CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
A New York State Center for Advanced Technology

REACH Program
Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub

Development and Commercialization of Biomedical Technologies

RFP: Program Overview & Proposal Guidelines

RFP Released: March 20, 2025
Application Deadline: May 15, 2025
Award Notification: August 1, 2025
Start Date: September 1, 2025

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Stony Brook University

The Center for Biotechnology (CfB), a New York State Center for Advanced Technology located on the Stony Brook University campus serves as an important catalyst in the development of new biomedical technologies and emerging companies in New York State. Through groundbreaking initiatives, the CfB supports the advancement of biomedical innovation by helping to bridge the gap between discovery and commercial success and by training the next generation of biomedical leaders. The CfB focuses its resources on four specific areas:

1. Expanding existing infrastructure to foster, prioritize, and commercialize innovations,
2. Implementing translational funding initiatives that will accelerate technology development and create a pipeline of "commercially ready" innovations (the focus of this REACH Award opportunity),
3. Recruiting a regional talent pool of experienced BioEntrepreneurs-in-Residence (BEIRs) to facilitate early-stage company formation, and
4. Educating faculty, post-docs, and graduate students about the commercialization and entrepreneurship process unique to the life sciences, and establishing a formal mentor-network.

Translational Research Support

The CfB fosters the development of therapeutics, preventatives, diagnostics, devices, and research tools that address human health. CfB assists in the translation of research findings and technologies into Intellectual Property (IP). The REACH program supports the development of these technologies and provides a comprehensive suite of technology commercialization services to help faculty and fellow innovators advance their research innovations into the commercial sector via a licensing opportunity, a strategic partnership, and/or a startup company.

The REACH Program supports faculty and postdoctoral researchers in **translating bio-based, bio-convergence, and bio-medical research discoveries** by providing targeted funding and strategic guidance **to bridge the translation gap** between discovery and development for commercialization.

This REACH Program Award provides funding to help advance the translation of bioscience research or early-stage technologies into commercialization-ready states. The awards are tiered at two levels: **(1) *Feasibility awards* intended to generate new IP,** and **(2) *Proof of Concept* (POC) awards intended to add value to existing intellectual property.**

Award Type	Award Amount (Direct Costs)	Applicat. Pages	Focus	Outcomes
Feasibility	Up to $50K, 12 month period	7	"Fail-Fast-or-Proceed" Validate commercial potential of innovations.	New IP or new applications of existing IP. Prepares for follow-on funding, including REACH POC award.
Proof of Concept	Up to $100K, 12 month period	14	Add value / derisk existing IP. Develop and execute commercialization strategy.	Strategic partner. SBIR/STTR. Out-licensing. New Company.

Faculty and postdoctoral associates are eligible to apply. In all instances, the faculty member or postdoc must serve as the principal investigator, and the project must be executed on the SBU academic campus.

This technology development and commercialization program is **not a substitute nor surrogate for basic science research;** its purpose is to advance and de-risk the development of bio-based innovation *into IP that fulfills a commercial market need*. Industry Partnerships may be acceptable, but only ideas/IP that have been formulated within Stony Brook University, the use of which has not yet been licensed, will be considered under this REACH RFP. A company with an existing license and/or option to IP directly related to the proposed project is considered a corporate partner and the application may require match funding. Projects with plans for partnerships and collaborations – prior, current, or future – are encouraged and those plans, if any, should be included in the proposal. See below for further details.

Feasibility Award Program

Provides up to $50K over a one-year period. Awarded in two $25K/6-month tranches based upon external review and reaching predetermined, agreed-upon milestones. A written progress report and presentation are also required every 6 months.

Applications will consist of a brief 5-page narrative, plus face page, abstract, and references – see separate "*REACH Award Application Instructions*" for detailed instruction. The proposal should describe a project designed to rapidly test the feasibility of EMERGING INNOVATIONS in a "fail-fast-or-proceed" with key experiments that indicate a go/no-go for new IP. Alternatively, this approach can be applied to adding value to existing IP that could lead to new market applications of an existing technology.

Please note the following constraints for projects involving a corporate partner:

- Proposals for already licensed applications of a technology <u>are not eligible</u> for funding
- Proposals for already licensed technology, but has additional new applications that have not been licenses <u>are eligible</u> for funding
    - If an option agreement is in place for unlicensed applications, a $1:$1 match is required
    - If no option agreement is in place for unlicensed applications, no match funding is required
- In-kind contributions are not permitted

Successful projects funded by the Feasibility Award Program are eligible for future support by the Proof of Concept Award Program.

Proof of Concept (POC) Award Program

Provides up to $100K over a one-year period. Awarded in two $50K/6-month tranches based upon external review and reaching predetermined, agreed upon milestones. A written progress report and presentation are also required every 6 months.

Applications will consist of a 12-page narrative, plus face page, abstract, and references – see separate "*REACH Award Application Instructions*" for detailed instruction. The proposal should describe a project that is targeted,

milestone driven support for proof of concept. The work could be research, development, testing, and analysis of existing IP (provisional patent filed or equivalent).

Please note the following constraints for projects involving a corporate partner:

- Proposals for already licensed applications of a technology are not eligible for funding
- Proposals for already licensed technology, but has additional new applications that have not been licensed are eligible for funding
    - If an option agreement is in place for unlicensed applications, a $1:$1 match is required
    - If no option agreement is in place for unlicensed applications, no match funding is required
    - If the corporate partner is not a small entity, a match of $2:$1 (corporate partner: CfB) will be required. A small entity is defined according to NIH guidelines, available at: *https://sbir.nih.gov/about/eligibility-criteria* .
- In-kind contributions are not permitted

Successful applicants are eligible to apply for an additional year of funding based upon achievement of commercially-relevant milestones, approval of the External Review Board, and availability of funding.

Application and Submission Information

There is a common application for both types of REACH Awards. Detailed guidance and instructions are provided in a separate "***REACH Award Application Instructions***" document. That and other application forms or documents may be downloaded from the CfB website. **Applications are due May 15, 2025 at 5:00 pm.** They must be emailed to: *center_for_biotechnology@stonybrook.edu* as a single PDF file. Final funding announcements will be made on or about August 1, 2025.

Before preparing a proposal and application, interested individuals are **strongly encouraged** to schedule a meeting with a CfB representative to ensure a thorough understanding of the program's objectives and the programmatic fit. To reach an appropriate program liaison, email your request to: *center_for_biotechnology@stonybrook.edu*

Please note the following procedural details:

- Approval from the SBU's Sponsored Programs Office is NOT required prior to the submission and will ONLY be required if the successful project has a corporate match.
- As of January 1, 2025, the NIH salary cap for extramural grants is $225,700 for non-state personnel.

General Guidance and Advice

We consider all eligible proposals across the life sciences innovation spectrum. Projects that have advanced beyond initial discovery stages into early commercial-oriented innovation stages will be viewed most favorably. Examples are given, solely for the sake of clarity, in several categories as follows:

Small molecule therapeutics: Projects at lead optimization or preclinical stage with an identified target and/or validated assay, accompanied by a development pathway.

Biologics or cell-based therapies: Applications identifying the specific biologic or cell population with demonstrated mechanism of action, including approaches for development, sourcing, or manufacturing that align with an application; e.g., cell and gene therapy (CGT).

Interventional medical devices: Proposals featuring prototype development and testing capabilities with supporting experimental data and a pathway to animal or bench testing.

Diagnostic devices, in vitro diagnostics, molecular diagnostics, biological tools: Applications including prototype development plans with testing and validation strategies.

Software and algorithms with applications in life sciences or medicine: Projects with existing code bases beyond the concept stage, building on previous research or evidence, and including validation plans against current standards.

Bioconvergence: Projects involving a multidisciplinary approach in life sciences that combines the disciplines of biotechnology, engineering, and computing to address complex challenges.

We evaluate each proposal individually based on these criteria, as well as other factors relevant to our program goals.

Proposal Guidelines

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The CfB translational research programs provide a tiered structure that allows for progressive funding as ideas move from the feasibility stage to proof of concept. Applicants should apply under the program that best aligns with the stage of development of their idea or technology. Multiple applications from one applicant are allowed; however, it is advised that applicants propose their strongest technology. Individuals that have an interest in applying are strongly encouraged to meet with CfB staff members before submission.

Approval from the SBU's Sponsored Programs Office is NOT required prior to the submission and will ONLY be required if the successful project has a corporate match.

Detailed guidance and instructions are provided in a separate "*REACH Award Application Instructions*" document. Those instructions as well as a Project Plan Form, Research Compliance Form, and REACH Budget Form can be downloaded from the CfB web page at: *http://centerforbiotechnology.org/who-we-are/long-island-bioscience-hub/*

All submissions should include the required attachments (e.g., compliance forms, project plan form) and a copy of any IP documentation relevant to the proposal. No additional attachments beyond those specified in the application form will be accepted. A single PDF version of the proposal and allowable attachments should be emailed to *center_for_biotechnology@stonybrook.edu* before the established deadline. The submitted file name should be formatted as follows: *last name_first name_type of application (Feasibility or POC)*. For example: Smith_John_POC. The project title must begin with the word "REACH."

Intellectual Property Partners (technology transfer) Contact:
Valery Matthys: *valery.matthys@stonybrook.edu*

Sponsored Programs Contacts (Table of departmental grants administrators):
Website: *www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/osp-ogm/assignments.php*

Center for Biotechnology Contact:
Email: *center_for_biotechnology@stonybrook.org*

Budget Guidelines

Budgets for the Feasibility Award and Proof of Concept Award should reflect one year of funding. However, funding will be allocated in six-month tranches based upon progress toward milestones as detailed in the application and determined by the external review board. All funding is intended to support the achievement of commercially relevant milestones.

Salaries. Funding is allowable for salaries of students, postdoctoral fellows, technicians, staff, and other non-faculty project personnel, supplies, and miscellaneous expenses. Up to 20% of the direct costs can be allocated

towards the support (inclusive of salary and fringe benefits) of the Principal Investigator, with a calculated annual salary cap of $225,700 for non-state personnel only.

Non-tenure track faculty members (e.g., Research Professor, Lecturer) are eligible. SBU policy as of March 2025 indicates these individuals must receive permission from their unit's respective Chair, Dean, or Center Director. Tenure-track faculty cannot request salary reimbursement for their effort.

Post-doctoral fellows who apply as a Principal Investigator must receive written permission from their unit's Chair, Dean, or Center Director and are subject to the 20% limit on salary and fringe. Please note that students and Postdoctoral trainees that are supported by a third-party fellowship award may need prior approval from the funding organization to accept this award.

Graduate students working on the project should receive tuition reimbursement at the appropriate rate. The budget for these technology development programs is Total Direct Cost (TDC) only.

Supplies and Equipment. Supplies and equipment necessary for and dedicated solely to the REACH Award project is allowed. However, equipment over $5,000 must be pre-approved in writing by CfB.

Purchase of computers or equipment is not permitted unless dedicated specifically and in total to the proposed project. Travel, including going to conferences, is also not supported. Use of funds to secure commercial testing and external development services necessary to add commercial value is allowed on a case-by-case basis; c*ontracts or subcontracts must be approved by CfB*. Budgets should include the appropriate fringe benefit rate as established by the Institution:
(*https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/osp-ogm/rates_and_institutional/fringe_rates*).

External partners. Projects proposed to be conducted in partnership with industry partners are required to discuss specifics with the Center for Biotechnology directly.

Proposal Evaluation

Our review process considers multiple dimensions of each proposal. We evaluate each proposal individually based on these criteria, and other factors relevant to our program goals, as follows:

Technical Merit: Scientific validity, innovation, technology readiness level, and technical feasibility

Commercial Potential: Market opportunity, competitive advantage, IP position, and regulatory pathway

Team Capability: Technical expertise and commitment level

Development Planning: Milestone clarity, timeline feasibility, resource allocation, and risk management strategies

Ultimately, applications must describe milestone-driven technology development objectives that will create or add commercial value to innovations. Specific aims should help develop the technology toward a value inflection point that would facilitate or justify follow-on funding, out-licensing, company formation, or a strategic partnership. As projects progress through the development process, their applications are expected to

demonstrate increasing sophisticated understanding of the commercialization process (IP, market need, competitive analysis, regulatory pathway, value inflection milestones)

Proposals will be evaluated by CfB staff, SBU's Intellectual Property Partners staff, and the CfB External Review Board composed of academic scientists and commercialization experts. All external members will sign a confidentiality agreement to protect the information provided in the application.

Proposals that do not follow the required guidelines or fail to adequately demonstrate consideration of the commercialization process will not be approved.

Award Implementation and Administration

PIs should have the necessary animal research, human subject protocols, and any other compliance/regulatory issues processed for approval as soon as possible. Ideally these administrative requirements should be cleared or in the process of clearance by the time CfB sends notification of applications being advanced to secondary review. These compliance/regulatory descriptions are to be prepared according to the requirements for a typical NIH grant application. Amendments to existing approvals are acceptable. In those cases where CfB grants are approved for an award, funds will be withheld until animal/human/laboratory approvals are secured.

Funding will be awarded in 6-month tranches based upon the achievement of predetermined milestones as detailed in the proposal and as approved by the External Review Board. If the project meets stated milestones as outlined in the proposal and agreed to by the External Review Board, and the project remains commercially viable, the balance of funding will be released. If the project does not meet the milestones, the PI will have 30 days to revise the project plan to address ERB concerns. If it is determined that continuing the project, even with revised milestones, will not add commercial value to the technology, the CfB may choose to discontinue funding with 30 days' notice to the PI.

CfB staff support will be available to provide pre-submission support, as well as, post-award support while the project is ongoing and progressing to its milestones. PIs are expected to work closely with CfB staff and Intellectual Property Partners office to move their ideas and technologies down a commercial pathway.

Reporting Requirements

The PI must submit a 6-month written progress report and a final written report within 30 days of completion of the project. The format for progress reports can be found on the CfB web page. All reports should be sent electronically to the CfB at *center_for_biotechnology@stonybrook.edu*, with copies to Intellectual Property Partners (technology transfer) at *ori_ipp@stonybrook.edu* and your grants management representative (*https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/osp-ogm/assignments.php*).

PIs are also required to make a formal presentation every 6 months to the CfB. Projects that do not meet predetermined milestones may be suspended or terminated upon the recommendation of the External Review Board.

The CfB requires that all PIs who have received support from the CfB continue to provide brief economic impact updates on no less than an annual basis post-award for 5 years. Any New Technology Disclosures resulting from funded projects should acknowledge CfB funding. Acceptance of funding under this program obligates the PI to comply with these reporting requirements.

All publications resulting from this support should acknowledge the following sponsors as indicated below:
"Research reported in this publication was supported by the Center for Biotechnology, a New York State Center for Advanced Technology, Stony Brook University."

Faculty are reminded to refresh their training on Stony Brook University Export Control Policy P212 (*https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/ors/export_controls*). They are expected to be knowledgeable about and comply with federal export control regulations as they apply to their area of research, equipment, supplies, technology and technical data used in their laboratories and/or research. Faculty should not share confidential or third-party proprietary information that is, or that they suspect may be, export controlled in their grant applications without first consulting with the SBU's Export Compliance Officer.

Disclosure of non-public, export-controlled technology or technical data to Stony Brook University (SBU) faculty, staff or students that are non-U.S. persons may require a U.S. federal agency authorization. Companies are responsible for determining, and if necessary, securing, the appropriate authorizations prior to sharing any non-public, export-controlled technology or technical data with SBU.