2019 Request for Pre-Proposals
Closing Date: December 21, 2018 at 5 PM (Mountain Time)

Pre-proposals are invited for the Irrigation Innovation Consortium 2019 research program.

The Irrigation Innovation Consortium is a collaborative research effort to accelerate the development and adoption of water and energy efficient irrigation technologies and practices through public-private partnerships. The IIC was established with matching funding from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) and the irrigation industry to create a partnership among public sector researchers and industry to co-develop, test, prototype and improve innovations, equipment, technology and decision and information systems designed to equip agriculture and the landscape industry with cutting edge technologies and optimization strategies to enhance irrigation efficiency. Initial research priorities include water and energy efficiency, remote sensing and big data applications for improving water management, irrigation technology acceleration and technology transfer.

Priority Research Topics:
Projects must be led by one of the 5 IIC Consortium universities (Colorado State University, Fresno State, University of Nebraska, Kansas State University, and Texas A& M University) and should address one or more of the priority issues identified below. Special consideration will be given to projects that include multiple universities, strong industry support and financial participation, and advance the goals of the Consortium. For the FY2019 competition, the IIC Research Steering Committee has identified the following four priority areas:

- Water and Energy Efficiency
- Remote Sensing and Big Data Applications for Improving Irrigation Water Management
- System Integration and Management
- Irrigation Technology Acceleration

Interested applicants interested in these topics are encouraged to contact Reagan Waskom at reagan.waskom@colostate.edu for additional details.

Funds Available:
IIC research funds are awarded through a competitive process guided by the IIC Research Steering Committee. Pre-proposal submission must be coordinated through the primary IIC contact at the host institution. Project requests should not exceed $50,000 dollars/year and must be accompanied by identified non-federal matching commitment of at least 1:1 cash match. Project recipients will be responsible for tracking and reporting match requirement.

Expected Award/Start Date:
Projects funded with Consortium funds may start as early as March 1, 2019 and have a 12-month duration. Successful projects will be eligible to apply for additional time depending upon need, funding availability, and industry support.

Pre-Proposal Review Process:
All pre-proposals are due to the IIC office at Colorado State University by December 21, 2018 at 5 PM (MT). Pre-proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the IIC Research Steering Committee. The general criteria used for pre-proposal evaluation include: (1) scientific merit; (2) innovation/ novelty; (3) potential for impact; (4) industry support and involvement; (5) qualifications of investigators and team; and (6) extent to which irrigation practitioners and university researchers are collaborating.

Eligibility:
The competition is open to faculty and researcher staff at any of the 5 IIC Consortium universities (Colorado State University, Fresno State, University of Nebraska, Kansas State University, and Texas A& M University). Other universities and research organizations are eligible to serve as project collaborators.

Applications Not Eligible For Funding:
Applications submitted by an investigator that has not met reporting requirements on a previous award administered or awarded by the IIC are not eligible.

Pre-Proposal Submission:
Pre-proposals are to be submitted electronically in WORD format and are to be received no later than **5 PM (MT) on December 21, 2018**. Submit to reagan.waskom@colostate.edu

Pre-Proposal Preparation Guidelines:
Pre-proposal body (items 7-11 below) must not exceed 2 single spaced pages. Format guidelines are as follows:
- 12-point font size
- Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins (all sides)

Pre-Proposals must include the following items:
1. **Title**: Concise but descriptive.

2. **Principal Investigator name(s) and university**: Provide name, academic rank, university, phone number and email address.

3. **Research Priority Category**: Indicate which priority topic is being addressed in the proposed project.

4. **Start and End Date:**

5. **Location:** where the work is to be conducted.

6. **Abstract:** Provide a brief description of the problem, methods, objectives, and expected

outcomes of the proposal.

7. **Justification**: Include an explanation of the need for the project - who wants it and how it benefits irrigators. If this project has previous funding from the IIC, provide a statement of results or progress to date.

8. **Statement of the results or benefits**: Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used.

9. **Nature, scope, and objectives** of the project, including progress milestones.

10. **Methods**, procedures, and facilities. Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.

11. **Training potential**. Estimate the number of graduate and undergraduate students, by degree level, who are expected to receive training in the project.

12. **Budget**: Provide a brief preliminary budget using the format provided. Non-federal cash match must be at least 1:1. Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of direct costs.

13. **Budget Justification**: Breakdown and justify expenses.

Pre-proposals selected for funding will coordinate with their University IIC lead to develop full proposal and budget.

Deliverables:
Funded projects will be required to submit a completion report within 60 days of project end date addressing the description of the problem, research objectives, methodology, principle findings and project accomplishments including training provided, publications and impact. Principal Investigators may be asked to provide oral briefings to the IIC Research Steering Committee and/or the Irrigation Association during or after completion of the project.

Financial Policy:
The Principle Investigator is ultimately responsible for their IIC-funded project and budget. If the budget is over-expended or expenditures were improperly charged, the PI and his/her department or college are responsible for providing funds for the unauthorized spending.

Questions:
Please contact Reagan Waskom by phone at (970) 491-6308 or by e-mail at: Reagan.Waskom@ColoState.edu if there are questions about this solicitation.