

Innovation Grants

Innovation Grants help UT professor-led teams close the funding gap between research and commercialization.



WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD

Innovation Grants are intended to assess and develop the commercializability of University technology. Our mission is to support protostartups that have a high chance of being commercialized but are not likely to get there without gap funding.

Innovation Grants may be used for product development and marketing. **Funds may not be used for research.**

A partial list of allowed uses include:

- make/test/demo prototypes
- register/travel to conference
- travel to meet with key potential customers & investors
- validate market/pricing
- assess customer demand

Grant amounts generally range from \$5,000-\$50,000. We require applicants apply to the NSF's Innovation Corp (I-Corp) or attend a Regional I-Corp program (or equivalent) for valuable entrepreneurship training.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Applications are accepted on an on-going basis. Our application is simple.



Name of protostartup.



Team with titles, degrees earned and contact info.



Description of the discovery/innovation.



What will protostartup do and for whom?



What is your commercialization timeline? What milestones will this grant help you reach?



What funding (and \$\$\$) have you received so far and by whom?



Do you have IP? Have you disclosed your technology to OTC?



Have you applied to NSF I-Corp or attended any of their regional programs?

Our Process

1 Recruit innovation grant donors.



2 Recruit professor-led protostartups.



3 Panel (including donors) match protostartups to grants.



4 Panel awards grants.



5 The Innovation Center supports and mentors protostartups.



6 Protostartups provide weekly email reports of 250-500 words.



7 Every month protostartups meet with the Innovation Center and a select group of peers.



8 Showcase



9 The Innovation Center tracks and provides ongoing support.



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