

**Michigan Strategic Fund
Automotive Technology Business Accelerator RFP**

Questions and Answers

Is it possible to distribute a winning proposal from a previous year? We like to use a previous proposal as a guideline in writing our grant request.

As this is a new initiative provided for in the new 21st Century Jobs Fund legislation (PA 225 of 2005) we do not have a previous winning proposal that could be shared. Bidders are encouraged to submit proposals in response to the criteria set forth in the RFP.

Can Michigan Technological University be an applicant for the fund?

There is no restriction on who may apply for this funding opportunity.

Any time limitation for a proposed project? How about three years?

The duration of this award is subject to negotiation.

Does the early stage seed fund mean a limitation for a proposed budget? How many projects do you expect to fund?

The Michigan Strategic Fund is seeking one organization to serve as an automotive technology business accelerator and perform all of the three services identified in the RFP. One of the services requested in the RFP is for the creation of an early stage seed fund to encourage development of competitive edge technologies. The amount of dollars an applicant proposes to target for the seed fund activities will determine the number of projects which may be eligible for funding. An expectation has not been set for the number of seed funding projects.

The “Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) Board” references a \$6,000,000 commitment for funds. Does this mean that any proposal that we would submit must be at a cost of \$6,000,000? In other words, is there going to be multiple proposals awarded or just one at \$6,000,000? If multiple proposals are to be awarded, will favor be given to proposals that require fewer funds?

The Michigan Strategic Fund is seeking to fund one proposal for an automotive technology business accelerator that can provide all of the services requested in the RFP. The 21st Century Jobs Fund legislation (PA 225 of 2005) earmarked \$6 million for the purposes outlined in the RFP.

Is it possible to submit a proposal where the MSF and a company that submits a proposal share funding for a project?

The MSF is not seeking to participate or share in the activities outlined in the RFP.

Will preference be given to proposals that include a funding commitment from the company that submits the proposal?

Section III-D of the RFP outlines the selection criteria for all proposals. Proposals will be evaluated on an individual basis based on the criteria identified. Bidders should include all information they believe makes them the most qualified for award.

I am not clear of the Intellectual Property Rights of any products or technology developed with funds from the MSF. If (a company) develops a product or technology using funds from MSF, does MSF or the State of Michigan own the intellectual property rights?

It is anticipated that the winning bidder will negotiate Intellectual Property rights directly with companies in which they invest seed funds.

We have several projects that we could propose. Is it possible for a single company to submit more than one proposal?

There is no restriction on the number of proposals which may be submitted by any one organization. However, the Michigan Strategic Fund is seeking one organization that can perform all of the services identified in the RFP.

In the “Information Required from Bidders”, there is no reference to required information that would explain the benefits of the developed technology to the State of Michigan. Would it be a benefit to include this information in our proposal(s).

The Michigan Strategic Fund is seeking one organization to serve as an automotive technology business accelerator and perform all of the three services identified in the RFP. This RFP is not seeking to make investments in competitive edge technologies or specific companies who are commercializing technology. Rather, the MSF is seeking an organization that will create, among other things, an early stage seed fund which will make investments in companies and their technology.

Would MSF please provide the relative importance of each of the three components (research, development and commercialization) as part of the whole? I.E. Research 33% Development 33% Commercialization 34% = 100%.

No such importance scale has been set.

Will there be a review process to evaluate technologies brought to the forefront or should the proposal include a screening methodology?

No such review process exists for the services being requested in this RFP. Bidders should include all information they believe makes them the most qualified for award.

How will the State of Michigan define successful fulfillment of the contract?

Section II-C of the RFP identifies project control and reporting requirements that are currently set forth for this project.

If commercialization is not achieved during the contract period could the implementation of the program still be deemed a success?

In the area of seed funds, it is anticipated that they would be invested over a period of time which may extend beyond the contract period.

Would MSF please rank order the list of automotive technologies in section 88a of Public Act 225 in terms of importance/priority as viewed by the State of Michigan?

No such ranking is available.

Is technology from the international contingency viewed as more appealing than North American technology?

No such determination has been made.

Is funding technologies that are well along the development curve and closer to commercialization more important than funding technologies that might require longer-term research and development?

No such determination has been made

Does the State of Michigan “Buy Michigan First” campaign apply to this RFP from the Michigan Strategic Fund?

It is anticipated that the winning bidder will be Michigan based.