

# Call for New Center Proposals, Purdue Discovery Park

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is Discovery Park?**

The mission of Discovery Park is to provide Purdue University with facilities, leadership and systems that transcend traditional academic boundaries, fostering an innovative interdisciplinary environment for learning, discovery and engagement that leads to intellectual excitement, scientific achievement, and economic growth and opportunities. Our vision is that Discovery Park will be a model for facilitating interdisciplinary endeavors. Discovery Park will be recognized for its people and their vibrant, progressive approach to discovery and learning. Their innovative interdisciplinary efforts will lead science, shape and engage industry, change the way people work and improve the quality of life.

Discovery Park is about new ways of working at Purdue—new areas of research, new strategies for learning, and new opportunities to reach outside of our campus boundaries. Every center in Discovery Park has strong connections with the Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship and contributes to strategies for economic development within the state of Indiana. Discovery Park activities are characterized as: interdisciplinary; broad-based; focused on a grand challenge; incorporating long-term and short-term projects and results; high potential for growth; technologically innovative; capable of leveraging funding; inclusive of commercial components. More information on Discovery Park is given on web site: [www.purdue.edu/dp](http://www.purdue.edu/dp)

### **How many centers are there currently in Discovery Park?**

Currently Discovery Park has six centers: Birck Nanotechnology Center, e-Enterprise Center, Bindley Bioscience Center, Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship, Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Discovery Learning Center.

### **How many new centers will be added to Discovery Park?**

Four new centers will be added to Discovery Park.

### **What is the purpose of adding new centers in Discovery Park?**

In late January, the Lilly Endowment awarded \$25 million in additional funding to Discovery Park. Ten million dollars of this gift is designated for the creation of four new Discovery Park centers. The new centers are intended to increase the scope of Discovery Park.

**Can existing centers compete?**

An existing center that has received University funding may not submit a proposal that simply extends the center's current activities. Some of the research activities and faculty within an existing center, however, could become part of a new transformative center of interdisciplinary activities that includes other activities and other faculty and is linked to the mission and vision of Discovery Park.

**Who is eligible to apply for call for proposals?**

Proposals may be submitted by a single investigator or by a group of faculty members.

**Will interaction/partnership with other institutions be considered a plus?**

Yes. Interdisciplinary research promotes interactions with other institutions.

**What are the criteria for the selection of new centers?**

The criteria for selection of the new centers will be:

- (1) *Quality*—the quality of the proposed discovery/learning/engagement program and the potential of the center to contribute to the preeminence of Purdue University;
- (2) *Leverage*—the potential for the center to attract additional significant external funding for the proposed programs.
- (3) *Leadership*—the demonstrated capability of the leadership of the proposed center to grow the center to preeminence and contribute to Discovery Park;
- (4) *Interdisciplinary*—the potential of the proposed center to engage in a program with a significant breadth of interdisciplinary cooperation; and
- (5) *Economic Development*—the potential for the center to contribute to economic development with emphasis on the State of Indiana.

**How will proposals be evaluated and reviewed?**

The proposal will be evaluated according to criteria listed in the call for proposals. A review team and a committee will be formed that include internal as well as external people.

**Will there be space available to new centers in Discovery Park?**

Some space for administrative offices may be available in Discovery Park, but groups should consider and explain, if possible, how the center would function within existing space constraints.

**Will there be efforts to raise funds for new centers?**

At present, there are no fund raising efforts to provide space for the centers, but the new centers will be considered for future fund-raising efforts if the feasibility of development looks promising.

**How much money has been allocated for each new center?**

New centers selected through this competition will have a one million dollar endowment for the Director position and an additional \$500,000 per year for three years as seed funds to launch the center.

**How will the allocated money to be used?**

Money is to be used for expenses related to seed new research projects, cost sharing, salary support, equipment, and travel. Other uses may be considered.

**Will there be support available after initial seed funding for three years?**

This Lilly Endowment grant provides support only for the first three years. Centers are responsible for attracting other funds to continue proposed activities.

**How will center Director be chosen?**

A list of individuals who might be considered to serve as a center director will be identified in the proposal.

**What is the duration of director's appointment?**

It is intended that the director will have an initial appointment of three years. This may be open for negotiation in an individual case.

**To whom will the center director report?**

The Center Director will report to the Executive Director of Discovery Park.

**What additional support and resources will be available to conduct new center related activities?**

The Director and the support staff will be active members of the Discovery Park Leadership Team. This Team will provide mentorship to new centers. Other Discovery Park support includes the Business Office, marketing and media relations, engagement, foundation and corporate relations, electronic communication, leadership training, and inter-center coordination and communication.

**When is the due date for letter of intent and its format?**

All interested individuals and groups intending to submit a proposal should submit a letter of intent of no more than one page to Associate Vice Provost of Research, Bob Bernhard (Email: [bernhard@purdue.edu](mailto:bernhard@purdue.edu), Phone: 61938) by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The letter of intent should include a brief description of the proposed theme of the center and contact information for proposal team.

**When is the due date by which investigator(s)/groups will be asked to submit full proposals?**

The selected individual and groups that will be invited to submit full proposals will be announced by March 4, 2005.

**When is the due date for full proposals and where it should be sent?**

Full proposals must be submitted by 12 PM, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005 by hard copy or by email of a .pdf file to Interim Vice Provost for Research Charles O. Rutledge ([chipr@purdue.edu](mailto:chipr@purdue.edu)) with a copy to Candiss Vibbert, Executive Assistant to the President ([vibbert@purdue.edu](mailto:vibbert@purdue.edu)).

### **What is the format for a full proposal?**

Proposals should be no more than fifteen pages in length (font size 11 in Times New Roman or equivalent, minimum  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch margin all around) plus the cover page, brief *curriculum vitae* (2 page) of each faculty member submitting the proposal and for those who might be considered to serve as Center Director and a one-page budget:

1. Introduction and background including a description of the grand challenge to be addressed, a description of the primary interdisciplinary focus of the proposed center, the faculty involved, and the facilities currently available. The list of faculty must include all of the faculty members who are submitting the proposal, but may also include other faculty whose research activities are related to the proposed center. Curriculum vitae of the faculty who have submitted the proposal must be appended to the proposal. All other faculty listed in the proposal must sign the cover sheet of the proposal to acknowledge that they support the proposal. The appropriate Deans, Heads, and Department Chairs must also sign the cover sheet.
2. Discussion of the anticipated discovery/learning/engagement activities within the center. Include identification of projects and existing grants that might be brought to the center when it is initiated.
3. Identify external funding opportunities for the proposed center. Also, identify any relationships with corporations or other institutions that might be developed through this center.
4. Discuss the relationship of the work anticipated to be conducted in this center to other centers of Discovery Park.
5. Discuss the benefits of the center to faculty, students, Purdue University, and the state of Indiana.
6. Discuss the challenges and obstacles, which must be addressed for creation of this center.
7. Describe how the Lilly Endowment funds would be utilized to launch the center.
8. A list of individuals who might be considered to serve as a center director (brief curriculum vita should be appended).

### **What is the review process?**

The review process for the center proposals will include both internal and external reviewers who will make recommendations to an internal committee. The internal committee will forward recommendations to Purdue President Jischke and Provost Mason. A final decision will be made by the President and Provost.

**When will new centers be announced?**

It is expected that new centers will be announced approximately June 1, 2005.

**When do new centers start functioning?**

The goal is to start new center activities as early as July 1, 2005.

**I have questions about Discovery Park. Who should I contact?**

You should contact Pankaj Sharma, Inter-Center Research Director, Discovery Park. His email address is [sharma@purdue.edu](mailto:sharma@purdue.edu) and his telephone number is 765-496-7452. Information on Discovery Park is also given web site:

[www.purdue.edu/dp](http://www.purdue.edu/dp).

**I have question about call for proposals. Who should I contact?**

You should contact Bob Bernhard, Associate Vice Provost for Centers and Institutes. His email address is [bernhard@purdue.edu](mailto:bernhard@purdue.edu) and his telephone number is 765-494-1938.

Updates of Frequently Asked Questions will be posted on the web sites for both the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Discovery Park:

<http://www.purdue.edu/research/vpr/index.html>

<http://www.purdue.edu/dp>

Date: February 14, 2005