



**KANSAS TECHNOLOGY
ENTERPRISE CORPORATION**

**STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES
AND RESEARCH :
STAR FUND**

Purpose and Guidelines

Fiscal Year 2010

**Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation
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www.ktec.com/starfundrfp.pdf**

KTEC's STAR Fund

Purpose, Guidelines, Application Format and Review Criteria

■ Purpose of the STAR Fund

KTEC's Strategic Technology and Research (STAR) Fund promotes national competitiveness in strategic technology niches that hold the most promise for the Kansas economy. The STAR Fund serves two purposes: (1) to pair the state's science and technology research strengths with commercialization capacities of Kansas businesses in order to diversify Kansas' innovation economy and sustain national and global competitive advantage; and (2) attract major federal and /or industry funds to areas of strategic research at Regents Universities.

In short, the mission of the STAR Fund is to expand university research which can make sustainable innovations to Kansas industry.

How this mission is accomplished

The mission of the Fund is accomplished by:

Stimulating systemic and sustainable improvements in the science and technology enterprise of Kansas.

Achieving National/Global competitiveness for federal and private R&D funds aiming for strategic technology niche development, identifying sustainable economic development ROI¹ potential and building critical mass in the targeted niche areas.

Identifying and taking advantage of **emerging opportunities**, such as neuroscience, polyols, nanoscale materials and optics.

Focusing on **state strategic technologies** and economic priorities.

Creating multiple **partnerships** across university, government, and industry.

Key features of a successful project

Strategic execution with specific performance milestones based on competitive research and analysis.

Advances in discovery.

Quality peer reviewed university-based research in science, engineering or mathematics.

Economic impact and commercial potential.

¹ ROI or return on investment has a broader connotation here. Examples could include: dollars leveraged by industry and federal agencies, jobs saved and/or created (including research jobs), scientists attracted to the state, sustainability of infrastructure improvements, potential for commercializable products or company start-ups, quality of preparation of junior faculty for national competitiveness etc.

■ Eligibility

- Kansas regents university-based and/or collaborative research, preferably:
 - In conjunction with:
 - ⇒ industry partners
 - ⇒ other Regents universities,
 - ⇒ an awarding federal or professional agency,
 - ⇒ a community or regional initiative and/or
 - With matching support from all partners
 - Contributing to clustering activities and economic development
 - Funds may be used to attract new hires which bring their federal or industry awards to Kansas (and meet the other criteria of the Fund).

■ General review criteria:

- Alignment with strengths of the state's research infrastructure and economy or represent an area of development for the state.
- Key areas of science and technology for focused commercial development in Kansas.
- Fit with state strategies for development
- Accountability, merit review, and the strategic advantages of collaboration of individual proposals.
- Sustained research competitiveness.
- Level of federal or other matching funds

Application process:

1) Notify staff of intent to submit (45 days prior to decision)

2) Pre-proposal (30 days)

Describe overall opportunity with federal agency or other funding source.

Define strategic R&D niche

Define commercial potential

Define likely pathway for commercialization of resulting technology in Kansas.

Outline budget: use of state and other funds.

Letter from university outlining its commitment to the project and how it fits within the university's strategic development.

3) KTEC Review Process

General adherence to purpose and guidelines

Identification of market potential of resulting technology

Evaluation of Kansas commercialization potential

Staff summary report to review committee

Presentation by applicant to KTEC review committee (scheduled quarterly)

4) Letter of "conditional approval" from KTEC

- Conditional approval is based on:
- Approval of federal proposal
 - Commitment of matching funds
 - Availability of state funds
 - Validation of claims made in pre-proposal

Matching Fund Requirements

- Projects Requiring State Match have state match requirements to federal dollars and stringent federal criteria for awards:

The STAR Fund may contribute a level of support commensurate with how well the proposal meets the Purpose of the STAR Fund, the determination of which may require Committee approval. Strong consideration is given to the amount of non-state matching funds committed. Construction or renovation projects are ineligible.

Minimum Proposal Content

- One-page Executive/Project Bulleted Summary including at a minimum for ease of reference of the reviewers:
 - Project Title
 - PI/Contact Person information
 - List of government/industry/university and/or stakeholder partnerships involved and brief description as to individual roles
 - Federal/Industry Dollars Leveraged into Kansas

 - Specific Strategic Focus/Niche Development for the State of Kansas
 - Economic impact/Commercial potential
- Project description, proposed milestones, management plan and any other information necessary for evaluation in accordance with the *Purpose of the STAR Fund* and in support of the *State Committee's Role*.
- Detailed budget by milestone for the project identifying all sources of support
- Proof of partner and/or sponsor commitment to financial support
- Description of the qualifications of key personnel who would be assigned to work on the project

Following an Award

- 1) No contracts are issued without receipt of an official award notice and final budget.
- 2) All projects will have reporting requirements and certain projects may be milestone-based contractually.
- 3) Two-year commitments may be made, subject to thorough annual review.

4) In certain instances, the Fund may seek a financial ROI.

Fund Contacts:

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