

**BINATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR THE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA- NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

2014 Call for proposals for research projects and postdoctoral fellowships

The University of Arizona and the Mexican Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) ratify their commitment of 2013, when they signed an International Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of the Binational Consortium for the Regional Scientific Development and Innovation (COBIDECRI), to join their efforts and resources.

Objective

To contribute to the consolidation of the scientific, technological and innovative capacities of the region, relative to the environment and climate change in the arid and semi-arid zones of Mexico and the United States.

Presentation of proposals and research projects

Researchers from Universities and Research Centers of Mexico working together with University of Arizona researchers who wishes to develop joint research projects in the following areas:

- Environmental sustainability in arid zones
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Climate change
- Atmospheric sciences
- Astronomy
- Soil evolution
- Socio environmental problems

Proposals that do not include the above elements will not be considered.

Seed funding of \$25,000 USD each will be granted to up to six proposals.

Submission of postdoctoral fellowship proposals

Researchers from Universities and Research Centers of Mexico who have earned their doctoral degree within a three year period of the closing date of the call for proposals.

The postdoctoral fellowships will be carried out within the different academic programs of the University of Arizona, which are related to the subjects mentioned in the above paragraph.

The postdoctoral fellowships may or may not be connected to the research projects presented within the confines of this call for proposals.

Up to six postdoctoral fellowship proposals will be awarded a grant of \$25,000 USD each for a one-year period only.

The postdoctoral fellowship proposal should consider the following:

- Fall within the consortium objectives.
- Brief Bio of the researcher.
- Letter of intent addressed to the receiving institution.
- Schedule.
- Letter of invitation from the receiving institution.
- Proof of degree.
- Letter from the assigning institution giving the applicant's work status and authorizing the postdoctoral stay.
- Two letters of reference.

Shared costs

Due to limited finances, those presenting proposals may form associations with other financing sources. Proposals must identify the sources and the amounts of external financing.

Review and Evaluation Process

All proposals will undergo a formal review process in accordance with the following. The proposals that meet the requirements of this call for proposals will be reviewed and considered for possible financing by the Evaluating Committee, which is made up of technical experts of both the University of Arizona and CONACYT, to assist the Consortium in the selection of projects. The projects recommended by the Committee will be considered for financing.

a) Research Projects

1. Initial review

Proposals will be considered for technical review if they comply with the following:

- Fall within the mission of the Consortium.
- Fall within the tangible areas of research.
- Include participants of Universities and Research Centers of Mexico and the University of Arizona.
- Include all required documents.
- Clearly identify the focus, objectives and deliverables.
- Sufficiently justify the relevance of the project.

2. Appraisal of the Evaluating Committee
 - The remaining proposals will be judged by the Evaluating Committee on the basis of their scientific merit and the relevance of the project, in accordance with the objectives of the consortium, perceived impact and the long-term potential of the collaboration.

b) Postdoctoral stays

1. Must comply with legal requirements.
2. Will undergo review by the Evaluating Committee.

Proposal due date

Proposals will be due by June 2, 2014. Proposals received after this date will not be considered.

Proposal content

All proposals must be written in English and include the following information in order to be considered:

- Proposal summary.
- Description of the proposed activity and scope of work (including the review of literature that identifies research already conducted, and that is related to the proposed project).
- Project objectives.
- Relevance to the mission of the Consortium and sensitive areas.
- Public outreach strategies.
- Description of how the project will promote interaction between the two parties.
- Deliverables.
- Detailed budget that includes information concerning resources from additional sources.
- Curricula of the principle investigators (two pages each).

Proposal presentation

All proposals must be delivered electronically in Microsoft Word or in portable document format (PDF) as described below.

Attached file and name

Proposals must be attached as a single Microsoft Word or in portable document format (PDF) and titled as follows:

Researcher's last name_Abbreviated Name of the Institution_MonthYearofDelivery_proposal

Example:

Dr. Pedro Sanchez of the University of Arizona presents a proposal in March 2014, the file name should be:

Sanchez_UA_0314_proposal.doc (or .pdf)

Multiple Files

Proposals containing multiple files will not be accepted.

Electronic delivery

All proposals must be delivered electronically.

For information on delivering proposals or for questions

- Information about the Call at the University of Arizona:

Mitch Pavao- Zuckerman
mzucker@email.arizona.edu
US telephone: 520-626-2972

- Delivering proposals and information about the Call at CONACYT:

Pablo Zazueta Carpinteyro
pzazueta@conacyt.mx
Telephone (55) 5322-7700 ext. 6002 y 6007

Deliverables of approved projects

The approved research proposals must present the following deliverables:

- Progress reports as required by the Evaluation Committee.
- Final Report.
- Development and presentation of research summaries for the Consortium's use.
- Presentations for publication in peer-reviewed journals or joint proposals for financial support (recognition of the Consortium's support must be given in resulting publications).

Calendar

Activity	Date	Responsible
RFP announcement	April 21, 2014	University of Arizona CONACYT
Deadline	June 2, 2014	CONACYT
Evaluation and Selection	June 20, 2014	University of Arizona CONACYT
Publication of evaluation results	June 27, 2014	University of Arizona CONACYT
Contracting of projects	starting from July 8, 2014	University of Arizona
Delivery of funds	starting from July 14, 2014	University of Arizona

HONESTY, TRANSPARENCY, EFFECTIVENESS, ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY

An obligation of the Federal Government and its public officers is manage the available financial resources with transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, economy and honesty, to meet the objectives for which they are intended.

Also, beneficiaries must observe these principles, managing props that are granted to them for the proper performance of the purposes.

To do so, they must submit reports on the terms set out in the Agreement. CONACYT may check at any time.

Any breach of these principles shall be cause for cancellation of the support.

EQUITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The recipients of the grants of CONACYT are selected through competitive, efficient, equitable, transparent and public procedures based on merit and quality; props that are awarded are



subject to processes of evaluation, selection, formalization and follow-up, in terms of the regulatory framework that corresponds to each program, therefore, CONACYT, in the allocation of resources to beneficiaries, is obligated not to discriminate the proponents for no reason or social status.

INTERPRETATION AND UNFORESEEN ISSUES

The interpretation of this call and issues not covered herein shall be resolved jointly by the CONACYT and the University of Arizona and its resolutions will be final.

The terms of this Call obey to legal provisions derived from the Law of Science and Technology and other provisions on the subject. The results just released may be questioned in the framework that is designated on the present Basis.