



ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Call for Research Proposals Related to New or Evolving Copper-Related Technologies

The International Copper Association, Ltd., (ICA) is pleased to announce its 2008 Call for Research Proposals on materials science, metallurgy, materials processing, and other enabling technologies related to copper, copper alloys and copper compounds. Also sought are ideas for the design and manufacturing of new products incorporating copper metals. The 2008 Call is part of an ongoing ICA program to support copper related collaborative, pre-competitive research among copper producers, fabricators, copper-using industries, universities, government programs, and independent technologists.

The ICA is the leading organization for promoting the use of copper worldwide. ICA members represent about 80 percent of the world's refined copper output and are among the largest copper producers, copper alloy fabricators, and wire and cable companies in the world.

THE CHALLENGE

The ICA is seeking research proposals that, if successful, will lead to new applications for copper or extend its usefulness in existing applications. Researchers working in either basic or applied research related to copper, and whose work addresses the interests of the copper industry, are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. Proposals may be either extensions of ongoing research or exploratory research projects. Interdisciplinary research proposals involving collaborators in various fields or academic departments are welcome.

AWARDS

Awards of up to a maximum of US\$100,000 will be for a one-year period. With the appropriate justification, the award may also be drawn over a two-year period although the initial award amount remains up to US\$100,000 in total. There is no automatic funding renewal policy. However, the ICA Technical Steering Committee may consider an extension of funding or additional funding on projects with a significant commercialization potential that show good results.

Funds are limited, so it will be impossible to provide grants to all of the excellent proposals that are received. Proposers will be asked to indicate in their pre-proposal whether, if unsuccessful, they wish to be contacted by ICA in the event that their pre-proposal is deemed likely to elicit interest and funding through collaboration with other potentially interested parties.

As the ICA is a New York not-for-profit 501(c)6 corporation, the funds provided through this Call are designated solely for research use. The ICA will not support administrative overhead or equipment purchases through this funding process except under exceptional circumstances when the ICA may consider administrative overhead charges of up to 10% of the grant award.

DATES AND PROCEDURE

Pre-proposals, not exceeding three pages in length and written in English, must be submitted in PDF format by email to icacall2008@copper.org not later than May 30, 2008 and must include the information listed under the Guidelines below. The message must state that it includes a pre-proposal for the ICA initiative, reference number TEK-1023. All applicants will be notified when their pre-proposal is received and whether or not they have submitted a successful pre-proposal. A decision on successful applicants will be made by July 15, 2008, at which time they will be invited to submit a full proposal by August 18, 2008. Awards will be announced by October 17, 2008.

COPPER INDUSTRY INTERESTS

In late 2007, the copper industry published a document entitled the Copper Applications Technology Roadmap (freely downloadable at http://www.copperinfo.com/technology/tech_roadmap.html). With this roadmap for collaborative technology development, the industry set priorities for evolving copper use in existing applications and advancing copper use in emerging applications. The Roadmap describes the criteria for selecting priorities and provides details on the trends and recommended pursuits specific to each area. While the roadmap does not cover all technological pathways to the future, it does focus on what we believe are the highest-priority pre-competitive needs of the copper industry and its customers.

Preference will be given to proposals that focus on creating or enabling potentially large market applications for copper and for which a relatively rapid demonstration and/or development timescale is realistic. Consideration will be given to all proposals in areas that address the current interests of the copper industry, including the following:

1. Any application-directed project that postulates a new copper application, identifies the breakthrough required, and describes a credible technical approach.
2. New copper metal processing techniques that allow any of the following: enhanced material properties, a reduction in the number of processing steps or energy necessary to make an end product, more effective use of copper in end products, the addition of complementary properties to copper metals' inherent characteristics in order to expand the range of use, new or improved joining techniques, or net shape fabrication methods that expand the boundaries of what is possible. Proposers should link any new processing technique to potential copper applications. For example, continuous extrusion of thin wall copper profiles would be a benefit in heat sink applications.
3. Research and development projects that respond to, expand on, or are comparable to those identified in the Copper Applications Technology Roadmap. Please note that projects with identical or highly similar objectives to technical projects that are already being funded are unlikely to receive funding.

AWARD CRITERIA

Evaluation criteria for grant awards are as follows:

1. Relevance to copper industry: How is the proposed result likely to lead to increased copper use? In what time scale?

2. Scientific merit, including the quality of prior achievements by proposers

Proposals will be evaluated by peer reviewers from academia and by ICA's Technical Committee.

GUIDELINES

Pre-proposals should not exceed three pages in length and must include the following information:

1. Name, address and email of the Principal Investigator (PI)
2. Names and addresses of any collaborators
3. Web address where sufficient information about the PI can be found
4. The title of the proposed research project
5. A concise description of the basic idea with relevant literature references
6. If the proposal is a continuation of existing research or is a new project
7. Objectives, activities and experimental techniques to be used, as appropriate, including rationale and previous achievements
8. Reasons why the proposed research is likely to lead to increased copper use and the timeframe of this impact?
9. Estimated budget
10. If the PI is unsuccessful in securing funding, but the pre-proposal is deemed likely to be of interest to other potentially interested parties, does the PI wish ICA to organize an introduction?

Queries are welcome at icacall2008@copper.org.

The International Copper Association, Ltd. (ICA) is responsible for guiding strategy and policy, and funding international initiatives that help deliver the benefits of copper in 50 countries around the world. The 37 member companies of ICA represent 80 percent of the world's refined copper output. Headquartered in New York, ICA executes programs and initiatives through regional offices in Brussels, Santiago, Singapore and New York, and through 27 copper promotion centers on six continents. www.copperinfo.com