

Office of Technology Transfer *Innovation Challenge*

Background

The MSU Office of Technology Transfer (OTT), established in 2017 within the Division of Research and Economic Development (D-RED), safeguards the interests of the University and its personnel in matters relating to intellectual property and technology transfer. Its mission: "facilitate the transfer of university technology and innovation to business and industry, foster local economic development and provide benefit to the public." Furthermore, it supports D-RED's greater mission to "create a research ecosystem which promotes and incentivizes innovation and entrepreneurship among faculty, students, and our surrounding community."

The Challenge

The OTT Innovation Challenge (part of OTT's I-Works Initiative) continues to encourage new ideas and collaborations that may result in the next generation of intellectual property. For this initial challenge, one grant award will be made – with a budget of \$50,000.

In order to allow all departments and units to take advantage of this opportunity, topics will generally revolve around data. However, it must be noted that the concept should be unique and result in new or improved Morgan intellectual property.

Projects may include these concepts:

- Development of big data concepts, in the vein of Hadoop/accumulo.
- Warehousing/mining techniques
- Use of artificial intelligence / machine learning (AI/ML) to drive a specific application
- Development of a feedback system / ecosystem that leverages data to drive a specific application
- Development of unique data analytics approaches as applied to specific applications
- Development of visualization techniques
- Management of large networks, which may include Internet of Things (IoT), security
- Real-time applications / optimization of transactions /logistics
- Blockchain
- Decision systems
- Prediction markets
- New open source concepts

The OTT Innovation Challenge will prioritize projects that constitute new innovations/technologies, includes teams from multiple schools, and produces a significant impact that may include commercial potential, economic development (workforce development), and/or social impact.

Eligibility and Application

All faculty, students and staff are invited to submit proposals. As mentioned previously, we encourage applications from teams.

There is a limit of two proposals that can be submitted by any one designated Principal Investigator (PI). Although a person may be listed as the PI on only one I-Challenge award, other team members may be listed as collaborators on multiple proposals.

We also expect that a successful applicant will participate in the I-CORPS program, which is intended to help shape the technology and effectively make it more commercially viable.

Proposal - Content

Please include the following in a proposal not to exceed a total of four pages, 12pt Times Roman font:

- Team
 - Principal investigator for the project – department, title, email address
 - Identify other faculty - department, title, email address
 - Identify staff – department, position, email address
 - Identify students/postdocs – undergraduate/graduate/postdocs, area of concentration, email address
 - Contractors – need not be identified yet, but nature of work to be performed should be described
- Description of initiative / objectives – how are you creating a new data concept or leveraging data in executing the project?
- Method and process to meet those objectives
- Describe the measurable outcomes and/or deliverables you will produce during the project
- Milestones, in bi-monthly intervals, and what do you expect will be the duration of the project
- What intellectual property is expected to be generated from the project?
- Funding amount is set at \$50,000
- How do you envision the project’s commercial potential/impact and possible applications in one or more industries?
- If you were to receive other funding from programs such as the OTT’s I-GAP program, TEDCO’s Maryland Innovation Initiative (MII), Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS) program, or SBIR/STTR programs, how would you build upon your accomplishments from this project and translate into one of these other programs.
- Project budget
 - Please include a budget assuming that \$50,000 will be made available for the project to include funds for the PI, other technical personnel, students, and

contractors. Allocate monies according to code as shown by this example, with justification for each line item.

- Please also note that any requests for adjustments to the budget need to be approved by the Director of OTT, before forwarding to Grants Accounting.

Budget \$	Code	Description
\$8,000	01	Regular Earnings
	02	Contractual Salaries/Wages/FB
	03	Communications
	04	Travel
	07	Motor Pool
\$20,000	08	Contractual Services
\$5,000	09	Supplies
	11	Equipment
\$17,000	12	Students' Stipend
\$50,000	Total	

- Any other relevant information that would enhance the proposal.

Submission and Evaluation

All proposals are to be emailed to Raymar.dizon@morgan.edu. Proposals will be evaluated by the OTT. While only one award will be made, if other proposals are not funded through this vehicle, it is also possible that they may be funded through the OTT's I-GAP program.

Due Date

Applications are due on June 15, 2023, and funding will be provided shortly thereafter to the successful applicants. An Intellectual Property Disclosure (IPD) describing the innovation/concept is required before the project commences.

Distribution of Funds and Reporting Requirements

Projects will have a duration of up to one year. Monies will be distributed to Department of the PI for management as a subaward from OTT. Bi-weekly/monthly meetings are expected to be scheduled to discuss progress and possible challenges. Grant recipients are required to submit a final report describing the project results.