Introduction

Cornell University and Technion have recently partnered to establish the Technion-Cornell Innovation Institute (TCII), which will become a key component of the new CornellNYC Tech campus, due to begin operations in New York City in September 2012. A key mission of this campus is to stimulate the New York City economy with activities focused on the technology sector (roughly defined as businesses revolving around the manufacturing of electronics and creation of software, computers or products and services relating to information technology).

The TCII will run a Masters and PhD program, and conduct independent applied research in a number of “Hub” topics, which have been identified as strategic for the New York City economy. An important priority is to conduct research in topics with potential for technology transfer to the local industry.

Research at TCII will be conducted mostly by the permanent TCII staff, but there will also be opportunities to involve Technion and Cornell faculty, directly and indirectly.

To promote research collaborations between Cornell and Technion faculty on relevant topics, TCII has established a fund to finance joint research of PI’s from both institutions.

Regular (non-emeritus) Technion and Cornell faculty members at all ranks in all departments are invited to submit joint research proposals for funding in a two-stage process. Each proposal should include at least one PI from Technion and one PI from Cornell. In the first stage, the applicants will submit a brief pre-proposal. Feedback whether the topic is attractive enough will be provided quickly, upon which the applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. Final notification will be given soon after that (see schedule below).

Scope

Proposals are solicited in the following three “Hub” topics. Proposals should describe activities that intersect with the technology sector, and have commercialization potential:


**Built Environment:** Comprehensive building design. Building, infrastructure, urban and transportation operations and management. Smart buildings. Transportation systems.

**Proposals**

The pre-proposal should be no longer than 2 pages, providing the title, full PI details, short abstract and a description of the topic and how it meets the criteria listed below. If the proposal has been submitted in parallel for funding elsewhere, this should be mentioned. The full proposal should be no longer than 10 pages, expanding on the pre-proposal in full detail.

**Review**

The review committee will consist of five Technion faculty members and five Cornell faculty members. The committee will solicit external review at its discretion.

**Criteria**

Proposals will be judged according to the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** Whether the topic of the proposal fits the scope of the call.
- **Importance:** Whether the topic of the proposal addresses an important problem.
- **PI qualification:** Whether the PI’s have the correct background and track record to conduct the proposed research.
- **Success potential:** The feasibility of the research goals and/or potential for future large-scale funding from external funds.
- **Commercialization potential:** The chances of successful technology transfer of research results in the future.
- **Collaboration:** The match between the PI’s from the two institutions.

**Schedule**

- Pre-proposals due: May 15, 2012.
- Pre-proposal notification: June 1, 2012.
- Full proposal due: July 15, 2012.
- Final notification and project start: Sep 1, 2012.

**Funding**

Each grant will consist of up to USD 30,000 to the Technion PI’s and up to USD 30,000 to the Cornell PI’s (total up to USD 60,000), made available through each of the institutions. Funds may be used according to the standard respective institutional regulations governing internal grants (essentially for manpower, equipment and travel for collaboration purposes). Funds should be used within two years from receipt. Three proposals are expected to be funded for each Hub topic (total: 9 proposals).
Report

A brief report on the research and its results is expected at the end of the research period. Successful projects may apply for a second year of funding.

Research Workshops

Independently of this CFP, the fund will sponsor three joint research workshops in New York City during 2012, one for each Hub topic, bringing together relevant faculty from Cornell, Technion and relevant local (NYC) industry. Information on these events will be published separately.

Contacts

All materials should be sent in PDF format to Sigal Zemach: sigal@tcii.technion.ac.il, +972-4-8294906.

Queries and comments may be addressed to Craig Gotsman (TCII Director): gotsman@tcii.technion.ac.il, +972-4-8294336.