

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ConocoPhillips Plant & Microbial Biotechnology Grants Competition
Summer 2007

The Office of Biorenewables Programs and the ConocoPhillips Company are pleased to announce a grants program in the area of plant and microbial biotechnology. The grants program is supported by ConocoPhillips.

ConocoPhillips is an international, integrated energy company. It is the third-largest integrated energy company, and the second-largest refiner, in the United States. ConocoPhillips is known worldwide for its technological expertise in deepwater exploration and production, reservoir management and exploitation, 3-D seismic technology, high-grade petroleum coke upgrading, and sulfur removal. In addition, the company is investing in four emerging businesses — technology solutions, carbons-to-liquids, power generation, and alternative energy and programs — that provide current and potential future growth opportunities.

ConocoPhillips recently announced an 8-year, \$23M partnership with Iowa State University on a *Biofuels Research Program*. In addition to funding biorenewables research that directly supports ConocoPhillips core emerging business, ConocoPhillips is committed to funding areas of research that are external to the core business, but important in the larger picture.

The present solicitation is intended to support **plant and microbial biotechnology research that will enhance agricultural crop biomass production and/or lead to the production of fuel-related molecules**. Funding can support a wide range of stages in technology development, from the initial research concept (prior to intellectual property disclosure), to proof of concept, to licensing and commercialization. All proposals should have a clear connection to the production of biofuels or fuel-related molecules.

Up to \$500,000 will be available for calendar year 2008. Annual funding per project is expected to range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, and a typical project would last 12 to 24 months, with a review to determine renewal at the end of the first year.

Successful proposals will demonstrate a high potential to lead to one or more of the following:

- Enhanced yield or quality of annual bioenergy crops
- Enhanced yield or quality of perennial bioenergy crops
- Enhanced biomass production utilizing traditional and/or non-traditional crop rotations, including multi-cropping systems
- Microbial production of fuels (not limited to ethanol)
- Microbial production of fuel-related chemicals

Instructions for Proposal Preparation

Each proposal should be brief and to the point, typed in 12-pt font with uniform 1" margins. Proposals must include:

- A **cover sheet** (one page maximum) that includes the project title, the names and contact information for the ISU participants, and an executive summary. A sample cover sheet is attached.
- A **project description** (three pages maximum). This should include the goal of the project, justification for conducting the research (including information on commercial potential), a description of the approach, and a work plan and milestone schedule.
- A **budget** (one page maximum). The attached budget template must be employed in preparing an itemized budget. The budget justification should detail planned expenditures.

Proposals missing the required information or not meeting these formatting standards may be automatically rejected.

Submission and Review Procedure

Each proposal should have only one Principal Investigator (PI), but may have additional Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs). The proposal should be submitted by email to industry@iastate.edu no later than July 02, 2007. The PI will receive email notification of the receipt of the proposal within 24 business hours. Each proposal should consist of just one document (PDF file) that includes the cover sheet, project description and budget.

All proposals will be reviewed and ranked for technical merit by a committee to be appointed by the Science and Engineering Committee (SEC) of the Office of Biorenewables Programs (OBP). The committee will complete its review and rankings by July 11, 2007. ConocoPhillips will also review the proposals, and in consultation with the SEC-appointed review committee, select a group of finalists for oral project reviews. The ConocoPhillips review team will notify the finalists by July 16, 2007. Finalists will then make oral presentations to ConocoPhillips administrators on July 19, 2007. Final project selections will be announced by July 31, 2007, with funding available on January 01, 2008.

Dates to Remember:

Proposals due	07/02/2007
Merit review and project rankings complete	07/11/2007
Finalists notified of selection for oral project review	07/16/2007
Oral presentations to COP administrators	07/19/2007
PI's/project teams notified of award	07/31/2007
Funds available (project start date)	01/01/2008

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated for their potential to **enhance agricultural crop biomass production and/or lead to the production of fuel-related molecules**. While short-term solutions are welcome, ConocoPhillips wants to encourage long-term visions that would be commercialized in the six- to eight-year time frame. Each proposal should specifically address the stage of this research, estimated time to completion, and potential barriers.

Proposal for ConocoPhillips Plant & Microbial Biotechnology Grants Competition

Project Title

PI: Name, Department, Campus Address
Campus Phone Number, Email Address

Co-PI: Name, Department, Campus Address
Campus Phone Number, Email Address

(List others as needed.)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(In 350 words or less, summarize the project objective(s), technical approach, and anticipated impact, including commercialization potential. Please use a 12-pt. font.)

BUDGET

Double-click to open the Excel table below, then enter budget data in shaded cells only (non-shaded cells will calculate automatically).

Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
<i>Faculty Salaries</i>				\$ -
<i>P&S Salaries</i>				\$ -
<i>Postdoc Salaries</i>				\$ -
<i>Grad Student Stipends</i>				\$ -
<i>Undergraduate Wages</i>				\$ -
Total Salaries & Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment				\$ -
Travel				\$ -
Student Tuition				\$ -
Materials & Supplies				\$ -
Other Direct Costs*				\$ -
Total Direct Cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Indirect Cost (@ 46.5%)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

* *Other Direct Costs include telecommunications, computer usage, printing/copying, in-house services and/or equipment/facility user fees, postage, and other miscellaneous expenses.*

Budget Justification

Please detail the planned expenditures.