REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SEED GRANT FUNDING for FY 2022
DUE DATE: June 15, 2021

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. For fiscal year 2022, 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 change or other social and environmental stressors;
- Modeling climate change and its effects on systems pertinent to environmental sustainability and investigation of mitigation strategies;
- Hydrology in the broad sense, e.g., ecohydrology, water resources management, water for food and agriculture, socio-hydrology;
- Green and sustainable infrastructure that improves environmental and social justice;
- Systems or engineering solutions to reduce nutrients and pollutants (e.g., microplastics, micropollutants, etc.) in water;
- Technologies and analyses for carbon sequestration;
- Addressing disruptions caused by economic and technological transitions; and
- Environmental health.

The aim of this seed grant is to support project teams as they develop interdisciplinary collaboration and build 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 $50,000/year, but ISSE will consider larger amounts for extraordinary and exceptional proposals. Expense for building collaborative networks with other institutions is encouraged. ISSE seed grant funding will begin on July 1, 2021 and terminate on June 30, 2022. 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 also encouraged. Please check ISSE research and faculty at isse.utk.edu.
Eligible expenses are shown on the budget worksheet. There is no F&A. Funds may be used for faculty support, such as a “buy out” for teaching commitments if agreed upon by the PI’s department head.

Researchers may be the PI on only one proposal submission.

The UTK portion of the required external proposals generated based on 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 or her department head.

Each application should include the following components. Proposals should be no more than three pages and contain the following:

a) Completed and signed coversheet (see enclosed; it is not counted in the three pages),

b) 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), and

c) Proposal description with no more than three pages, including
   o List of the research team members and their affiliations;
   o Objectives and rationale;
   o Technical approach and research plan;
   o Collaboration plan, including possible collaboration with ISSE researchers;
   o Proposal development plan, including a list of at least two programs or agencies that could serve as possible funding sources for a subsequent external grant proposal (with a targeted grant amount) along with a detailed plan to develop the external proposal(s);
   o Dissemination plan, such as publications for peer-reviewed articles; and
   o Timeline for all deliverables.

Please email your proposal (with cover sheet and budget worksheet) by June 15, 2021 to Dr. Mingzhou Jin at jin@utk.edu and copy Lissa Gay at 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. This distribution may be adjusted based on the implementation of the new BAM system.
• 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:

<table>
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<th>Investigator Name (please print name and sign)</th>
<th>% Effort on Seed grant</th>
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