

These answers are given in response to questions regarding the Invitation for Expressions of Interest released on May 22, 2017 for the Rhode Island Innovation Campus. Thank you for your interest and participation.

1. Question: On page 10 of the Invitation document, it states: “RICC is seeking academic, institutional, industry and entities who will partner with URI ...” Can the group that formally submits the Expression of Interest and subsequent RFP be a city or town?

Answer: Yes, a city or town can be an applicant provided there is a private sector partner.

2. Question: We need clarity regarding whether Commerce RI and URI would encourage an Innovation Campus proposal focused specifically on food manufacturing and agriculture technology?

Answer: Yes, the food/agriculture industry is eligible to participate in the Innovation Campus competition.

3. Question: Are facilities/spaces on the Innovation Campus available for lease/rental agreements? If yes, can the rent be considered as a cost match?

Answer: Future lease/rent payments will likely be eligible to be considered as a cost match; however, please keep in mind that in the Request for Proposals (“RFP”) process, the strength of the proposed match (and all proposed contributions) will be considered in the decision processes.

4. Question: Can the space created be ITAR-controlled or certified for Department of Defense classified material?

Answer: Yes.

5. Question: Frequent interaction with students and faculty will be essential to our efforts. If ITAR-controlled/classified facilities are created as part of the Innovation Campus, will they be physically located on the URI campus?

Answer: It is at the discretion of the applicant whether to include ITAR or certified classified space in their Expression of Interest, and where those locations will be physically located.

6. Question: Can the proposed area be “mixed-use” space where some areas are access controlled while other spaces are open for collaboration?

Answer: Yes.

7. Question: Is the funding amount requested from the state of Rhode Island inclusive of the cost to build the center from the ground up or only inclusive of unique costs for the center?

Answer: The combined funds from the participants and the state can be used for the cost of building a new building or acquiring and building out an existing space, and the costs of operating that space.

8. Question: Can the funding provided by the state of Rhode Island be used to buy lab equipment?

Answer: It is likely allowed; however, it depends on the scenario proposed by the participant. More information and context will be required.

9. Question: Will the following sources be considered as cost match:

a. Rental/Leases of facilities due to jobs and personnel relocated to the Innovation Campus.

Answer: It is likely allowed; however, it depends on the scenario proposed by the participant.

More information and context will be required.

b. Federal government funding. **Answer:** It is likely allowed; however, it depends on the scenario proposed by the participant. More information and context will be required.

c. For any jobs created, payroll tax incurred by the employer (similar to the TIF or Tax Incremental Financing Statue) **Answer:** No.

10. Question: Is it anticipated/expected that research results will be published in the public domain?

Answer: The ownership of research results should be addressed as part of the participant’s proposal. Ownership will be specific to existing IP policies of the institutions involved and subject to the research proposal involved and restrictions placed by the funding parties. URI, for example, will be open to negotiating specific IP arrangements with parties involved in the Innovation Campus.

11. Question: Is it anticipated/expected that if software is developed it will be published as open source?

Answer: The ownership of software code should be addressed as part of the participant's proposal. Ownership will be specific to existing policies of the institutions involved and subject to the research proposal involved and restrictions placed by the funding parties. URI, for example, will be open to negotiating specific arrangements with parties involved in the Innovation Campus

12. Question: Who will review the RFEIs? RFPs?

Answer: RI Commerce and URI staff will conduct a review of responses to the Invitation for Expressions of Interest. The RI Commerce Corporation board will make final selections under the RFP process. More detail will be provided regarding the RFP related process when it is released.

13. Question: Please describe the review process and criteria for scoring for both components.

Answer: We intend to provide feedback to each response to the Invitation for Expressions of Interest. The applicant's responses to the Invitation for Expressions of Interest will inform the development of the RFP, and the scoring approach for the RFP will be set forth in the RFP.

14. Question: How do you plan to evaluate the innovation efforts to measure success? What models/measures will you use?

Answer: This will be a subject of discussion with Invitation respondents and RFP awardees.

15. Question: Given the collaborative nature of our effort and the overall Campus, when might we learn of the other proposed key areas and how we might connect/intersect for larger statewide opportunities and collective impact?

Answer: Please let us know if you interested in sharing your ideas and concepts with other participants in the process and we will endeavor to communicate that interest to other applicants who also wish to network and collaborate.

16. Question: Beyond what teams are proposing, can you describe any planned shared infrastructure or spaces you envision?

Answer: Beyond what was described in the Invitation, we are deferring to applicants to recommend their approaches to shared infrastructure and spaces for their unique proposal.

17. Question: Will there be central administration for the Campus? If so, who will oversee? What overhead is expected?

Answer: The answer to this question depends on the scenario proposed by the participant. More information and context will be required.

18. Question: We are engaging many of our international relationships in our process to support our RI vision. Are you allowing for rapid expansion in the physical space within the different key areas? And how is that prioritized?

Answer: The applicant should propose the required physical space and the expansion needs of that space, and the proposed rules for prioritization and allocation of that space.

19. Question: We plan to connect to other satellite campuses (to a) central Providence campus. Is it ok to request support for satellite labs?

Answer: It depends on the scenario proposed by the participant. More information and context will be required.

20. Question: We will have multi-year pledges for various initiatives, please confirm that these multi-year pledges are counted toward match?

Answer: It is likely allowed, and will be valued in part based up the terms and conditions of those pledges.

21. Question: Our budget/business model will include projected future income for the next 5 years. Can we project future income (program fees/tuition fees) as part of our match? Is this considered cash match?

Answer: No, we do not anticipate accepting this as a match.

22. Question: We have opportunities to have incoming matches in the form of Intellectual Property and capabilities that have critical strategic value that can be quantified – is this allowable in the match?

Answer: The answer to this question is likely “no”; however, it will depend on the specific scenario proposed by the participants.

23. Question: When considering overall match and allowance of contributions-in-kind (salaries/contributions, good and materials), what percentage of total is appropriate? Is 1/3?



Answer: If the question refers to how the match should be allocated across the categories mentioned about (in parentheses), the answer to this question will depend on the specific scenario proposed by the participants. As to the overall match requirement, please see Page 4 of the Invitation for Expression of Interest.

24. Question: For this initial RFEI, do you want just background on the organizations involved or do you want detailed bios on the team members?

Answer: Detailed biographical information for participant's leadership is preferred in response to the Invitation for Expressions of Interest.

A brief note to all participants in the RI Innovation Campus Competition

Thank you once again for your interest and participation. Several of the questions we received pertain to the eligibility of certain match methods and other project approaches. Participants should recognize that even though a proposed idea may be permitted and technically qualify under the principles communicated in the Invitation for Expressions of Interest, that does not necessarily mean it will result in the strongest proposal. In addition, we reserve the right to elaborate upon or revise the above answers and recommendations in the RFP phase.