

Request for Research Proposals

BACKGROUND

The construction industry is a major player in the nation's economy and has contributed approximately \$800 billion to the national gross domestic product in 2015. The industry is diverse and includes spending by federal, state, and local governments, as well as by construction companies. Additionally, the U. S. construction industry employed more than 6.5 million workers in 2015 making it a significant economic sector that employs the largest number of professionals and workers.

The vision of the Phil and Betty Georgeau Construction Research Institute (GCRI) is to advance the construction industry through innovative research that is focused on addressing the industry's complexity and global challenges, and creating better, safer, stronger, sustainable, and more resilient construction systems and materials.

RESEARCH THEMES

GCRI has identified three research themes for this round of research proposals:

- A. **Construction Methods and Safety:** Projects that address issues related to improving construction methods and safety for of commercial buildings are of interest.
- B. **Innovative Construction Materials:** Projects that address innovative materials that can replace or enhance existing construction materials will be considered.
- C. **Smart Buildings:** Projects that address issues related to smart building design are of interest. This may include advanced technologies for monitoring and improving building functionalities.

ELIGIBILITY

Researchers with expertise and track record in construction related research are eligible. Only one proposal submission per PI is allowed.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The proposal must not exceed 4 pages (single-spaced, 12 points Times New, 1-inch margins all around) excluding budget, budget justification, resumes, and suggested list of reviewers. The proposed scope of work must be accomplishable in no more than 16 months. The project budget

should not exceed \$50,000 and will include F&A at the rate of 10% (2.5% to PIs, 2.5% to departments, and 5% to CEAS). Allowed budget categories include salaries (PIs and students), tuition, travel, and materials & supplies. Proposals must include the F&A split between PIs and between departments.

Proposals must include the following:

- Title Page (not part of the 4-page limit) that includes the Title, Principal Investigators, Research Theme, and Amount Requested
- Project summary
- Problem statement and significance
- Research goals and objectives
- Research work plan
- Relevance to the vision of GCRI and the research themes above
- Deliverables
- Project timeline
- Dissemination plan
- Budget and budget justification (please use attached spreadsheet)
- Leveraging the funds – Provide a plan on how Georgeau Institute’s funds will be used to generate additional proposals to external funding agencies.
- Names and contact information for three possible reviewers
- A Two-page resume for each member of the research team

SUBMISSION

Email your proposal to: wmu-georgeau@wmich.edu

PROPOSAL DUE DATE AND AWARD TIMELINE

- Proposal Deadline: January 31, 2017 by 5pm.
- Tentative Award Date: April 15, 2017
- Expected Start Date for Funded Projects: May 1, 2017

PROPOSAL REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers. The following will be the criteria used for prioritizing and selecting proposals:

1. Intellectual merit and significance of the proposed research
2. Relevance of the proposed work to GCRI vision
3. Relevance of the proposed work to GCRI thematic research areas
4. Project work plan can be accomplished in 16 months
5. Qualifications and track record of the research team