Department of Science and Technology

Science for Change (S4C): Accelerated R&D Program for Capacity Building of Research and Development Institutions and Industrial Competitiveness

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2017

Niche Centers in the Regions for R&D (NICER) Program

I. Introduction

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) endeavors to significantly accelerate Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the country through massive increase in investment on S&T Human Resource Development (HRD) and Research and Development (R&D), through the Science for Change (S4C) Program.

As innovation plays an important role in economic development, DOST aims to accelerate industrial competitiveness by capacitating Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the Regions to undertake quality research that will promote regional development.

Under the '**Accelerated R&D Program for Capacity Building of Research and Development Institutions and Industrial Competitiveness**' of the S4C Program, the **Niche Centers in the Regions for R&D (NICER)** will provide institutional grant for HEIs in the Regions for R&D capacity building to improve their S&T infrastructure.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is now ready to accept research and development (R&D) proposals for 2017 from HEIs for the **NICER program.** The R&D proposals should meet the program objectives which are:

- To establish R&D Centers that will cater to the specific needs of the Regions, to include upgrading, development and acquisition of research equipment to undertake collaborative R&D activities;
- To capacitate S&T human resource through the R&D leaders under the R&D Leadership (RDLead) Program who will pursue innovative research relevant to the societal needs of the region that will support the local industries;
- To promote inclusive growth that will benefit the research community and the industry by increasing the number of developed and transferred technologies;
- To improve the level of IP management and protection as well as deploy technologies for public good, and generate revenues through licensing and commercialization.

NICER will be established in consultation with the academe and industry; and endorsement by the Regional Development Council (RDC) upon the recommendation of the RDC Regional R&D Committee.

II. Priority Areas for Funding

Each R&D Center that will be established under the NICER Program will be implemented as an R&D program consisting of institution building and related projects, for funding under the DOST

Grants in Aid (GIA) Program. The thrust of each R&D Center will be consistent with the Harmonized National R&D Agenda (HNRDA) 2017-2022, and aligned with the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022.

The R&D Centers will be anchored on industry needs, as identified by the Regional Development Council (RDC). The following are areas for funding consideration:

a) Basic Research
- Water; food and nutrition security; healthful lifestyle; clean energy; sustainable communities

b) Health
- Drug discovery and development; diagnostics; genomics/molecular technology; functional foods; hospital equipment and biomedical devices; information and communication technology for health, nutrition and food safety; disaster risk reduction for health; and climate change adaptation for health

c) Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Sector (AANR)
- Crops; livestock; fisheries and aquaculture; forestry; natural resources; and environment

d) Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology
- Country-side development; competitive industry; delivery of social services; human security

e) Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR CCA)
- Observation and monitoring networks; technology development and application for monitoring, modelling and simulation for improvement of monitoring and forecasting, hazards, vulnerability and risk assessment; warning and communication of information; technology development and application for climate change mitigation and adaptation; and technology development and application for disaster risk management

III. Expected Outputs and Outcomes

The proposal/s should be able to create value by providing a Solution to Needs, and by maximizing its Benefits through Differentiating with competing products or technologies.

The term "OUTPUT" means an activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to project goals and objectives that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement-funding period. Expected outputs from the projects to be funded may include any of the following 6Ps:
- Publications (in recognized scientific journals or peer-reviewed publication)
- Patents (tangible measure of innovation, or intellectual property)
- Products/ Process (new or innovative, with commercial value)
- People Services (increase in the scientific and technological workforce)
- Places (facilities that enable increased 6Ps output)
- Policies (science-based decision making)

The term "OUTCOME" means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out a project or activity that is related to programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be

environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic in nature, but must be quantitative. These may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement-funding period.

Aside from the DOST 6Ps Expected Output, the Expected Outcome is R&D capacity-building for HEIs in the Regions to build new and strengthen existing S&T infrastructure, and improve industrial competitiveness.

IV. Procedures for Proposals' Submission, Evaluation and Approval

a) Interested HEIs shall submit their capsule proposals (DOST Form No. 1A and 1B downloadable from http://gia.dost.gov.ph/site/index.php/aux-downloads/category/2-dwn-forms, duly endorsed by the RDC, to the DOST Regional Office, for endorsement by the Office of the Undersecretary for Regional Operations to the Office of the Undersecretary for Research and Development. It is recommended that a corresponding proposal under RDLead Program be submitted, to synergize with the HEI's NICER proposal.

   Directory of DOST Regional Offices:
   http://www.dost.gov.ph/transparency/about-dost/executive-officials#regional-office-directors

b) The proposals will undergo the DOST-GIA evaluation process through the DOST Councils – PCAARRD, PCHRD, PCIEERD and NRCP, for endorsement and approval by the DOST-Executive Committee.

c) Eligibility of Proponents

   - Any HEI with proven competence and track record may apply for funding under the NICER Program, provided that the projects will have beneficial impact on local industry. If the HEI proponent does not have the full capacity to pursue the proposed R&D, the HEI must have a corresponding proposal under the RDLead Program to fill in the capacity gap.

   - The eligibility of the HEIs shall be determined by the DOST Councils based on the record of accomplishment of the institution, alignment with the HNRDA, sustainability, adequacy of human resource and clearance from any accountability with DOST.

d) General Criteria

   - The proposal for the establishment of R&D Center shall be endorsed by the Regional Development Council (RDC).

   - The proposed R&D Center shall be a collaborative project of HEIs in the region.

   - The proposed R&D Center shall be unique and different across regions, with projects anchored on the Harmonized National R&D Agenda and regional primary needs and capabilities.

- The proposed R&D Center shall be a multi-year project (maximum of 3 years) with a clear roadmap of R&D activities and outputs. The appropriate Council shall regularly monitor the R&D center. Failure to deliver the expected outputs after Year 1 will be grounds for project termination.

e) Application Requirements

- Capsule proposal on the establishment of R&D Center following DOST format
- Letter of Endorsement from the Regional Development Council (RDC)
- Line Item Budget (LIB) Preparation
- CV of Project leader and other co-researchers/implementors
- Inventory of MS/PhD Faculty Members and Researchers
- Number of graduate students (MS/PhD) per course
- List of existing R&D centers and Technology Licensing Office/Technology Transfer Office in the HEI proponent
- List of Publications of involved personnel
- List of collaborating and cooperating Partner Universities with corresponding letter(s) of support from them
- For complete details on the eligibility of the proponents, application requirements, general criteria for evaluation, proposal formats, technical and financial monitoring, report submission and other provisions related to this funding, please refer to the Revised Guidelines of the DOST-Grants-In Aid Program (DOST-GIA) at website http://gia.dost.gov.ph.

V. Sustainability

The DOST shall provide funding assistance to projects under the NICER Program for a maximum of three (3) years. It is understood that the funded initiatives will be institutionalized by the implementing agencies to ensure the success and sustainability of the R&D Centers in the regions.

VI. Office of the Undersecretary for R&D Contact:

For further inquiries, the applicant may contact:

Office of the Undersecretary for R&D
Room 212, DOST Main Building, Bicutan, Taguig City
usecrd@dost.gov.ph & s4c.ousecrd@gmail.com
837-2930/ 837-2943

All questions or comments must be communicated in writing via postal mail, facsimile, or electronic mail to the above address/phone/email.

Timetable/Schedule

Stages	Indicative Period
Call for Proposals	02 May 2017
Deadline for Submission of Capsule Proposals	15 June 2017
Evaluation Period for Capsule Proposals	16 June to 15 July 2017
Deadline for Submission of Full-blown Proposals (only for those with approved Capsule Proposals)	31 July 2017
Evaluation Period for Full-blown Proposals	01 August to 31 October 2017
Information to Proponents on the Status	02 November to 15 December 2017

NOTE:

Early submission of proposals is encouraged. Notice of acceptance and grant of project may be given in advance for proposals that are submitted early. Late and incomplete submission will not be accepted.