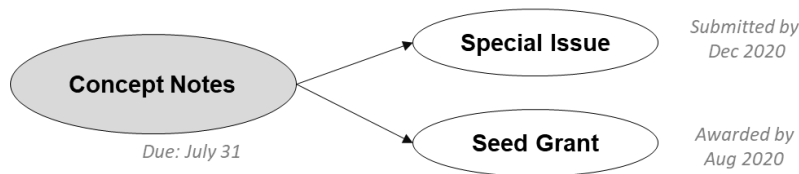


CORE Call for Concept Notes

(Due: July 31, 2020)

Description: The Texas A&M Energy Institute (EI) launches the first call for [Convergence Research \(CORE\) Incubator](#) Concept Notes. This is an internal competitive call whose primary objectives are to:

- a. **incentivize convergence research** across departments, schools, and institutes by providing seed funding opportunities to form research teams that address complex research challenges and innovative, interdisciplinary convergence research collaborations;
- b. **support interdisciplinary research activities** that strengthen EI's collaborations with units across Texas A&M;
- c. **participate in the creation of convergence products**, particularly on topics related to 1) Water-Energy-Food-Health Nexus and Sustainable Development Goals, 2) Energy Digitization / Sustainable Energy Systems of the Future, and 3) Future of Manufacturing / Circular Economies.



All concept note submissions will be eligible to participate in a *Special Issue* of white papers to be submitted by December 2020 that will highlight emergent topics which require a convergent research approach. **Three concept notes** will be awarded a seed grant to support the development of a subsequent proposal that will aim to be submitted on or before *July 2021*. Subsequent proposals will be administered through the office of Sponsored Research Services and submitted through EI.

Award Information:

- Call Budget: \$45,000
- Anticipated Number of Awards: Three (3)
- Maximum Award Size: \$15,000
- Proposal Due Date: July 31, 2020

Eligibility: *Cross-college collaboration and cross-institutional collaboration are encouraged.* For purposes of proposal submission and funding, each proposal must have an [EI Affiliated Expert](#) as PI or Co-PI. Each proposal is highly encouraged to have at least one non-academic stakeholder (government, industry, NGO) or extension personnel. No more than one proposal can be submitted by the same person as PI. A PI on one proposal is eligible to serve as a Co-PI on other proposals.

Funding: Funds can be distributed only to Texas A&M faculty and/or students, for travel, publication or patent fees, graduate student salaries and purchase of research equipment/supplies. No faculty salaries will be supported by these funds. A group proposal must have a single PI, with remaining members identified as co-PIs. The funding level for each selected proposal will not exceed \$15,000.

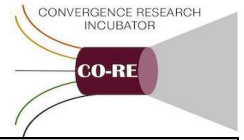
Review Process: Concept notes will be reviewed by a curated panel from across the university, representing a broad range of disciplines. EI will endeavor to select reviewers with no conflict of interest. Any faculty with proposals under consideration for this call will not be eligible to serve as reviewers.

- Selection Criteria:** Concept notes will be assessed using the following criteria:
- (a) innovative, transformative, and convergence potential of proposed research work;
 - (b) diversity of the interdisciplinary research group;
 - (c) potential for developing a successful proposal for external or competitive funding.

CONCEPT NOTE TEMPLATE (2 pages)

Project Title	
Thematic Area	
Team members and affiliations	
ABSTRACT (350-500 words)	<i>In addition to assist in evaluating the projects for the seed grant opportunity, this abstract will be used to develop a Special Issue proposal that will be submitted for publication in December 2020. During July-December, participating groups will work on further developing the concept notes into white papers to be published in the Special Issue.</i>

I- Project Description
a. What is the deep scientific question or pressing societal need that your group is addressing?
b. Briefly explain why deep integration of disciplines is required to address the question(s).
c. Describe the mechanisms you will use to bring together intellectually diverse researchers & stakeholders - how do you plan to engage stakeholders of interest? integrate frameworks, knowledge, tools, and methodologies from relevant disciplines? (engineering, life and health sciences, and physical, mathematical, computational, economic, social, or behavioral sciences, etc.)



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II- Anticipated Outcomes
a. <i>What new frameworks, paradigms or even disciplines do you anticipate from your activity?</i>
b. <i>What are anticipated products from your group?</i> (papers, patents, conference presentations, outreach, or new collaborations, etc.)

III- Funding
a. <i>How will funds be used?</i> (e.g., one graduate student at 50% effort for xx months, equipment (name item) will be purchased for the purpose of ... and at a cost of \$xx, etc., proposal writing consultancy fees, travel, ...)
b. <i>What future funding opportunities are you considering?</i> List the agency, program, submission date, and anticipated funding request.

For any questions related to the Convergence Research Incubator and this Call for Concept Notes, please reach out to Dr. Bassel Daher (bdaher@tamu.edu).

Concept Notes to be submitted to Robyn Pearson (rpearson@tamu.edu) cc. Bassel Daher (bdaher@tamu.edu) by July 31st.