

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Seed Grants for Research Service Group Partnerships with the Cornell Center for Advanced Computing

September 1, 2007

As part of a continuing effort to provide the Cornell research community with the necessary advanced cyberinfrastructure, the Office of the Vice Provost for Research is pleased to announce a limited competition for two-year seed grants for Research Service Groups (RSG) to augment the capabilities and expertise of the Cornell Center for Advanced Computing (CAC). These Research Service Groups are intended to provide expertise in strategic areas to enable the success of the Cornell faculty and researchers in their pursuit of support for important new funding initiatives.

A successful Research Service Group (RSG) should:

- provide technical expertise and cyberinfrastructure support for the Cornell research community;
- provide Cornell researchers with a competitive advantage in current and future funding opportunities;
- augment the core expertise of the CAC staff;
- extend and leverage the cyberinfrastructure capabilities of CAC; and
- be self-sustaining after a two-year startup period with Provost-provided seed funding.

RSGs may accomplish these objectives for a specific domain science area of the Cornell research community, or by providing cross-cutting expertise that has the potential of being important to more than one element of the Cornell research community. Provost-provided startup funding is primarily intended for technical staff to be appointed in the CAC with offices and administrative support provided by the CAC. RSGs will be both programmatically and administratively integrated with the CAC but have an independent faculty leader to provide intellectual and strategic guidance. The RSG faculty leader will work closely with the CAC Faculty Oversight Committee (FOC) and the CAC director to ensure ongoing collaboration with the CAC. Start-up funding may be used for specialized infrastructure if not currently provided by CAC, but it is expected that an RSG's faculty leader would pursue outside funding to cover major infrastructure requirements.

Eligibility

A requirement for eligibility is that the proposed RSG be complementary to the efforts of the Cornell Center for Advanced Computing. An RSG is expected to have a faculty leader who will work closely with the CAC FOC and the CAC director to ensure ongoing collaboration with the CAC. Each proposal must include a cover page containing the information provided on the sample that appears at the end of this RFP.

Funding

RSG proposals should include budget requirements in two one-year increments. Total cost will be an important part of the evaluation criteria. Funds are primarily intended for technical staff to be appointed in the CAC but may be used for specialized infrastructure if not currently provided by CAC. It is expected that major infrastructure would be acquired via funding from outside grants won by the RSG. Potential sources of funds for required major infrastructure should be provided as part of the proposal. Do not include indirect costs in the RSG proposal budget. Total funding for the program is \$500,000-\$750,000 per year. We anticipate 1 or 2 awards.

Submission Guidelines

1. The application should show the exact roles of the faculty leader and members of the proposed technical staff.

2. The portion of the proposal describing the RSG should be no more than four pages single-spaced (not including the cover page and budget information – see below).
3. A major goal of this initiative is to solicit applications that will provide expertise in strategic areas that will ultimately provide the Cornell research community with a competitive advantage in the pursuit of major funding opportunities in collaboration with the Center for Advanced Computing. Proposals should indicate how this would be accomplished.
4. Proposals should include examples of faculty and research groups with whom the RSG technical staff will be working, both initially and in the future.
5. Proposals should include a plan for achieving self-sustainability after the two years of initial seed funding.
6. A realistic plan with one-year milestones and evaluations is critical for success.

Selection Criteria

1. It should be clear in the proposal that this RSG is strategic for enabling the success of a significant portion of the Cornell research community.
2. The proposal must demonstrate synergistic interactions between the proposed RSG and the Center for Advanced Computing.
3. It should be likely that the work would continue and be self-sustaining beyond the grant period.

Selection Process

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by the CAC Faculty Oversight Committee, the Vice Provost for Research, the Vice Provost for Physical Sciences & Engineering and the Director of the Center for Advanced Computing. Final selections will be made by the Vice Provost for Research.

Deadline and Submission Process

Applications must be received by October 15, 2007 at 5:00PM and should be sent electronically to Kelly Strickland, Administrative Assistant to the Vice Provost for Research (kss1@cornell.edu).

Announcement of Awards

Approximately (December 1, 2007)

COVER PAGE DETAILS

Seed Grants for Research Service Groups Partnerships with the Cornell Center for Advanced Computing

1. FACULTY INFORMATION

Provide the required information in the format shown below. Start with principal investigator (PI). Under "Campus" section, indicate full mailing address of faculty at each campus, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. Under "Role on Project" section, specify PI, Co-PI, etc.

Name	Campus Address	Role on Project
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2. ROLES OF FACULTY

Briefly indicate the ways in which each investigator will be involved in the Research Service Group

3. WORK TO BE PERFORMED ON EACH CAMPUS

In tabular form, summarize the work to be carried out and specify whether any campus core facilities will be utilized.

4. PROGRESS FROM CURRENT OR PAST EFFORTS (IF RELEVANT)

Note key scientific progress, publications, and funding opportunities that have been enabled as a result of current or past efforts.

5. BUDGET REQUEST

Provide a detailed budget for each year and a summary (total) budget for the two-year seed-fund period. Utilize standard budget categories including salary and fringe benefits for all personnel, travel, equipment, materials & supplies, communications, and any other necessary direct costs. Do not budget indirect costs.

6. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Explain and justify each budget item.