Space Research Initiative (SRI)
Call for Proposals

Announcement and Guidelines
Release Date: July 2024
Proposal Due Date: Rolling until Mar 31, 2025
and as long as funding is available

Research, development, demonstration, and project preparation proposals to the Space Research Initiative (SRI) are hereby requested by the Florida Space Institute (FSI) to support two categories of proposals:

1. UCF-led projects of <u>one year or shorter duration</u> in any area of space- related research and development (see page 2 for list of areas).
2. UCF-led proposals with projects co-funded by members of Florida's Aerospace Industry

<u>The primary objective of this call for proposals is specifically to seed efforts that will lead to new external funding in 2025/2026; particular emphasis will be placed on efforts that have good prospects to win substantially large federal awards or industry sponsorships.</u>

Planning grants with a clearly enunciated plan for obtaining extramural funding in the large center-type category, as well as proposals involving matching sponsorships from the Florida Aerospace industry are particularly encouraged. Inclusion of NASA scientists/programs and alignment with NASA priorities identified in the Technology Roadmaps is encouraged (https://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/home/roadmaps/index.html).

Proposals may be submitted by any UCF faculty member (PI) eligible to submit a proposal to an external funding agency (see *Who Can Serve as a PI*: https://www.research.ucf.edu/documents/PDF/Who%20Can%20Serve%20as%20a%20PI%20Guideline-7.20.22(2).pdf). *Principal Investigators who have not previously been funded by the SRI/FSI are strongly encouraged to apply.*

Proposals will be accepted for budget requests up to $80k. The earliest start date will be July 1, 2024. Awards must be expended before June 30, 2025. Other direct costs, including travel, must post to the project before May 31, 2025. Only salaries will be allowed in June 2025, up to the second to last payroll of the UCF fiscal year.

Research, development, demonstration, and project preparation are encouraged for efforts in the following areas:
- The solar system, the Sun, and the cosmos.
- Earth science.
- Microgravity science.
- Life and microgravity sciences (including life support technology).
- In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU)
- Space operations including reusable or expendable launch vehicles.
- Research that relates to the development of research-related space instrumentation.
- Management of fluid systems.
- Space commercialization.
- Human factors and systems engineering.
- Spacecraft systems and subsystem for satellites.
- In support of miniaturization, innovative materials, cryogenics, and other technology enabling long-duration space flight.

Other areas of space-related research and development may also be proposed.

Proposals should demonstrate strong potential for specific future funding opportunities, and/or the possibility of garnering industry support for their research, and those funding prospects should be specifically identified and justified in the proposal.

PROPOSAL REVIEW

All proposals received will be reviewed by an *ad hoc* committee. The FSI Director will make all award decisions following these reviews.

The **evaluation criteria** for proposals will be:

- Goals, merit, clarity, and feasibility of the proposed project.
- Qualification of the PI and team as evidenced by related refereed publications and past award success with the target funding agencies.
- The merit, win likelihood, and strategic importance of the associated external funding opportunity/opportunities associated with the proposed project.
- Establishment of relationships with sponsor projects/alignment with their technology plans. Sponsors include, but are not limited to, NASA, NSF, DoD, DoE, industry, non-profits, and foundations.
- The presence, relevance, and merit of collaboration between UCF and other Florida universities.

- Additional consideration will be given to proposals involving aerospace partners providing cash and/or in-kind support, and in particular for cash matches.

After evaluation ,these proposals will be assigned as "strongly support", "support", "support, if possible" and "do not support", for final funding recommendations.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted via email to julie.brisset@ucf.edu, with a copy to mildred.rodriguez@ucf.edu. Proposals must be composed of one PDF file named 2024SRI_PI last name containing the proposal narrative, and one Excel spreadsheet named 2024SRI_PI last name_budget containing the proposal budget.

Formatting: Proposals should be at least in 12 point font or greater, with at least 1 inch margins throughout. Figure legends and tables can be in 10 point font.
Proposals should consist of the following materials in this sequence:

1. **Cover Page** containing the following:

   Proposal Title:
   Principal Investigator/Institutional, College and Departmental Affiliation:
        Telephone:
        E-mail:
   Co-Investigators:
        [INSERT NAME, AFFILIATION(S), & CONTACT INFO FOR EACH]
   Project Start and End Dates:
   Proposed Cost to SRI: Total $
        UCF $
        Industry/Other $

2. **For previously funded SRI awardees** – Please provide the following information relating to awards/proposal submissions which have resulted due to your previous SRI award:

Agency	Total Amount	Title and Status (Funded/Proposed)	UCF Award #

3. **Abstract/Overview.** Start as a new page and limit to one (1) page, summarizing each proposal element below.

4. **Project and Approach**. Up to five (5) pages of text maximum describing the project. If proposals are longer than 5 pages, only the first 5 pages will be reviewed. Figures and tables are included in the 5 page limit; references are not included. Project description to include the following: Describe the proposed project, its technical content, context, strategic value to UCF, and each task within the project. Address how the project aligns with the priorities listed in the NASA Goals and Objectives and/or Technology Roadmap.

5. **Management Plan**. Limit to two (2) pages. Include a project schedule, by task, and show deliverables (if applicable).

6. **Facilities, Software Tools, and Equipment**. Describe the required facilities and equipment for the proposed project, making clear what facilities, software tools, and equipment are already available and what must be procured/otherwise obtained to carry out the proposed project. Equipment purchases are not allowed under the SRI. If appropriate (laboratory work for example), also describe the space that will be used to conduct the proposed work. This space needs to be already available to the PI. Limit to two (2) pages.

7. **PI and Team**. Describe the qualifications of the PI and each Co-I, limited to one (1) page for each person; include URLs of PI and team web pages on their bios.

8. **Collaborations** (with other universities or with industry). Describe any such collaboration and how it will contribute to furthering the research, limited to one (1) page.

9. **External Funding Opportunities**. Include the specific funding agency/company and the specific opportunities planned for submission, by the end of 2025, as a result of the proposed SRI funding, the win likelihood for each, the proposer's past experience with this specific agency/company and their strategic importance to UCF's space portfolio. **Proposals that do not address this fully will not be selected.** Limit to two (2) pages.

10. The investigator(s) should describe any potential for commercialization. How may the research relate to current commercial or industrial applications? Could the research lead to new products and markets? If possible estimate the time to market, including all certification steps. Proposals should be explicit whether successful results will be published. How will progress toward potential commercial application be measured? Describe funding received to date, and give an estimate of funding required to advance the product to market. List any potential opportunities for the development of intellectual properties. Describe the impact of your results relevant to economic evaluation; including humanitarian impact.

11. **References** should be cited together at the end of the proposal. No page limit

12. **Budget**. Start as a new page and describe the budget to support your project. The budget

may include all normally allowable costs of research. For proposals involving partnerships with Florida aerospace companies, please indicate budget contributions from the industrial partner.

Include the following breakdown:
I.   *Labor* – List investigators and support staff and percent effort of each.
II.   *Equipment* – Identify equipment purchased under this award.
III.   *Subcontract Costs* – Identify consultants or subcontracts, if applicable.

IV.   *Materials* – List materials that will be purchased under this award.
V.   *Travel* – List locations, approximate dates and justification of travel.

Note:
Facilities & Administrative costs – No F&A is allowed for these projects. Industry funds will be subject to the standard UCF F&A rate for industry-sponsored research.
Cost Share – No cost share is required for this effort.

13. **Budget Justification**

DEADLINES

The deadline for submission of full proposals via email is rolling until 5 PM EST, Mar 31, 2025. Questions about this call for proposals may be addressed to Mildred Rodriguez-Solivan at mildred.rodriguez@ucf.edu.

Receipt of proposals will be confirmed with the principal investigator via e-mail notification.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

Every effort will be made to notify Principal Investigators of their award status within 4 to 6 weeks upon submission. The earliest start date will be July 1, 2024.

REPORTING

All funded efforts will be required to submit a final report due 30 days after the project end date. This report shall detail proposal submissions and wins as a result of their SRI funding, and their new external funding to SRI-funding ratio will be tracked by FSI and used in evaluating future proposals by the PI.

If there is a change in the proposed execution of the project, a formal proposal request is needed (1 page is sufficient) that explains the rationale for the change.