Florida Center for Cybersecurity
2017-2018 Collaborative Seed Award Program

Program Description:

The Florida Center for Cybersecurity (FC^2) supports and encourages collaboration across the State University System (SUS) to promote research innovation and productivity in cybersecurity. The competitive FC^2 Collaborative Seed Award Program advances that objective by funding research teams with investigators from two or more different SUS institutions for projects that align with FC^2 strategic priorities and have strong potential to attract external funding.

Eligibility Information:

Applicants must be eligible to be principal investigators (PI) for external grants at their home institutions. The proposed project must designate at least one PI and one Co-PI, who meet the eligibility criteria, each employed by a different SUS institution.

A faculty member may submit only one application as PI or Co-PI per funding cycle but is not limited as a collaborator or team member on other projects.

Award Information:

Estimated Funding and Number of Awards:

A total of $750,000 will be available from FC^2 for awards under this program in 2017-2018. Budget for each award can be a maximum of $75,000 for an expected period of performance of 07/01/2018 – 06/30/2019. Awardees may apply for renewed funding for one additional year.

Applications that include matching funds from institutional and/or industrial sources will be given more weight during the review process. Matching funds may include but are not limited to cash, academic release time for faculty members, and student stipends. Supporting documentation is required as outlined in this RFP.

Scope of the Award:

Applications must pertain to cybersecurity, information assurance, or digital forensics. Preference will be given to applications that address current high-priority topics. For 2018, these topics include

- Cloud Computing Security
- Cyber-Physical Systems Security and the Internet of Things
- Autonomous Cyber Security Systems
- Securing the Mobile Workforce
- Security-Focused Systems Design
- Predictive Analytics for Cybersecurity
- Human Centered Design for Cybersecurity

- Cybersecurity Situational Understanding and Visualization
- Attribution of Network/Internet Disruptive Events
- Insider Threat
- Cybersecurity Education
- Blockchain
- Cyber Operations as a Driver of New National Power Structures

Emerging Interest Areas

- Quantum Cryptography
- Cryptocurrency
- Privacy and Security
- Artificial Intelligence

Award funds may be allocated for a variety of expenses, including pilot projects, prototype development, demonstration of educational/public service programs, domestic travel, data collection and analysis, and graduate student salaries. Salary for PI and Co-PIs can be requested up to a total of $10,000 per year (Note: This is a total dollar amount).

Funding is available for project activities including, but not limited to:

- Workshops on emerging multidisciplinary research areas (excluding food and beverage)
- Support of a high-level seminar series to promote networking for formation of an innovation program (excluding food and beverage)
- Development of concepts and whitepapers for large-scale centers, institutes or cluster hires
- Travel to establish partnerships or to interact with program officers
- Identification and recruitment of industrial, academic and/or government partnerships in support of initiatives
- Development of plans to promote industrial research collaborations
- Creation and support of resources such as research consortia, collaboration sites or social networking tools to facilitate large-scale inter-university research programs
- Collection of preliminary data needed for external proposal submission

Award recipients are required to submit a proposal for competitive external funding prior to the end of the Collaborative Seed Award Program period.

Application Proposal Information:

Proposal Format:

The proposal should include a cover sheet, project summary, table of contents, project narrative, biographical sketches, budget and budget justification, current and pending support, facilities/equipment/other resources, and letters of commitment. The document should be in PDF (.pdf) format, and single-spaced, using Times New Roman, 12-point font and one-inch margins. The proposal should be submitted as one PDF document to the designated online portal located on the FC^2's website.

Application Content: The proposal should include the following elements:

- Cover Sheet
    - Title of proposed project
    - PI/Co-PI information (Name, Email, Primary Address)
    - Institution Information (Name, Address)
- Project Summary
    - Brief overview
    - Statement of the intellectual merit of the proposed project
    - Statement on the potential broader impacts of the proposed project
    - *1 page limit*
- Table of Contents
- Project Narrative
    - Objects of the proposed work and expected significance
    - Outline of the general work plan
    - A "Broader Impacts" section (aligned with the statement in the Project Summary) that illustrates ways to mesh project research and other activities with the interests of the Cybersecurity industry
    - **If previously funded:** Provide a summary of the results, any corresponding publications, and new products developed as a result of the funding if applicable
    - ALL references properly cited
    - *10 page limit*
- Biographical Sketches
    - A list of all undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral education (Institution, Location, Major-Degree, Year)
    - A list of all academic/professional appointments in reverse chronological order
    - A list of up to five examples that demonstrate the broader impact of the individual's professional and scholarly activities that focus on integration, transfer of knowledge, and creation
    - Other Personnel: A list of post-doctoral associates, other professionals, and students (include the appropriate qualifications that merit their consideration in the evaluation of this project)
- Budget & Budget Justification
    - Budget: Correctly complete one budget template for the entire proposal (Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the project)
    - Budget Justification: Follow guidelines listed below
        - Personnel: List all employees who will be on payroll for the project. PI and Co-PI's must be mentioned by name. Show how you calculate the salary or rate for each employee.
            - Provide supporting documentation for salaries. Supporting documentation can be a copy or screen shot of the HR payroll information or a copy of a paystub. Please note – sensitive information may be redacted for PII concern
            - The total combined salary request for PI and Co-PIs should not exceed $10,000.
            - Fringe Benefits: Provide detail on benefits coverage and rates for all personnel listed.
        - Travel: Explain all estimated travel expenses including a breakdown of expenses for each trip. Equipment: List all equipment requested.

- - - Equipment is defined as an item of property that has an expected service life of more than one year or costs more than $1,000 per item. Equipment can be either electronic or non-electronic.
      - Provide supporting documentation for equipment costs. Supporting documentation can be quotes or other pricing documentation.
    - Materials and Supplies: List all materials and supplies requested.
      - Provide supporting documentation for materials and supplies costs. Supporting documentation can be quotes or other pricing documentation.
      - If the requested item has an expected service life of more than one year or costs more than $1,000 per item, the request should be classified as equipment.
    - Contractual: List all contractual project-related costs for services provided by a third-party contractor or vendor. This includes contracted staff who will not be on your institutions payroll such as guest speakers and industry experts.
    - Other costs: Tuition and fees requested for graduate assistant/student support, etc.
    - Indirect Costs: Indirect costs, as well as Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs are not allowed on this award.
    - Construction: Construction costs are not allowed on this award.
- Current and Pending Support
  - Information on all current and pending support for ongoing projects and proposals (this project included)
  - Include: The source, the project, and a brief overview of the project
- Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources
  - Include a description of the internal and external resources that PI/Co-PI's will provide for the project
  - This information should be included in this section as opposed to the budget justification/project narrative
- Letters of Commitment
  - Must be written and signed by an authoritative figure
  - Amount must clearly match the amount indicated in the budget
  - Clear indication of the source of the match

Review Process and Selection Criteria:

Applications will be assessed by review panels composed of subject matter experts from industry, academia and government. Each proposal will receive at least two reviews addressing the criteria listed below. The FC^2 director will make the final selection based on the rankings of the proposals and attention will be given to the diversity of ideas and the number of collaborative SUS and/or industry partners included. The following criteria will be used:

- Scholarly Merit and Feasibility
  - Clear case to address (or has a plan to address) an important gap in existing knowledge or to significantly advance knowledge in the discipline
  - Project objectives are clearly specified, with appropriate outcomes. Metrics are clearly defined and are achievable and realistic for the duration of the project
  - Clearly specified work plan

- o   Aligns with FC^2 strategic priorities
- Qualifications of project personnel
  - o   Co-PIs qualified to execute project plan, manage the team, and produce the deliverables
  - o   Team roles clearly defined
  - o   Includes multiple disciplines where appropriate
- Budget and facilities
  - o   Appropriate amount. Properly allocated. Well justified. High return on investment.
  - o   Balance of involvement of participating SUS institutions.
  - o   Institutional or industrial matching funds.
- Broader Impact
  - o   Connections to collaborations with other SUS initiatives, industry in the state, and governmental assets in the state.
  - o   Technology transfer activities in terms of intellectual property generated, licenses and startup companies.
- Potential for generating external funding
  - o   High potential for follow-up funding with a clearly defined plan to pursue a specific funding opportunity.

Timeline:

RFP issued   November 7, 2017

Submission Deadline   January 8, 2018

Papers out for Review   January 12, 2018

Award Announcement   March 12, 2018

*Subsequent years will follow a similar timeline

Reporting:

An intermediate progress report is due six (6) months from the project start date. The report should include the following information: title of project, name of investigator(s), expected dates of performance, activities and accomplishments to date, budget update.

Technical and financial reports are due one (1) month after the end date of the project. The final report should include the following information (title of project, name of investigator(s), expected dates of performance, amount, and funding agency) about follow on proposal(s) submitted to other agencies for continued support of the project. The report should address accomplishments, products, and participants.

Attendance from a PI, Co-PI, or another approved individual is expected during the annual FC^2 conference in the fall of 2018 and present the research at the 2019 Research Symposium. Failure

to meet these reporting requirements will result in disqualification from future awards from the FC^2

Additional Comments:

Any requests for extensions of the period of performance, change in scope, PI, Co-PI, or re-budgeting should be made through the designated online portal prior to any changes taking effect.

Patentable ideas, trade secrets, privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, the disclosure of which may harm the proposer, should NOT be included in proposals.

Contact Information:

General Info: Fc2seed@usf.edu