

July 17, 2023

NEx Request for Proposals Notice

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

Project ID: AA24.07.

Project Title: Conduct a workshop/conference in emerging countries on nonmetallics in construction.

Background

Nonmetallic materials play a significant role in the building and construction industry, offering a wide range of benefits such as durability, energy efficiency, and design versatility. These materials, including composites, polymers, and advanced fibers, have gained increasing attention for their potential to revolutionize construction practices. To promote knowledge and awareness about the applications and advancements of nonmetallic materials in the building and construction sector, NEx proposes to sponsor a workshop to be conducted in emerging countries.

Proposal Request

We invite proposals from qualified organizations or individuals with expertise in nonmetallic materials and technology in the building and construction industry to conduct a two-day workshop. The objective of this workshop is to provide participants with comprehensive insights into the properties, applications, and innovations of nonmetallic materials in the context of building and construction.

The proposal should include the following elements:

- a. **Workshop Structure:** Outline a detailed structure for the two-day workshop, including sessions, topics, and activities. The workshop should cover a wide range of nonmetallic materials used in building and construction, such as composites, polymers, and advanced fibers.
- b. **Target Audience:** Identify the target audience for the workshop, such as architects, engineers, contractors, building material manufacturers, researchers, and students in relevant disciplines.
- c. **Resource Personnel:** Highlight the qualifications and expertise of the workshop facilitators or resource personnel who will be responsible for delivering the sessions. Emphasize their experience in the field of nonmetallic materials and their ability to effectively convey complex concepts to diverse audiences. Consider including industry experts, academic professionals, and practitioners to provide a comprehensive perspective.
- d. **Workshop Logistics:** Describe the logistics of the workshop, including the proposed location, dates, and duration. Provide an estimated fixed fee budget.
- e. **Workshop Deliverables:** Specify the expected deliverables of the workshop, such as presentation materials, handouts, and a comprehensive workshop report summarizing the key insights, discussions, and recommendations from the sessions. Additionally, consider providing participants with a certificate of attendance or participation to acknowledge their engagement and professional development.

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 \$15,000-\$30,000. 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 research 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, budget and time, proposed deliverables, and outcome. NEx anticipates the completion of this project within 12 months duration.

Awarded Proposals

- The awarded proposal is expected to commence within the first quarter of 2024.
- NEx will enter into a contract with the researching 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 researching 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 research, the award must be to a single organization, which will then subcontract with the second organization.
- NEx will only consider funding research that involves the use of proprietary products if the goal of the research 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 research 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, **September 5, 2023**. The email subject line and file name shall include project ID (see top of page 1) and the name of the proposing organization (For example: "AA24.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:

1. Section 1: Executive summary (maximum 2 pages)

- 1.1. NEx RFP ID:
- 1.2. Proposal Title:
- 1.3. Principal Investigator (name, affiliation, address, phone, email):
- 1.4. Objective of the proposal (300 words or less)
- 1.5. Description of significance/impact of the project (300 words or less)

2. Section 2: Main body (maximum 5 pages)

- 2.1. Background
- 2.2. Project description (include enough detail to understand how the project will be performed)
- 2.3. Schedule (include matrix of tasks and schedule of completion, including quarterly progress and final reports, and semi-monthly teleconference updates)
- 2.4. List of deliverables/anticipated products, such as new material specifications, new documents, published papers, presentations, NEx/ACI University Webinar, or conference proceedings.
- 2.5. Budget (table of funding that includes all support such as):
 - Total budget
 - Any co-funding from organizations other than NEx (monetary, in-kind)
 - Net value of waived institution overhead or planned co-funding

3. Section 3: Supporting Documents (maximum 2 pages each)

- 3.1. Qualifications of the investigator, co-investigator(s), if any, and/or institutions.