

APPLICATION INFORMATION

What is the SC Fraunhofer USA Alliance?

The SC Fraunhofer USA Alliance is a collaborative effort between The South Carolina Council on Competitiveness, the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Fraunhofer USA, and South Carolina's universities. The Alliance was established to promote applied research that improves the competitiveness of South Carolina companies and results in a positive economic impact within the state. This collaboration underscores the sustainability of the SC Fraunhofer USA Alliance.

The work of the Alliance and the research it supports strive to give South Carolina a competitive edge in advancing applied research and innovation that can move industry forward.

Project Criteria

Project proposals will be assessed using seven criteria and each criteria is weighted – resulting in a cumulative score. Criteria and its respective weighting as follows:

- 30% **Does the project enhance the client's competitiveness and lead to additional job creation?**
- 20% **Does the proposed project match the Alliance's collective competencies/capabilities?**
- 15% **Does the project offer other positive secondary impacts?** Example: Is a supply chain strengthened? Will employee skills be enhanced and justify higher wages?
- 10% **Does the project offer strategic benefits to overall state goals** such as supporting small and medium enterprises, rural-based companies, growing technology sector, etc.
- 10% **Is the organization operating and/or does it have a substantial investment, presence, or workforce in South Carolina?** The more direct impact on the SC economy, the better the project.
- 10% **Does the project address one or more of South Carolina's strategic industries targeted for expansion for Commerce?** Projects that build success stories in Manufacturing, Healthcare, or Shipping and Logistics are preferred.
- 5% **Can the project serve as a showcase to attract new domestic and international business to South Carolina?**

Project Submission & Approval Process

As part of its mission to drive innovation in the South Carolina business community, the new SC Fraunhofer USA Alliance administers a matching grant program to encourage SC businesses, universities and Fraunhofer USA CESE to collaborate on industry-based innovation projects that enhance business competitiveness.

Grant applications are reviewed, and recommendations for funding - which is provided by the South Carolina Department of Commerce - are made by the SC Fraunhofer USA Review Board on a regular/rolling basis. Eligible applicants (see qualifying criteria above) can apply for matching funds and must commit a cash match to be eligible. Note: In-kind commitments of company staff and materials for the project are encouraged but not counted as part of the cash match requirement.

Applications for project proposals will be assessed on a rolling monthly basis. Applications must include the project assessment and a project description in order to be considered complete and ready for review. Once an application is completed, it will be sent to the review board. The board will make every effort to complete the review process within three weeks. If the board reaches a majority decision that that the project proposal should be recommended for approval, the submitting party will be notified directly regarding next steps. If a project is not approved, the submitting party will be notified as such and may be invited to resubmit in the future. Throughout the project life-cycle, ongoing client testimonial and faculty team assessments will be required to assess project performance.

Two completed documents are required:

- 1) Project Assessment
- 2) Project Description

Review Board should aim to approve proposals within 3 weeks of receipt of completed submission.

Both client testimonial and faculty team assessments will be required for Review Board assessment of project performance.



Post Approval Steps

- Once projects are recommended for **approval** by Review Board, it is recommended that **50% of funds** be distributed to start the project.
- Review Board will advise all relevant parties on project results immediately following Review Board meeting(s).
- Review board will **review and provide feedback on ongoing projects' milestones and results.**
- **In the case of dissatisfactory project results**, concurrent funding should be delayed or discontinued until such time as project results are considered to be achieved and/or project is discontinued.

Learn more about the SC Fraunhofer USA Alliance

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PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

General Project Information

Project Title	
Primary Customer	
Pi	
Start Date	
End Date	
Budget Request	
Client contribution (Cash and/or in-kind)	

Project Partners

Company/Institute	Name of Contact	Contact Phone and Email Address
Lead University		
Fraunhofer USA		
Other Partners		

Economic Impact

Size of impact (example: \$, nr of employees)	<i>Example: Cost reductions of 40% for tool line maintenance; reduce production downtime by 80% for target client</i>	Time scale of impact (example: 10% of the growth in first year etc.)	<i>Example: 6 months from project start</i>
Short narrative about impact (Limit 1,000 words)	<p><i>Example: Company X is leading distributor and service provider of smart industrial tools for (enter number) SC manufacturers including OEMs and suppliers to the aerospace and automotive sectors, two of South Carolina's strategic industry sectors and largest employers. Though many of the tool lines that Company X distributes and services are capable of transmitting data addressing tool use and condition, most clients are not capturing and using the data to their best advantage. To better serve their clients, Company X proposes to capture the data on behalf of the client, and leverage advanced data analytics to enable predictive maintenance and provide customers with fact-based data, maintenance schedules as well as serve as a consultant helping clients select the best tools for each work application. Company would like to see the Beta version of the predictive maintenance system installed at a client site (TBD) by January 2020, and would like to expand to three additional SC clients sites by the end of 2020.</i></p>		

Expected Continuation After Pilot

Short narrative about expected continuation
(Limit 500 words)

Example: the pilot should prove the technical and economic feasibility of automating data collection, processing and establish Company X as a leading tool line management service provider to South Carolina's manufacturing sector. Once experience has been gained through the pilot, additional applications can be planned in collaboration with Fraunhofer research scientists, SC universities and new targeted SC clients. Once proven, the value added proposition to new and existing SC clients should lead to new revenue streams for Company X and require no further financial assistance from SC Commerce.

Detailed Project Description

Overall Project Description. Must Include:

- o Deliverable(s),
- o Project Logic,
- o Business Case
- o Appropriate Date for mid-project review

(Limit 1,500 words)

Signature of PI or Client _____

Date _____

Printed/Typed Name of PI or Client _____

Title of PI or Client _____

In the case of a University (PI) application, all applications must receive institutional review and approval prior to submission. Applications without a signature from an Authorized Organizational Representative will be returned without review.

Institutional Compliance: The undersigned certify that: (1) the information submitted within the application is true, complete and accurate to the best of the principal investigator's (PI) knowledge; (2) any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject the PI to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties of local, state, and federal statutes; (3) the PI agrees to accept responsibility for the scientific conduct of the project and to provide the required progress reports if a grant is awarded as a result of the application.

Signature of Authorized Official _____

Date _____

Typed Name of Authorized Official _____

Title of Authorized Official _____