

September 14, 2022

NEx Request for Proposals Notice

NEx encourages to submit proposals focused on the topic described below:

Project ID: PD23.03.

Project Title: Develop a 5-day Course for Nonmetallics in Building & Construction

Background

Nonmetallic applications in the building and construction sector are wide and scattered. Currently, there are few resources providing in-depth training for most of the materials and applications. NEx just started providing training material for GFRP rebar design. The aim of this project is to develop 5 days of training course material to reflect on most of the nonmetallics in building and construction. The course will be designed for entry-level engineers to increase knowledge and awareness of available resources supporting construction industries (benefits, design, utilization, case studies, specifications).

Proposal Request

NEx invites proposals for developing a training course on nonmetallic materials and technologies in the building and construction industry. It is expected to develop a course of 35-40 hours of training material with a separate module on each of the following. Additional topics that fit the purpose of this course can be proposed.

- FRP reinforcement
- Polymer concrete
- FRP pultruded members
- Construction chemicals
- Building components and systems
- Soil and foundation material beneficiation
- Polymers in additive manufacturing

The proposal can include suggestions for using audio-visual technology besides traditional training materials.

NEx Mission Statement

Collaborate globally to expand and accelerate the use of nonmetallics in the built environment to drive innovation, research, education, awareness, adoption, and deployment.

NEx is committed to achieving its mission through Research and Development, Standards and Guidelines, Professional Development, and Advocacy and Awareness.

Funding Policy

NEx will impose a limit of 15% on indirect costs (overhead) by research organizations for any research it funds. The organization must waive the remainder of the indirect costs.

Award Amount

NEx does not impose any limit on the overall funding request; however, the anticipated budget for this project is to be around \$30,000-\$50,000. Proposals with higher budget estimates will be accepted with information on budget spending relevant to the value added to the project scope. Co-funding and co-sponsoring proposals with other organizations are welcomed.

Proposal Evaluation

NEx proposals will be evaluated by the NEx Steering Committee. A winning proposal will be forwarded to the NEx Board of Directors with recommendations for funding.

Proposal evaluation criteria will include technical content, methodology, PI's relevant experience, potential impact/ industry adoption, cost and time, proposed deliverables, and outcome.

Awarded Proposals

- The awarded proposal is expected to commence within the first quarter of 2023.
- NEx will enter into a contract with the proposing entity. As part of the contract, it is mandated that the overhead or indirect return be set at no more than 15% of the direct cost of the research funding requested from NEx. Any overhead over the maximum allowed 15% that is waived by the proposing entity shall be considered as cost sharing and shall be indicated on the budget table as waived overhead, separate from other co-funding. Non-compliant proposals in this regard shall be returned without review.
- The schedule of payments contingent upon milestone deliverables will be contained in the contract and will include, at a minimum, a final report deliverable to NEx. Progress reports, if required, will be identified in the final contract.
- If principal investigators (PI) from two organizations are collaborating on the project, the award must be to a single organization, which will then subcontract with the second organization.
- NEx will only consider funding projects that involve the use of proprietary products if the goal is to advance knowledge in a particular area of study and not solely on a proprietary product.
- In case of any co-funding arrangement with other organization(s), commitment letter(s) from co-funding organization(s) is required before funds are dispersed from NEx.
- The results of NEx-funded project will be owned by NEx, and possibly by other co-founding organization(s). PI should obtain approval from NEx before publishing any results.

Where and How to Submit Proposals

Submitted proposals will be evaluated by the NEx Steering Committee and the NEx Staff. Anyone who evaluates a proposal is required to agree and abide by NEx policies on confidentiality and conflict of interest.

Please email the proposal and supporting information to info@nonmetallic.org, by end of the day, October 5, 2022. The subject line shall include project ID (see top of page 1) and the name of the proposing organization (For example: "PD23.xx University of xyz").

If you have any questions regarding the proposal requirements or process, please contact NEx Technical Director, Aparna Deshmukh (aparna.deshmukh@nonmetallic.org).

Required Proposal Content

Proposals submitted to the NEx shall be provided in one unprotected pdf file and shall contain:

- Contact information of the Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI (*if applicable*) and administrative persons that may submit on behalf of the PI;
- Proposal Title;
- Executive summary to be used for promotional purposes:
 - Total project budget amount including up to 15% overhead, if any;
 - Value of any co-funding, identified as monetary or in-kind (monetary value of donated materials, consulting or testing services);
 - Amount of waived institution overhead;
 - Description of objectives of the proposal (300 words or less);
 - Description of significance/impact of the project (300 words or less).

Main body of the proposal (*maximum of 5 pages in 12-point font*) must include:

- Objectives;
- Significance/Impact;
- Project description to include enough detail to understand how it will be performed;
- Matrix of tasks and schedule of completion, including progress and final reports;
- List of anticipated products, such as presentations, lecture notes, etc.;
- Table of funding that includes all support such as:
 - Total budget;
 - Any co-funding from organizations other than NEx;
 - Net value of waived institution overhead or planned co-funding (if not in place yet).

Supporting information should include:

- References cited;
- Qualifications of the investigator(s) and/or institution(s). Biographical sketches are limited to two pages per investigator.