Call for Proposals
Vice-President of Research & Economic Development and the Technology Transfer Office
CATalyst Awards

The VPRED and TTO announce the 2016 CATalyst Awards call for proposals. This second year of availability of "gap funds" continues to support the pre-commercialization activities around faculty inventions which exhibit a strong market potential. CATalyst awards are intended to provide market-relevant validation for technologies or projects beyond the point where traditional research funding is available or appropriate. An example would be where feasibility has been demonstrated by an academic model but funding is required to develop a commercial grade prototype, perform standard tests, or prove utility in an industry relevant application. Three CATalyst awards were made in 2015. Two of those resulted in technology licenses and one led to a sponsored research agreement with a private company.

CATalyst awards will be up to $20,000, and funded projects should last no longer than six months. Proposals will be due November 16th, 2015 with awards announced by January 11, 2016. The goal is to both technically and commercially "de-risk" an invention such that it can (1) attract further development funding (2) be licensed to an existing company (3) provide a base from which an entirely new company can be formed or (4) stimulate new products of high consumer value.

Eligibility and Award Information:

- The PI must meet the requirements as described in the PI Guide. [http://www.montana.edu/research/osp/documents/grants/OSP_PI_Guide.pdf](http://www.montana.edu/research/osp/documents/grants/OSP_PI_Guide.pdf)
- A disclosure form [http://tto.montana.edu/forms/index.html](http://tto.montana.edu/forms/index.html) upon which the project is based, must accompany or be on file with the TTO and assignment must be completed.
- The invention underlying the proposal must not yet be licensed or optioned.
- The IP surrounding the invention disclosure must be owned (fully or jointly) by MSU.
- All proposals must be submitted via the Electronic Proposal Clearance Form (ePcf). There are instructions and a link to the program at the top of the OSP website: [http://www.montana.edu/research/osp](http://www.montana.edu/research/osp). Select MSU Technology Transfer Office as the Agency and the Full Proposal option in the ePCF. Proposal titles should begin with "Catalyst: "
- Documentation includes a project plan (1 pg., max) and budget (1 pg., max).
- Final report due within 7 months of date of award (15% withheld pending a final report.)
- Investigators may only submit one project for CATalyst funding in any 12 month period.
- It is estimated that no more than 3 awards will be made per year.
- Reviewers will be selected from the VPRED office and may include outside advisors, under CDA.
- A 6% university admin fee must be included in the budget.

Proposals should address the following:

1. The probability that the proposed activity will lead to commercialization and licensing
2. Evidence that CATalyst funds will be sufficient to achieve a milestone towards commercialization
3. Evidence, when possible, of additional external sources of support
4. Evidence that CATalyst funding is not a duplication of other internal or external funding
5. The PI’s comprehension of the market space and competitive landscape of the invention
6. Relevant publications
Questions can be addressed to Gary Bloomer in the TTO [gary.bloomer@montana.edu](mailto:gary.bloomer@montana.edu) or ext. 7483.