 

**Request for Proposals**

**FY 25 ISU CAES Internal Seed Grants**

Advanced Energy Studies ([CAES](https://caes.org/)). To that end, ISU has established a seed program to distribute available CAES funds.

The ISU Office for Research recognizes the need of faculty to fund research-related activities associated with the Center for

**Eligibility:** ISU faculty, staff and researchers (≥ 0.5 FTE) who conduct research activities relevant to CAES/INL are eligible.

**Description**: Funding will be awarded to projects associated with CAES Focus Areas and engender collaboration with colleagues at Idaho National Laboratory (INL). The current Focus Areas include: 1) Advanced Manufacturing, 2) Critical Materials/Geothermal, 3) Energy Storage/Transfer. Proposals that fall under one of the INL’s Strategic Science and Technology (S&T) Initiatives will also be considered as long as there is an alignment with a CAES Focus Area. INL’s S&T Initiatives are: 1) Nuclear Reactor Sustainment and Expanded Deployment, 2) Integrated Fuel Cycle Solutions, 3) Advanced materials and Manufacturing for Extreme Environments, 4) Integrated Energy Systems, and 5) Secure and Resilient Cyber- Physical systems.

**Allowed Activities:** Funding is available for these purposes:

1. Research expenses by faculty or supervised students (e.g. faculty/staff salaries[1](#_bookmark0), stipends)
2. Undergraduate and graduate student support (e.g. wages and/or graduate student tuition, research assistantship)
3. Travel by faculty or students to perform research and/or attend meetings and workshops
4. Assistance in writing a proposal for extramural funding

**Funding and External Review:** Individual awards will be $10,000 (floor) $15,000 (ceiling). The number of awards is expected to be 5-6, depending on availability of funds. All proposals will be evaluated in a double-blind peer review process by established scientists from the United States Department of Energy’s National Laboratories.

**Deadline and Project Duration:** Applications due **4 PM Friday, May 24, 2024**. Awards will commence July 1, 2024. All expenses must be accrued by June 30, 2025. There will be no extensions or possibility for the funds to carryforward[2](#_bookmark1).

**Submissions:** Submit a proposal in a single PDF format via email to ([isucaes@isu.edu](mailto:isucaes@isu.edu)).

**Application Format for Activities** (maximum 4 pages), letter-size paper, single spaced, 1 in. margin, Time New Roman font

1. Title
2. ISU Primary Investigator Name, Department, and Contact Information
3. Name(s) of ISU co-PI(s) (if applicable)
4. Name(s) of Collaborator(s) from Idaho National Laboratory[3](#_bookmark2)
5. Outcomes of previous ISU-CAES Seed Grant awarded in past 3 years (if applicable) - subsequent external proposals and awards, new collaborations, published peer-reviewed papers
6. Project Description - describe the research activity and explain how it relates to the CAES Focus Areas or INL’s Strategic S&T Initiatives
7. Impact - how will this "seed" project potentially evolve into a CAES collaboration that attracts significant external funding? List the specific and targeted external funding opportunity details
8. Itemized Budget (see template below)
9. Project Period and Timeline
10. Relevant literature (maximum of five)

**Factors Considered in Evaluation:** Intellectual merit/quality, Relation to CAES Focus Areas/INL’s Strategic S&T Initiatives, Potential for external funding, Availability of funds, Successes from previous ISU-CAES Seed Grant (if applicable), History of engagement/contributions in the CAES-activities and reporting (if applicable).

**Budget Template** (insert your own numbers/budget items):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ISU PI** | **PI salary rate\*time** | **PI fringes (9.7%)** | **UG Student rate\*time** | **Grad Student** | **Grad Student fringe** | **M&S** | **Equipment** | **Travel** | **Total request** |
| **tuition** | **(2.5%)** |
| Joe Schlabotnik | $40/hr \* 50 hrs = $2,000 | $194 | $16/hr\*200 hrs  = $3,200 | $5,634 | $80 | $1,000 | $800 | $500 | $13,408 |

**Note**. Questions about this RFP can be directed to ISU CAES Associate Director, Dr. Mustafa Mashal ([mashmust@isu.edu](mailto:mashmust@isu.edu)).

1 9-months faculty can only charge salary/fringes over the summer months.

2 ISU CAES funds are appropriated by the State of Idaho and cannot carryforward after the end of the Fiscal Year.

3 Participation of at least one INL collaborator in the proposed research is required.