CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Office of the Provost of Augusta University has established a research fund to sponsor collaborative research initiation within the CONSENSUS partnership between Augusta University and Ben Gurion University. This partnership is the result of the April 14th, 2022 Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities, in which Parties agree to explore the possibilities of cooperation in the following general areas: faculty exchange, student exchange, exchange of scientific and teaching materials, joint research projects, Dual and/or joint (doctoral) degree. The current fund aims to support collaborative research initiation as an investment towards a portfolio of projects that will foster greater collaboration between faculty of two institutions, leading to longer-term collaborative external funding and co-supervision of graduate students. The fund is intended to support joint research in all areas of computer science, computer engineering, cybersecurity, and information systems. To identify which projects to support, a merit review process will be followed that incorporates consideration of both the technical aspects of the proposed project and its potential to lead to innovative and competitive research proposals for funding agencies such as NSF and BSF.

General Information

This research fund provides the opportunity for collaborating researchers to pursue new research directions and to support and mentor graduate students. The awards will be given to teams of researchers to undertake exploratory investigations, to acquire and test preliminary data, and/or develop new algorithms, approaches, and system designs/prototypes. In preparing proposals, PIs should be aware that reviewers will be asked to consider the potential of the research initiation activities to produce sufficient preliminary results to serve as the basis for future competitive research proposals.

Award and Administrative Information

Anticipated Type of Award: Grant

Submission Deadline: September 1st, 2023

Period of Funding: 12 months, the funds must be spent by December 1st, 2024. No extensions will be allowed.

Estimated Number of Awards: 2 to 3, the minimum award will be at $25,000

Anticipated Total Funding Amount: $100,000

Budgetary Consideration: The awards to winning proposals will be divided in two parts, one in the name of the Augusta University PI and one in the name of the Ben Gurion University PI. The division of the funds will be according to the proposed budget. The funds are primarily intended for faculty supplemental research salaries (for individuals with less than 12 month institutional salary support), to support doctoral students, and to support travel to respective universities for research collaboration.

Compliance: Prior to the award, the routing and compliance approvals, and any other requirements associated with funded research proposals at each university must be obtained or satisfied. This includes the relevant exports and dual use technology approvals if any are required at the respective institutions.

Progress reports: There will be three reports that the PI's must submit. One progress report within 30 days after the completion of six months of the project, the second within 30 days after the completion of the project (i.e., after 12 months). The third report must be submitted 12 months after the completion of the project to describe continued research and the development and submission of a follow up proposal to external agencies. The reports must be submitted as PDF file via email to Augusta University's Office of the Dean of the Augusta University School of Computer and Cyber Sciences at <dean_ccs@augusta.edu>. (The progress reports will be review by a panel, see below under Proposal Review Information.)

Eligibility Information

Who May Submit Proposals: Full-time faculty at Augusta University and Ben Gurion University conducting research in all areas of computer science, computer engineering, information systems, and cybersecurity.

Who May Serve as PI/Co-PI: Each proposal must have two PIs, one from Augusta University and one from Ben Gurion University. Additional faculty from each university may serve as Co-Investigators.

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or Co-PI: Any faculty member may serve as a PI or a Co-PI on at most one proposal.

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

Each proposal must include the following, giving further attention to the reviewing rubric given below in organizing their proposal.

1. One page summary of the proposed research.
2. Detailed technical description of the proposed research of up to 6 pages (not including bibliography. The description must include:
    a. brief project plan and

      b. collaboration plan that details how the collaboration between the two universities will be accomplished.
3. Bibliography.
4. CV/resume of each PI and Co-PI. Formats accepted by the funding agencies such as NSF are preferred.
5. Budget and budget justification. The budgets of each of the two PIs will adhere to the requirements of the respective universities, including fringe benefits. No funds for "overhead", F&A, pr indirects are allowed. The budgets may include support for graduate students, travel for collaboration, and partial faculty salaries if they do not have 12 month institutional appointments. It is expected that each PI will have at least a 25% share of the overall budget.
6. The submissions must be in English.

The complete proposal must be submitted as a single combined PDF file via email to Augusta University's Office of the Dean of the Augusta University School of Computer and Cyber Sciences at <dean_ccs@augusta.edu>.

The deadline for submissions is September 1st, 2023.

Proposal Review Information

The proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a three-member panel. One member will be a faculty member from Augusta University, another member will be a faculty member from Ben Gurion University, and the third member will be a designee of Augusta University's Office of the Vice President for Research. (Panel members will not be eligible to submit proposals.)

Merit Review Criteria

The overall evaluation of proposal will be done according to the following rubric.

1. Overall quality of the research proposal (30%)
2. Credentials of the PIs and preparedness for the proposed research (10%)
3. Level of synergy between the PIs (10%)
4. Quality of the collaboration plan and integration of research efforts (20%)
5. Likelihood of the proposed project leading to funding of a collaborative external proposal (e.g., for NSF-BSF program) in the future (20%)
6. Appropriateness of the budget towards supporting the intended collaboration (10%).