

# **FELLOWSHIPS**

for assisting young scientists in prototyping innovative products by using cutting-edge technology

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## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) has made a donation to Eastern Macedonia and Thrace Institute of Technology (EMaTTech) in order to provide Fellowships to help mitigate brain drain from Greece.

Young Greek scientists (less than 40 years old) who have know-how on developing a product that may attract commercial interest are invited to apply for a grant.

— As well as a product; a method, a service, or similar will be accepted.

The scientific field of interest is not restricted, although the scientific areas that can be supported by the high-tech facilities and workshops available at our Hephaestus Advanced Lab (HAL) are limited.

— If your field is not included in HAL, you may still apply and we will try to find an appropriate lab for you.

Based on project requirements, up to 15 Fellowships of up to  $\epsilon$ 60.000 each will be issued as follows: a prize of  $\epsilon$ 5,000 for the idea and a grant of  $\epsilon$ 55,000 for developing it.

For application and more details please visit: <u>fellowships.teiemt.gr</u>
Deadline: Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> 2016; 24:00 hours.

#### PROJECT PHILOSOPHY

Proposed projects are expected to demonstrate a scheduled methodology that goes from lab to market; that foresees a patent and a product with a business plan. To this end, each proposed project should have a technology readiness level (TRL) 2 to 3 (or higher); that is, from a formulated application to a proof of concept.

— For more details see: J.C. Mankins, Technology Readiness Levels, NASA (1995).

## ORIGINALITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Candidates will sign a declaration stating that their proposed project ideas are original and belong to them; EMaTTech will treat each proposal with confidentiality.

## **BUDGET**

Each fellowship consists of a prize fixed at €5,000 and a grant of up to €55,000 for developing the idea. The grant should be allocated into the following three categories:

- 1. Research Fellowship: €35.000
- 2. Product Development [about €10.000]: In this category candidates may foresee the cost of developing and optimizing a prototype (or otherwise); it may include expenses such as: subcontracting to third parties (e.g. to a software company), traveling, small equipment, consumables, supplies, etc.
- 3. Product Support [about €10.000]: In this category candidates will estimate the cost of developing a business plan for their product, as well as to obtain support on patenting, market research, and legal and financial concerns.
- It is noted that the above given costs (2 and 3) are indicative; candidates are welcome to set up their budget according to the requirements of their proposed projects.

#### **TIMETABLE**

The duration of each fellowship is 2 years. In this timeframe the successful candidates have to develop a product (by e.g. research-testing-and-optimization) and construct a prototype. Afterwards, the product will be introduced to EMaTTech's Incubation Center for commercialization. An indicative timeline may be given as follows:

- 1. Product Development: 18 months.
- 2. Prototype: 6 months.
- 3. Business Plan: 24 months (horizontal to the above waterfall).
- Please note that 4 reports (one final) should be submitted every 6 months.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

- A. A pre-selection committee (pSC) will compile a short list of about 25 projects from the submitted proposals.
- B. The selected candidates will be invited to present their projects. The short list will then be reshaped to the satisfaction of the pSC.
- C. The proposed projects from the list from step B will be introduced to the higher Selection Committee (hSC). The hSC will accept up to 15 proposals, based on how they are related in the spectrum from 'idea to application' and from 'lab to market'.
- The hSC may also ask from the successful candidates to revise some elements of their proposals according to given recommendations.

### APPEALING PROCEDURES

Candidates who are not included in the short lists of the pSC may appeal to the hSC. Candidates whose projects are not accepted for funding by the hSC may appeal to an ad-hoc committee that consists by two members appointed from both, the hSC and the appealing candidate, and a third one mutually agreed from the two parties also acting as president of the ad-hoc committee; if a conclusion is not achieved the opinion of hSC prevails.

— In all cases the appeal should be filed within 10 days of the rejection notification at candidate's e-mail.

## **CONTRACT PROCEDURES**

- i. Successful candidates will be invited to negotiate a contract based on the stated recommendations and level of confidentiality.
- ii. For each fellowship a Scientific Advisor acting also as project leader will be assigned by HAL (free of charge). The role of the Scientific Advisor is to encourage and promote the fellowship activity and also to report upon the

- progress of the project. A negative recommendation from the Scientific Advisor may discontinue the project and cease prize installations.
- iii. When the contract is signed, the contractor will be appointed as a Research Scientist at HAL.

# **CIRCULARS**

If necessary EMaTTech Board of Regents may release circulars for interpreting or exemplifying the implementation of this call.

# **CONTACT**

For more information and questions please contact:

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