Request for Proposals for Phase I of the

ILLINOIS TECH NAYAR PRIZE

(Phase I: Submission Deadline September 18, 2015)

Phase I Proposal Submission Guidelines

The budget for this award will not exceed $100,000. Proposals are limited to 10 pages. Submission of the proposal is due by September 18 via email to Elizabeth Soto at esoto2@iit.edu. Note: This is a proposal for the initial phase of a breakthrough initiative with high societal impact, leading to the award of the Illinois Tech Nayar Prize. This is not a research grant proposal.

Proposal Requirements:

- Must be based on the collaboration of two or more faculty/staff/graduate student team members, preferably from at least two different academic units. The primary collaborators may be designated as co-PIs, or as PI and co-PI(s). Additional team members may be drawn from the faculty, staff, undergraduate and/or graduate student population, external subject-matter experts, and the IIT alumni community.
- Must be multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary in scope.
- Must show substantial promise for solving a complex problem and benefitting society.
- May not be used to directly supplement existing grants or contracts.
- Curriculum vitae, budget, letters of support, and proposal references should be included as an appendix (does not count toward the 10 page limit).

Budget could include tuition and stipend expenses for students, supplies, equipment, travel, and/or faculty summer salaries or course buy-outs. The award period is October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. Recipients will be required to submit a mid-term progress report and a final technical report. Both reports should include technical and financial elements.
PROPOSAL FORMAT

Typeface, Size, and Page Formatting:
The proposal is limited to 10 pages including figures, tables, and appendices (excluding budget, letters of support, references, and curriculum vitae). Proposals should be submitted in either Times New Roman or Arial typeface, and the font size should be no smaller than 11 points. Proposals must have margins of at least one inch on each side. Proposals that do not meet these formatting requirements will not be reviewed.

Objectives:
List the broad, long-term objectives and identify the complex societal problem that will be solved by the breakthrough innovation that you are proposing; explain why you believe this problem is a critical problem that should be the focus of your efforts.

Background and Significance:
Briefly sketch the background (in general and as provided by the members of your team) leading to the proposed work, critically evaluate existing knowledge and approaches, and specifically identify the gaps that the work is intended to fill. State concisely the importance and relevance of the proposed work by relating the specific aims of the work and how they relate to the high-impact, long-term objectives of the project.

Preliminary Work:
Include relevant preliminary studies or other background materials, if applicable.

Approach:
Describe your idea for solving the identified breakthrough challenge including the uniqueness of the approach. Discuss the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims. As part of this section, provide a tentative timetable for the project.

Resources, Facilities, and Collaborations:
Identify the office and/or laboratory space, and specify the facilities to be used for the conduct of the proposed activity. Describe capabilities, support services (including computational capabilities and software), and important equipment items needed in support of the work. List individuals involved in the development or execution of the project and their qualifications.

Budget and Budget Justification:
Provide a budget that does not exceed $100,000 for the one year of activities to be funded by this grant. Justify the budget and explain how the expenditure of funds would lead to advancement of the proposed concept and the creation of a breakthrough innovation or enterprise to solve a key societal challenge. The budget can include tuition and stipend expenses for students, supplies, equipment, travel, and faculty summer salaries or course buy-outs.
Appendix:
Include a two-page curriculum vitae for each PI or co-PI.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Below is the initial set of review criteria to be used in the evaluation of the proposals. Additional criteria may be added as the projects mature.

Significance:
Does this work address an important, complex societal problem? If the goals of the effort are achieved, how will the work positively impact the world? What specific areas of human need will be addressed, and how will the work positively impact the need?

Approach:
Are the fundamental ideas, conceptual framework, methods, and analyses approaches adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the effort? Are available knowledge, approaches, and expertise being properly applied to the effort? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

Innovation:
Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies? Is a real human need being addressed, and if so, what is it and how is it being addressed?

Investigator(s):
Are the investigators appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the proposed work appropriate to the experience level of the applicants?

Environment:
Does the environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed activities take advantage of unique features of this environment? Will the conduct of this work serve to enhance the work environment for other future efforts at Illinois Tech?

Budget:
Is the budget appropriate, both in size and in distribution, to carry out the work proposed?