



Ohio Plant Biotechnology Consortium

Request for Proposals

Fiscal Year 2013



For Projects Beginning July 1, 2012

Submission Deadline – January 26, 2012



Ohio Plant Biotechnology Consortium

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Quinn Li, Vice-Chair

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**OHIO PLANT
BIOTECHNOLOGY
CONSORTIUM**

**Member
Institutions
and
Representatives**

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Introduction

This is a request for submission of research proposals for the Ohio Plant Biotechnology Consortium (OPBC) for Fiscal Year 2013. Projects are scheduled to begin on July 1, 2012. The program is contingent upon the continued allocation of funding from the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC). All persons in member institutions who are eligible investigators under the rules of their institutions are invited to participate.

The key goal of the Consortium is to strike a balance between the basic sciences that comprise biotechnology and the exploitation of this information for the benefit of Ohio citizens, agriculture, and natural resources. Such an agenda, given the structure of Ohio's economy, is to be distributed as the shared mission of all publicly funded institutions of higher learning. OPBC was formed to maximize the development of an Ohio-based cooperative community of biotechnologies and to minimize duplication among state-funded institutions. Without doubt, a huge intellectual resource exists within the Ohio university system that can be harnessed either by joining together existing technologies in a collaborative way or by developing synergies among the membership to solve problems of global, national, and local significance.

Examples of research areas that will potentially be supported by the Consortium include, but are not restricted to:

- Biobased products/energy
- Bio-remediation
- Plant improvement
- Alternate crop/plant development

Oversight for the competition will be provided by the OPBC Executive Committee, which is comprised of one representative from each member institution with administrative support furnished by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center Director's Office.



INTRODUCTION

Questions relating to the Ohio Plant Biotechnology Consortium should be referred to:

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1.1 Eligibility

All persons in member institutions who are eligible investigators under the rules of their institution are invited to participate. Investigators who are external to the member institutions may be named as collaborators and are eligible to receive indirect funding through one of the OPBC member institutions. It is very important for investigators to work with their institutional research offices and technology transfer offices for proper authorization, especially when working on an inter-institutional project or with private-sector companies, to ensure that intellectual property rights are preserved.

There are three categories of competition. Although single or multiple investigator projects from a single university will be considered, multiple-institutional projects are strongly encouraged.

Proposals must clearly address problems and opportunities of relevance that benefit Ohio through plant biotechnology research. OPBC funding is not intended to support symposia or workshops.

1.2 Research Initiatives — \$10,000 or less

The purpose of the Research Initiative is to help investigators explore a new area of research or a new approach for which convincing preliminary data are not yet available. Proposals for the exploration and development of new research initiatives will be considered with budgets of \$10,000 or less. Research Initiative proposals are limited to a maximum of five pages, and projects should be completed in one year.

1.3 Research Grant — \$60,000 maximum

This category presumes that preliminary data HAS already been obtained and SHOWS promise. The purpose of this category is to provide funds to further refine the initial research, enhance the ability to obtain additional funding for the project if necessary, and facilitate technology transfer. Research Grant proposals are limited to a maximum of 10 pages, and projects should be completed within two years. Although a match is not required for this category, the proposal must include a specific PLAN for acquiring future funding and must identify what further work will be performed with those funds.

1.4 Matching Grant — \$80,000 maximum

The purpose of the Matching Grant Competition is to promote new projects in collaboration with industry and nonprofit foundations. Matching Grant proposals are limited to a maximum of 10 pages, and projects should be completed within two years. Investigators must be developing partnerships with and seeking matching funds from private sector companies or other economic end-users of their research. In-kind matches of time will not be considered; however, equipment, supplies, and laboratory analyses will be considered acceptable on a case-by-case basis. OPBC funding will only be released upon proof of receipt of an acceptable match.



SECTION 1

Eligibility and Grant Categories

2.1 General Information

Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. January 26, 2012. In order to ensure fairness to all participants, no proposals or revisions received in the OARDC Director's Office after the 5:00 p.m. deadline will be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Research Initiatives should be completed within one year and all other projects within two years. This time may not be sufficient to complete long-term objectives, but objectives/products that can be completed in the allotted time should be clearly stated.

Proposals are to be submitted online at: <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/opbc/>. Faxed and e-mail submissions are unacceptable and will be automatically disqualified as will any proposal submitted with an investigator who has an outstanding annual or final report from a previously awarded OPBC grant.

Online submission requires that you prepare your proposal as a PDF file. Once your proposal is prepared as a PDF file, simply go to the web site, click on proposal submission, and follow the two-step submission process. Receipt of your proposal will be acknowledged after you click on the submit button. If you do not receive immediate confirmation, contact the OPBC Program Coordinator at opbc@osu.edu.

2.2 Format, Required Sections, and Organization

All PDF files should be set to print on 8.5- x 11-inch paper with printing on one side of the page only. In addition, all margins are to be at least 1 inch, and type size must be 12 point or larger. All pages except the Cover Page should be numbered at the bottom center of the page. Forms for the Cover Page, Budget Pages, and Current and Pending Support form are available to download at the OPBC web site: <http://opbc.osu.edu/>. Just follow the competitive grants link. **NOTE: Margins and 12 point font size must be consistent throughout each required section of the proposal. Proposals not meeting the formatting guidelines will be dismissed from the competition without review.**

Research Initiatives are limited to five pages, while Research and Matching Grant proposals are limited to 10 pages. **Page limits apply to the Narrative (including figures and tables), Rationale and Significance, and References.** No appendices will be accepted.

Proposal requirements and order of organization should follow the outline given here.

Cover Page

In order to ensure that all required information is provided, use the form available on the OPBC web site.

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SECTION 2

Submission Requirements and Instructions

Page limits apply to the Narrative (including figures and tables), Rationale and Significance, and References.

Narrative

- Introduction — a clear statement of objectives and the hypothesis to be tested
- Preliminary findings
- Research methods
- A description of the research design and approach
- An outline of the methods/techniques that will be used
- Means by which data will be analyzed or interpreted
- Means of applying results, or accomplishing technology transfer, where appropriate
- Potential pitfalls and/or limitations of the proposed procedures
- A schedule of activities
- Role of investigators

Rationale and Significance

Clearly state how Ohio is to benefit by this activity.

References

All references cited should be listed and conform to an accepted journal format.

Resubmission Response (if applicable)

It should be made clear on the cover page if the proposal is a resubmission. If so, the proposal must include a description of how the concerns expressed by reviewers have been addressed. This description is limited to one page. All reviews are kept on file and may be referred to by members of the OPBC Executive Committee. Resubmissions that do not address reviewer comments will not be considered.

Budget

In order to ensure that all the required information is provided, use the form provided on the OPBC web site. Include salaries and wages, fringe benefits, nonexpendable equipment, materials and supplies, travel, publication costs/page charges, computer costs, etc. A separate budget page should be supplied for each institution that will be receiving direct funding. A separate column should be used for each year of the project. Faculty salaries, tuition and fees, and indirect costs are not allowed. Investigators who are external to the member institutions can be named as collaborators and are only eligible to receive indirect funding through one of the OPBC member institutions.

Budget Narrative

Provide a brief summary (not more than one page) describing equipment that will be purchased, the type of personnel (graduate students, post docs, technicians, etc.) as well as the role of these personnel, and other expenditures that will be supported by the requested funds.

Matching Funding Plan and Strategy for Acquiring Future Funding

Details must be provided on how the required matching funds will be acquired for Matching Grants. Evidence should be provided in a letter of intent, if available, from potential sponsors.

A strategy for acquiring future extramural funding should be outlined for all grants.

Previous OPBC Funding

Each investigator who has received OPBC support within the past three years is required to supply information on results from that prior funding. This information will be used in the review of the proposal and is limited to a maximum length of one page per award.

For each award, list the period of support, title of the project, summary of the results of the completed work, the long-term effects of these results, any publications, and additional funding received as a result of the project. If additional funding has not been acquired, evidence is required of an application for external funding based on the research generated from the OPBC project.

Curriculum Vitae for Each Investigator

Curriculum vitae (CV) are required for all investigators. CVs for collaborators are not needed or requested. Each CV should be no longer than two pages, including publications. The information listed here must be included:

- Education
- Employment and professional history
- Honors and awards
- Selected recent or relevant publications within the past five years

Collaborative Arrangements

Any collaboration or contractual arrangements with other organizations or personnel associated with other organizations must be identified. Include letters of support from individuals who will provide technical support, research materials, or other services.

Current and Pending Support for Each Investigator

Use the form provided on the OPBC web site to make certain that all required information is included. It is the responsibility of the investigator(s) to remove doubt of overlap between current and pending funding and funds solicited from the OPBC. A short paragraph of explanation may be included if necessary. The current application should be included as pending.

Conflict of Interest Form

A conflict of interest form must be submitted for each investigator.

INSTRUCTIONS: For each senior/key person, list alphabetically by last name (and with last name first), the full names of individuals in the following categories and mark each category which applies with an "x". It is suggested that the investigator use the USDA/NIFA Conflict of Interest Form.

- All thesis or postdoctoral advisees/advisors
- All co-authors on publications within the past three years, including pending publications and submissions
- All collaborators on projects within the past three years, including current and planned collaborations
- All persons in your field with whom you have had a consulting/financial arrangement/other conflict-of-interest in the past three years including receiving compensation of any type (e.g., money, goods, or services)

List of Potential Reviewers

To assist the committee in ensuring the equitable review of all proposals, **provide the names and information for five potential reviewers.** The following information is needed: name, affiliation, full street address, city, state, zip code, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. These reviewers, in your opinion, should not have any significant conflict of interest (such as being an investigator or author with any investigator named on this project within the past three years). Reviewers can include anyone with the expertise to review the proposal and are not limited to people in academia. Failure to provide this information may impact how your proposal is rated by the panel since there may be few or no external reviews available to them during the decision-making process.

NOTE: *Contact your reviewers prior to submitting your proposal to ensure that they will have the time and are willing to provide a review within a fairly short time period. Do not give names from any of the OPBC member institutions.*

3.1 Review

All proposals will be reviewed by representatives of the member institutions with outside consultation as necessary. In addition, proposals will be reviewed by the external reviewers identified by the investigators and the review panelists. Institutional representatives will meet to review comments, discuss the applications, and make funding decisions.

The written comments of reviewers and a committee summary will be provided to Principal Investigators; however, the identity of reviewers will not be provided.

3.2 Awards

Within the limits of available funds, awards will be made to applicants whose proposals are judged most meritorious under the evaluation criteria. Funds will be available after July 1, 2012. For projects in the matching category, funds will be provided within 30 days of providing proof of a match. Proof is considered to be a copy of a check or an institutional sponsored program number. If the match is in-kind, such as equipment, supplies, etc., a shipping invoice indicating the items shipped and their worth will be considered acceptable.

Investigators who are external to the member institutions can be named as collaborators and are only eligible to receive indirect funding through one of the OPBC member institutions.

Grantees will be required to ensure that all funds are expended according to the approved overall budget but with flexibility within budget categories.

Investigators are responsible for any expenditure beyond the approved budget.

3.3 Post-Award Administration

Annual reports are required for projects with a two-year duration. Second-year funding will not be released until an annual report is submitted.

Final reports are due for each funded project. Annual and final reports are due July 30. A reminder note along with instructions will be sent to the Principal Investigators.

The information requested on final reports is critical to our accountability and will impact our capacity to receive further funding.

Funding by OPBC will not be available to investigators with outstanding reports.

3.4 Acknowledgments

All publications and posters resulting from work done using OPBC/OARDC funding are required to include the following acknowledgment:

“Salaries and research support are provided by state funds appropriated to the Ohio Plant Biotechnology Consortium through The Ohio State University, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.”



SECTION 3

Review, Grant Awards, and Post-Award Administration



Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

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