line.

Please email your proposal (with cover sheet and budget worksheet) by **December 15, 2020** to Dr. Mingzhou Jin at [jin@utk.edu](mailto:jin@utk.edu) and copy Lissa Gay at [lissa@utk.edu](mailto:lissa@utk.edu).

### **ISSE Funding Support Agreement Cover Sheet**

We understand 1) that teams receiving support under this opportunity are expected to submit one or more multi-investigator, external, follow-on funding proposals through ISSE and 2) that we must submit one or more articles on this seed grant research to peer-reviewed publications.

The following terms will apply to any successful **external** grant proposals resulting from ISSE seed grants:

- Faculty and their departments will receive full credit for their contributions to any funded external proposals according to the percent credit indicated on the UT (Cayuse) proposal form.
- RIF generated from **successful external proposals** will be distributed as follows: 60% will remain with the University; 10% will be distributed to the College of Engineering (where ISSE is housed); 15% will be distributed to the College or Department of the faculty members (according to the percent credit indicated in Cayuse); 15% will be retained by ISSE and used by the PIs.
- UTIA faculty submitting external proposals must have a UTK Co-PI and route the UTK part through ISSE.
- ISSE will manage all project accounts.

Please have each project team member and his or her department head sign below and attach it as a coversheet to your three-page proposal:

<b>Investigator Name</b> (please print name and sign)	<b>% Effort on Seed grant</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Department Head</b> (please print name and sign)	<b>Date</b>