



CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

# REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

## RFA C-15-NEWCO-2

### New Company Product Development Awards

**Please also refer to the Instructions for Applicants document,  
which will be posted January 5, 2015**

**Application Receipt Opening Date:** January 5, 2015

**Application Receipt Closing Date:** February 9, 2015

**FY 2015**

Fiscal Year Award Period

September 1, 2014-August 31, 2015

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## RFA VERSION HISTORY

Rev 12/01/14 RFA release

Rev 12/02/14 Added section 2.1: Product Development Program Priorities

Added the last paragraph to section 6

Rev 1/07/15 Changed page limit of section 11.4.8 (Scientific Plan) from 10 to 15 pages

Moved the Competitive Landscape/Intellectual Property Plan from the Business Plan to a separate section (11.4.10; page 25)

CLOSED

## 1. KEY POINTS

This New Company Product Development Award mechanism is governed by the following restrictions:

- Company applicants must be early-stage startup companies with no previous round of professional institutional investment (ie, those that have not yet received Series A financing or a substantive equivalent). Companies at this early stage that are not currently located in Texas but intend to relocate to Texas should apply under this mechanism rather than the Company Relocation Awards mechanism.
- Recipient companies must currently have or must commit to the following: Headquarters or substantial business functions of the company in Texas; personnel sufficient to operate the Texas-based research and/or development activities of the company, along with appropriate management, relocated to or hired from within Texas.
- Of the total program budget, the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) will contribute \$2.00 for every \$1.00 contributed, in matching funds, by the company. The demonstration of available matching funds must be made prior to the distribution of CPRIT grant funds, not at the time the application is submitted. CPRIT funds must, whenever possible, be spent in Texas. A company's matching funds must be targeted for the CPRIT-funded project but may be spent outside of Texas.
- CPRIT's contribution to the program will not be greater than \$20 million.
- Funding will be tranching and will be tied to the achievement of contract-specified milestones.
- Funding award contracts will include a revenue-sharing agreement according to CPRIT's policies in force at the time of the award and will require CPRIT to have input on any future patents, agreements, or other financial arrangements related to the products, services, or infrastructure supported by the CPRIT investment. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us).

## **2. ABOUT CPRIT**

The state of Texas has established CPRIT, which may issue up to \$3 billion in general obligation bonds to fund grants for cancer research and prevention.

CPRIT is charged by the Texas Legislature to do the following:

- Create and expedite innovation in the area of cancer research and product or service development, thereby enhancing the potential for a medical or scientific breakthrough in the prevention, treatment, and possible cures for cancer;
- Attract, create, or expand research capabilities of public or private institutions of higher education and other public or private entities that will promote a substantial increase in cancer research and in the creation of high-quality new jobs in the state of Texas; and
- Continue to develop and implement the Texas Cancer Plan by promoting the development and coordination of effective and efficient statewide public and private policies, programs, and services related to cancer and by encouraging cooperative, comprehensive, and complementary planning among the public, private, and volunteer sectors involved in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and research.

CPRIT furthers cancer research in Texas by providing financial support for a wide variety of projects relevant to cancer research.

### **2.1. Product Development Program Priorities**

Legislation from the 83rd Texas Legislature requires that CPRIT's Oversight Committee establish program priorities on an annual basis. The priorities are intended to provide transparency in how the Oversight Committee directs the orientation of the agency's funding portfolio. The Product Development Program's principles and priorities will also guide CPRIT staff and the Product Development Review Council on the development and issuance of program-specific Requests for Applications (RFAs) and the evaluation of applications submitted in response to those RFAs.

### **Established Principles:**

- Moving forward the development of commercial products to diagnose and treat cancer and improve the lives of cancer patients
- Creation of good, high-paying jobs for Texans
- Sound financial return on the monies invested
- Development of the Texas high tech life sciences business environment

### **Product Development Program Priorities**

- Funding projects at Texas companies and relocating companies that are most likely to bring important products to the market
- Providing funding that promotes the translation of research at Texas institutions into new companies able to compete in the marketplace
- Identifying and funding projects to develop tools and technologies of special relevance to cancer research, treatment, and prevention

### **3. APPLICANT SURVEY**

CPRIT will be administering a survey to determine the operational aspects of peer review. Company representatives that anticipate submitting an application are requested to complete the survey as soon as possible, but no later than January 19, 2015. Company representatives should provide the following information: Applicant name, name of company, telephone number, e-mail address, estimated award amount, and award mechanism. Please select only 1 award mechanism as only 1 application can be submitted per funding cycle. This information will be used for planning purposes only and will not be used for evaluation of the application. The survey is available [here](#).

### **4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

CPRIT will foster the creation of high-quality new jobs in Texas by providing financial support for a wide variety of projects relevant to cancer. This Request for Applications (RFA) is designed to support the formation of oncology-focused companies in Texas. CPRIT expects outcomes of supported activities to directly and indirectly benefit subsequent cancer research

efforts, cancer public health policy, or the continuum of cancer care—from prevention to treatment and cure. To fulfill this vision, applications may address any product development topic or issue related to cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment, or cure. The overall goal of this award program is to improve outcomes of patients with cancer by increasing the availability of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved therapeutic interventions with a primary focus on Texas-centric programs.

## **5. MECHANISM OF SUPPORT**

The goal of the New Company Product Development Awards is to finance the research and development of innovative products, services, and infrastructure with significant potential impact on patient care. These investments will assist early-stage startup companies by providing the opportunity to further the research and development of new products for the diagnosis, treatment, supportive care, or prevention of cancer; to establish infrastructure that is critical to the development of a robust industry; or to fill a treatment, industry, or research gap. This award mechanism will support companies that intend to undertake product research and development in Texas with a strong presence of Texas-based employees. In determining eligibility for this award, CPRIT will evaluate whether applicants have a significant presence in Texas or are willing to relocate to Texas.

## **6. OBJECTIVES**

The state of Texas seeks to attract industry partners in the field of cancer care to advance economic development and cancer care efforts in the state. The goal of this award mechanism is to support the formation and establishment of new startup companies in Texas that will develop products to significantly impact cancer care. These companies must be Texas based or have personnel sufficient to operate the Texas-based research and/or development activities of the company, along with appropriate management, who are willing to relocate to or be hired and remain in Texas for a specified period after funding. Eligible products or services include—but are not limited to—therapeutics (eg, small molecules and biologics), diagnostics, devices, and potential breakthrough technologies, including software and research discovery techniques. Eligible stages of research and development include translational research, proof-of-concept studies, preclinical studies, and Phase I or Phase II clinical trials. By exception, Phase III clinical

trials and later stage product development projects will be considered where circumstances warrant CPRIT investment.

CPRIT's objectives and program priorities are established by its Oversight Committee. Consistent with the above, these priorities include, "funding projects at Texas companies and relocating companies that are most likely to bring important products to the market." A full description of CPRIT's program priorities may be found at <http://www.cprit.state.tx.us/about-cprit/reports/>.

## **7. FUNDING INFORMATION**

This is a 3-year funding program. Financial support will be awarded based upon the breadth and nature of the research and development program proposed. While requested funds must be well justified, there is no limit on the amount that may be requested. Funding will be milestone driven.

Funds may be used for salary and fringe benefits, research supplies, equipment, clinical trial expenses, intellectual property protection, external consultants and service providers, and other appropriate research and development costs, subject to certain limitations set forth by Texas state law. If a company is working on multiple projects, care should be taken to ensure that CPRIT funds are used to support activities directly related to the specific project being funded. Requests for funds to support construction and/or renovation may be considered under compelling circumstances for projects that require facilities that do not already exist in the state of Texas. Texas state law limits the amount of awarded funds that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs).

Consistent with statutory mandate, of the total program budget, CPRIT will contribute \$2.00 for every \$1.00 contributed, in matching funds, by the company. The demonstration of available matching funds must be made prior to the distribution of CPRIT funds, not at the time the application is submitted. The matching funds commitment may be made on a year-by-year basis.

## 8. KEY DATES

<b>RFA release</b>	December 1, 2014
<b>Online application opens</b>	January 5, 2015, 7 AM central time
<b>Applications due</b>	February 9, 2015, 3 PM central time
<b>Invitations to present sent</b>	April 2015
<b>Notifications sent if not invited</b>	April 2015
<b>Presentations to CPRIT*</b>	April 2015
<b>Award Notification</b>	August 2015
<b>Anticipated Start Date</b>	September 2015

\*Applicants will be notified of their peer review panel assignments prior to the peer review meeting dates. Information on the timing of subsequent steps will be provided to applicants later in the process.

## 9. ELIGIBILITY

### 9.1. New Applications

- Early-stage startup companies are eligible. Such companies may have received seed funding from family, friends, and/or angel investors. However, only applicants with no previous round of professional institutional investment (ie, those that have not yet received Series A financing or a substantive equivalent) are eligible. The inclusion of a complete and detailed capitalization table is required for assessment of eligibility.
- Recipient companies must commit to the following: Headquarters or substantial functions of the company in Texas; personnel sufficient to operate the Texas-based research and/or development activities of the company, along with appropriate management, relocated to or hired from within Texas who will remain in Texas for a specified period after funding; and use of Texas-based subcontractors and suppliers unless adequate justification is provided for the use of out-of-state entities. To the extent that Texas-based subcontractors or collaborators are not available, non-Texas-based collaborators and subcontractors may

be used. However, non-Texas-based collaborators and subcontractors are not eligible to receive funds from CPRIT unless exceptional circumstances are demonstrated and approved by CPRIT.

- In general, a greater extent of commitment to establishing research and/or development functions in Texas will be viewed more favorably by CPRIT. However, it is left to the applicant's judgment to make a case for what they consider to be a sufficient extent of commitment to Texas.
- An applicant may submit only 1 application under this RFA during this funding cycle.
- A company applicant is eligible to receive a grant award only if the applicant certifies that the company, including the company representative, any senior member or key personnel listed on the application, or any company officer or director (or any person related to 1 or more of these individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity) has not made and will not make a contribution to CPRIT or to any foundation specifically created to benefit CPRIT.
- A company applicant is not eligible to receive CPRIT funding if the company representative, any senior member or key personnel listed on the application, or any company officer or director is related to a CPRIT Oversight Committee member.
- The company applicant must report whether the company, company representative, or other individuals who contribute to the execution of the proposed project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not those individuals are slated to receive salary or compensation under the grant award, are currently ineligible to receive federal grant funds or have had a grant terminated for cause within 5 years prior to the submission date of the grant application.
- CPRIT grants will be awarded by contract to successful company applicants. Certain contractual requirements are mandated by Texas state law or by administrative rules. Although the company applicant need not demonstrate the ability to comply with these contractual requirements at the time the application is submitted, applicants should familiarize themselves with these standards before submitting a grant application. Significant issues addressed by the CPRIT contract are listed in [section 12](#) and [section 13](#). All statutory provisions and relevant administrative rules can be found at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us).

## 9.2. Resubmission Policy

An application previously submitted to CPRIT but not funded may be resubmitted once and must follow all resubmission guidelines (see [section 11.4.5](#)). An application is considered a resubmission if the proposed project is the same project as presented in the original submission. A change in the identity of the applicant or company representative for a project or a change of title of the project that was previously submitted to CPRIT does not constitute a new application; the application would be considered a resubmission. Applicants who choose to resubmit should carefully consider the reasons for lack of prior success. Applications that received overall numerical scores of 5 or higher are likely to need considerable attention. All resubmitted applications should be carefully reconstructed; a simple revision of the prior application with editorial or technical changes is not sufficient, and applicants are advised not to direct reviewers to such modest changes. A 1-page summary of the approach to the resubmission should be included. Resubmitted applications may be assigned to reviewers who did not review the original submission. Reviewers of resubmissions are asked to assess whether the resubmission adequately addresses critiques from the previous review. **Applicants should note that addressing previous critiques is advisable; however, it does not guarantee the success of the resubmission.** All resubmitted applications must conform to the structure and guidelines outlined in this RFA.

## 9.3. Renewal Policy

Grant recipients that have previously received CPRIT grant funding may submit an application for competitive renewal under the Established Company Product Development Award RFA. Before submitting a renewal application, applicants must consult with the Product Development Programmatic Office (see [section 14.2](#)) to determine whether it is appropriate for their company to seek renewal funding at this time.

## 10. APPLICATION REVIEW

### 10.1. Overview

Applications will be assessed based on evaluation of the quality of the company and the potential for continued product development. CPRIT requires the submission of a comprehensive scientific plan (see [section 11.4.8](#)) and a detailed business plan (see [section 11.4.9](#)). The review will address the commercial viability, product feasibility, scientific merit, and therapeutic impact as detailed in the company's business and scientific plans. The plans will be reviewed by an integrated panel of individuals with biotechnology expertise and experience in translational and clinical research as well as in the business development/regulatory approval processes for therapeutics, devices, and diagnostics. In addition, advocate reviewers will participate in the review process.

Funding decisions are made by the review process described below.

### 10.2. Review Process

- 1. Product Development and Scientific Review:** Applications that pass initial administrative compliance review are assigned to independent CPRIT Product Development Peer Review Panel members for evaluation using the criteria listed below. Based on the initial evaluation and discussion by the Product Development Review Panel, a subset of company applicants may be invited to deliver in-person presentations to the review panel.
- 2. Due Diligence Review:** Following the in-person presentations, a subset of applications judged to be most meritorious by the Product Development Review Panels will be referred for additional in-depth due diligence, including—but not limited to—intellectual property, management, regulatory, manufacturing, and market assessments. Following the due diligence review, applications will be recommended for funding by the CPRIT Product Development Review Council based on the information set forth in the due diligence and intellectual property reviews, comparisons with applications from the Product Development Review Panels, and programmatic priorities.

- 3. Program Integration Committee Review:** Applications recommended by the Product Development Review Council will be forwarded to the CPRIT Program Integration Committee (PIC) for review. The PIC will consider factors including program priorities set by the Oversight Committee, portfolio balance across programs, and available funding.
- 4. Oversight Committee Approval:** The CPRIT Oversight Committee will vote to approve each grant award recommendation made by the PIC. The grant award recommendations will be presented at an open meeting of the Oversight Committee and must be approved by two-thirds of the Oversight Committee members present and eligible to vote.

The review process is described more fully in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, chapter 703, sections 703.6–703.8.

#### **10.2.1. Confidentiality of Review**

Each stage of application review is conducted confidentially, and all CPRIT Product Development Peer Review Panel members, Product Development Review Council members, PIC members, CPRIT employees, and Oversight Committee members with access to grant application information are required to sign nondisclosure statements regarding the contents of the applications. All technological and scientific information included in the application is protected from public disclosure pursuant to Health and Safety Code §102.262(b).

Individuals directly involved with the review process operate under strict conflict-of-interest prohibitions. All CPRIT Product Development Peer Review Panel members and Product Development Review Council members are non-Texas residents.

An applicant will be notified regarding the peer review panel assigned to review the grant application. Peer review panel members are listed by panel on CPRIT's website. **By submitting a grant application, the applicant agrees and understands that the only basis for reconsideration of a grant application is limited to an undisclosed Conflict of Interest as set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, chapter 703, section 703.9.**

Communication regarding the substance of a pending application is prohibited between the company applicant (or someone on the applicant's behalf) and the following individuals: An Oversight Committee member, a PIC member, a Product Development Review Panel member, or a Product Development Review Council member. Applicants should note that the CPRIT PIC comprises the CPRIT Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Scientific Officer, the Chief Prevention Officer, the Chief Product Development Officer, and the Commissioner of State Health Services. The prohibition on communication begins on the first day that grant applications for the particular grant mechanism are accepted by CPRIT and extends until the grant applicant receives notice regarding a final decision on the grant application. Intentional, serious, or frequent violations of this rule may result in the disqualification of the grant application from further consideration for a grant award.

### 10.3. Review Criteria

Full peer review of applications will be based on primary scored criteria and secondary unscored criteria, listed below. Review committees will evaluate and score each primary criterion and subsequently assign a global score that reflects an overall assessment of the application. **The overall assessment will not be an average of the scores of the individual criteria; rather, it will reflect the reviewers' overall impression of the application. Evaluation of the scientific merit of each application is within the sole discretion of the peer reviewers.**

#### 10.3.1. Primary Criteria

Primary criteria will evaluate the scientific merit and potential impact of the proposed work contained in the application. Concerns with any of these criteria potentially indicate a major flaw in the significance and/or design of the proposed study.

Primary criteria include the following:

**Significance and Impact:** Will the outcomes of this CPRIT-funded work result in the development of innovative products with significant product development potential? Will the outcome substantially impact the diagnosis, treatment, prevention of cancer, or supportive care for patients with cancer? How would competing products or services affect the value of the proposed offering?

**Product:** Is there demonstrated proof of relevance, and does the product fulfill a clear, unmet medical or infrastructure need? Has work been conducted that supports the advancement of the proposed product, service, or technology? Can the product be produced or manufactured in a commercially viable fashion? Is there an appropriate basis for a reimbursement strategy?

**Market Plan:** Is there a realistic assessment of the market size and expected penetration? Has management adequately assessed potential competitors and described how the company's offering will successfully compete with them?

**Development Plan and/or Regulatory Path:** Is the development plan and/or regulatory path well characterized and appropriate? Is the plan milestone driven, and does it address both a positive and a negative outcome? Does the budget appropriately support the plan?

**Competitive Landscape/Intellectual Property:** Are you aware of the competitive landscape related to your project? Has the regulatory pathway been adequately described? Have intellectual property issues been addressed?

**Scientific Plan:** Is the proposed product, service, and/or infrastructure based on a feasible research framework, hypothesis, and/or goal? Are the methods appropriate, and are potential research and developmental obstacles and unexpected outcomes discussed?

**Management and Staffing:** Does the applicant have the appropriate level of management experience to execute the stated strategy in Texas, especially if the headquarters of the company are not in Texas? Would the proposed team have the needed experience or access to experienced external assistance, facilities, and resources to accomplish all aspects of the proposed plan?

### **10.3.2. Secondary Criteria**

Secondary criteria contribute to the global score assigned to the application. Concerns with these criteria potentially question the feasibility of the proposed research and development activities.

Secondary criteria include the following:

**Budget and Duration of Support:** Are the budget and duration appropriate for the proposed work? Will the amount requested enable the applicant to reach appropriate milestones? Is the use of the funds requested in line with the stated objectives of the applicant and CPRIT? Is it clear

how funds will be used (Does the use of funds indicate a commitment to conducting the project work in Texas? Is it clear that no CPRIT funds will be sent to the corporate headquarters if those headquarters remain outside of Texas)? Does the proposed investment fund the research and development of the proposed product, service, or technology to a point where, if the results are positive, it is likely that the project will be able to attract further financial support outside of CPRIT?

## 11. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Applicants are advised to carefully review all instructions in this section to ensure the accurate and complete submission of all components of the application. Please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document for details that will be available when the application receipt system opens. Applications that are missing 1 or more components, exceed the specified page or word limits, or that do not meet the eligibility requirements listed above will be administratively withdrawn without review.

### 11.1. Online Application Receipt System and Application Submission Deadline

Applications must be submitted via the CPRIT Application Receipt System (CARS) (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). **Only applications submitted through this portal will be considered eligible for evaluation.** The applicant is eligible solely for the grant mechanism specified by the RFA under which the grant application was submitted. The company applicant must create a user account in the system to start and submit an application. The coapplicant, if applicable, must also create a user account to participate in the application. Furthermore, the Authorized Signing Official (ASO) (an individual authorized to sign and submit an application on behalf of the company applicant) must also create a user account in CARS. An application may not be submitted without ASO approval. Only the ASO is authorized to officially submit the application to CPRIT. Applications will be accepted beginning at 7 AM central time on January 5, 2015, and must be submitted by 3 PM central time on February 9, 2015. **Submission of an application is considered an acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFA.**

## **11.2. Submission Deadline Extension**

The submission deadline may be extended for 1 or more grant applications upon a showing of good cause. All requests for extension of the submission deadline must be submitted via e-mail to the CPRIT HelpDesk. Submission deadline extensions, including the reason for the extension, will be documented as part of the grant review process records.

## **11.3. Product Development Review Fee**

All applicants must submit a fee of \$1,000 for product development review. Payment should be made by check or money order payable to CPRIT; electronic and credit card payments are not acceptable. The application ID and the name of the submitter must be indicated on the payment. Unless a request to submit a late fee has been approved by CPRIT, all payments must be postmarked by the application submission deadline and mailed to the following address:

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas  
P.O. Box 12097  
Austin, TX 78711

## **11.4. Application Components**

Applicants are advised to minimize repetition between application components to the extent possible. In addition, Applicants should use discretion in cross-referencing sections in order to maximize the amount of information presented within the page limits.

### **11.4.1. Abstract and Significance (5,000 characters)**

Clearly explain the question or problem to be addressed and the approach to its answer or solution. The specific aims of the application must be obvious from the abstract although they need not be restated verbatim from the research plan. Clearly address how the proposed project, if successful, will have a major impact on care of patients with cancer. Explain how this application provides a clear path for acquiring proof-of-principle data necessary for next-stage commercial development.

#### **11.4.2. Layperson’s Summary (1,500 characters)**

Provide an abbreviated summary for a lay audience using clear, nontechnical terms. Describe specifically how the proposed project would support CPRIT’s mission (see [section 2](#)). Would it fill a needed gap in patient care or in the development of a sustainable oncology industry in Texas? Would it synergize with Texas-based resources? Describe the overall goals of the work, the type(s) of cancer addressed, the potential significance of the results, and the impact of the work on advancing the fields of diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of cancer. Clearly address how the company’s work, if successful, will have a major impact on the care of patients with cancer. The information provided in this summary will be made publicly available by CPRIT, particularly if the application is recommended for funding. The Layperson’s Summary will also be used by advocate reviewers in evaluating the significance and impact of the proposed work. Do not include any proprietary information in this section.

#### **11.4.3. Goals and Objectives (1,200 characters each)**

List specific goals and objectives for each year of the project. These goals and objectives will also be used during the submission and evaluation of progress reports and assessment of project success.

#### **11.4.4. Timeline (1 page)**

Provide an outline of anticipated major milestones to be tracked. Timelines will be reviewed for reasonableness, and adherence to timelines will be a criterion for continued support of successful applications. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract. Applicants are advised not to include information that they consider confidential or proprietary when preparing this section.

#### **11.4.5. Resubmission Summary (1 page)**

If this is a resubmission, upload a summary of the approach, including a summary of the applicant’s response to previous feedback. Clearly indicate to reviewers how the application has been improved in response to the critiques. Refer the reviewers to specific sections of other documents in the application where further detail on the points in question may be found. When

a resubmission is evaluated, responsiveness to previous critiques is assessed. If this is not a resubmission, then no summary is required.

**Note:** An application is a resubmission only if the previous application was finalized and submitted to CPRIT. However, an application that was submitted to CPRIT to be considered for FY2013 Cycle 3 awards and was returned by CPRIT due to the moratorium is not considered to be a resubmission.

#### **11.4.6. Executive Summary (1 page)**

Provide an executive summary that clearly explains the product, service, technology, or infrastructure proposed; competition; market need and size; development or implementation plans; regulatory path; reimbursement strategy; and funding needs. Applicants must clearly describe the existing or proposed company infrastructure and personnel located in Texas for this endeavor.

#### **11.4.7. Slide Presentation (10 pages)**

Provide a slide presentation summarizing the application. The presentation should be submitted in PDF format, with one slide filling each landscape-orientation page. The slides should succinctly capture all essential elements of the application and should stand alone.

#### **11.4.8. Scientific Plan (15 pages)**

Present the rationale behind the proposed product or service, emphasizing the pressing problem in cancer care that will be addressed. Summarize the evidence gathered to date in support of the company's ideas. Describe the label claims that the company ultimately hopes to make, and describe the plan to gather evidence to support these claims. Outline the steps to be taken during the proposed period of the award, including the design of the translational or clinical research, methods, and anticipated results. Describe potential problems or pitfalls and alternative approaches. If clinical research is proposed, present a realistic plan to accrue a sufficient number of human subjects meeting the inclusion criteria within the proposed time period.

The Scientific Plan should include a defined Target Product Profile, that projects a clear path to full commercial development. The Target Product Profile should include the parameters below; the questions are intended to guide the thinking process and may include, but are not limited to, the examples provided.

- 1. Identification of a target that is applicable to human cancer treatment.** Is intervention with this target likely to lead to a therapeutic, diagnostic, or medical device that could be useful in the treatment of cancer?
- 2. Selection of a lead compound, assay, or device technology based on the target.** Is the identification of potential developmental candidates based on a set of in vitro tests followed by selection of a lead candidate based on considerations (as appropriate for the candidate) of pharmacodynamic parameters and the results of preclinical, in vivo, proof-of-principle studies in relevant animal models of disease?
- 3. Description of a high-level clinical development plan detailing each of the clinical studies the preclinical work is meant to support.** Designing the preclinical program requires an understanding of the duration of the clinical studies required by regulatory authorities. Consequently, a brief outline of each of the Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III studies necessary to obtain regulatory approval and reimbursement funding must be sketched out prior to deciding which toxicology studies would be required.

**Additionally, for therapeutics the following apply:**

**Intended route of administration and dosing regimen.** Is the intended route of administration and dosing regimen consistent with accepted convention and medical need for the therapeutic, or will the use of this new agent require a paradigm shift (more frequent or less frequent dosing, new route of administration), and if so, what impact will it have on current standard of care?

**Optimization of the lead** to ensure desired characteristics, including, but not limited to, the following studies:

- 1. Absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion (ADME),** including, but not limited to, relevant studies based on route of administration.
- 2. Safety (studies as mandated by ICH Guidelines).**

3. **Biomarkers (assays) that potentially target specific patient populations** for clinical trials.
4. **Biomarkers (assays) that can serve as potential pharmacodynamic markers** of clinical activity during early clinical trials designed to demonstrate proof-of-concept.
5. **Proposed current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP)** (including estimated costs) that can be scalable from Phase I through Phase III. Include information if there are possible plans for formulation.

**The scientific plan submitted must be of sufficient depth and quality to pass rigorous scrutiny by the highly qualified group of reviewers. To the extent possible, the scientific plan should be driven by data. In the past, applications that have been scored poorly have been criticized for assuming that assertions could be taken on faith. Convincing data are much preferred.**

#### **11.4.9. Business Plan (15 pages)**

Provide a business plan covering all of the topics below in the order shown. Successful applicants will make thoughtful, careful, and economical use of the limited space. Note that if the company is selected to undergo due diligence, information to support a full intellectual property review will be requested at that time. New Company Product Development Award applicants will be evaluated based not only on the current status of the components of the business plan but also on whether current weaknesses and gaps are acknowledged and whether plans to address them are outlined.

- A. Products and Markets:** Provide a brief description of the envisioned product and how the product will be administered to patients. Describe the initial market that will be targeted and how the envisioned product will fit within the standard of care.
- B. Regulatory Plans:** Provide a detailed regulatory plan, including preclinical and clinical activities, driven by interactions with the FDA, if possible. Summarize all interactions to date with the FDA.

- C. Risk Analysis:** Describe the specific risks inherent to the product plan and how they would be mitigated.
- D. Current and Pending Support:** Describe all funding sources. Provide a complete and detailed capitalization table, which should include all parties who have investments, stock, or rights in the company. The identities of all parties must be listed. It is not appropriate to list any funding source as anonymous.
- E. Financial Projections:** Provide a detailed source and use analysis of the development plan, focusing on the achievement of specific milestones.
- F. Resources Requested:** Include resources needed for research and product development and for any relocation expenses. The matching funds should be included in this section; however, this is the only section of the business plan that does not deal exclusively with CPRIT-requested funds.
- G. Scope of Work and Milestones:** Outline the specific goals of the project. Provide an outline of anticipated major milestones to be tracked. Timelines will be reviewed for reasonableness, and adherence to timelines will be a criterion for continued support of successful applications. If the application is approved for funding, this section will be included in the award contract.
- H. Key Personnel Located in Texas and Any Key Management Located Outside of Texas:** Present a plan for recruiting a senior management and scientific team, describing the types of expertise and skillsets that the project will require. For each key person currently on board, provide a paragraph briefly summarizing his or her present title and position, prior industry experience, education, and any other information considered essential for evaluation of qualifications.
- I. Organizational Commitment to Texas:** Describe how CPRIT funding of the applicant's company would benefit the state of Texas. For example, describe how the company would create high-quality new jobs in the state and/or recruit out-of-state talent, and mention any Texas-based subcontractors and suppliers that would be used and any other unique, Texas-based resources that would be leveraged.

#### **11.4.10. Competitive Landscape/Intellectual Property (5 pages)**

Complete the Competitive Landscape/Intellectual Property Plan using the template provided on the CARS (<https://CPRITGrants.org>). Provide a clear discussion of the competitive landscape related to your project, including any companies/university laboratories working on similar projects; indicate which of these projects constitute the greatest competitive threat. Describe how your project compares with your competitors, and indicate any potential opportunities for partnering with them. Provide a concise discussion of the intellectual property issues related to your project and list any relevant issued patents and patent applications, along with their titles and dates they were filed/published/issued. In addition, list any licensing agreements that your company has signed that are relevant to this application.

#### **11.4.11. Relocation Commitment to Texas (1 page)**

If your company will be relocating to Texas, provide a timetable with key dates indicating the applicant's plan and commitment to relocate to Texas. In addition, describe which personnel and management will be headquartered in Texas.

#### **11.4.12. Biographical Sketches of Key Scientific Personnel (8 pages)**

Provide a biographical sketch for up to 4 key scientific personnel that describes their education and training, professional experience, awards and honors, and publications relevant to cancer research. Each biographical sketch must not exceed two pages and must use the "Product Development Programs: Biographical Sketch" template. (In addition, information on the members of the senior management and scientific team should be included in the "Key Personnel" section of the Business Plan [see [section 11.4.9](#)]).

### **11.4.13. Budget and Justification**

Provide a compelling justification of the budget for the entire proposed period of support, including salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, patient care costs, animal care costs, and other expenses. The budget must be aligned with the proposed milestones. In preparing the requested budget, applicants should be aware of the following:

- Equipment having a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit must be specifically approved by CPRIT. An applicant does not need to seek this approval prior to submitting the application.
- Texas state law limits the amount of grant funds that may be spent on indirect costs to no more than 5% of the total award amount (5.263% of the direct costs). Guidance regarding indirect cost recovery can be found in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us).
- The annual salary that an individual may receive under a CPRIT award for FY 2015 is \$200,000. In other words, an individual may request salary proportional to the percentage effort up to a maximum of \$200,000. Salary does not include fringe benefits. CPRIT FY 2015 is from September 1, 2014, through August 31, 2015.

## **12. AWARD ADMINISTRATION**

Texas law requires that CPRIT awards be made by contract between the applicant and CPRIT. CPRIT grant awards are made to entities, not to individuals. Award contract negotiation and execution will commence once the CPRIT Oversight Committee has approved an application for a grant award. CPRIT may require, as a condition of receiving a grant award, that the grant recipient use CPRIT's electronic Grant Management System to exchange, execute, and verify legally binding grant contract documents and grant award reports. Such use shall be in accordance with CPRIT's electronic signature policy as set forth in chapter 701, section 701.25.

Texas law specifies several components that must be addressed by the award contract, including needed compliance and assurance documentation, budgetary review, progress and fiscal monitoring, and terms relating to revenue sharing and intellectual property rights. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us). Applicants are advised to review CPRIT's Administrative Rules related to

contractual requirements associated with CPRIT grant awards and limitations related to the use of CPRIT grant awards as set forth in chapter 703, sections 703.10 to 703.12.

Prior to disbursement of grant award funds, the grant recipient organization must demonstrate that it has adopted and enforces a tobacco-free workplace policy consistent with the requirements set forth in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, chapter 703, section 703.20.

CPRIT requires award recipients to submit an annual progress report. These reports summarize the progress made toward the research goals and address plans for the upcoming year. In addition, fiscal reporting, human studies reporting, and vertebrate animal use reporting will be required as appropriate. Continuation of funding is contingent upon the timely receipt of these reports. Failure to provide timely and complete reports may waive reimbursement of grant award costs and may result in the termination of award contract. Forms and instructions will be made available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us).

**Project Economics Sharing:** Recipients should also be aware that the funding award contract will include a revenue-sharing agreement and will require CPRIT to have input on any future patents, agreements, or other financial arrangements related to the products, services, or infrastructure supported by the CPRIT investment. These contract provisions are specified in CPRIT's Administrative Rules, which are available at [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us).

### **13. REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Texas state law requires that prior to disbursement of CPRIT grant funds, the award recipient demonstrate that it has \$1.00 in matching funds for every \$2.00 from CPRIT. Matching funds need not be in hand when the application is submitted. However, matching funds must be obtained before CPRIT funds will be released for use. CPRIT funds must, whenever possible, be spent in Texas. A company's matching funds must be designated for the CPRIT-funded project but may be spent outside of Texas. Grant applicants are advised to consult CPRIT's Administrative Rules, chapter 703, section 703.11, for specific requirements associated with demonstration of available funds.

## 14. CONTACT INFORMATION

### 14.1. HelpDesk

HelpDesk support is available for questions regarding user registration and online submission of applications. Queries submitted via e-mail will be answered within 1 business day. HelpDesk staff are not in a position to answer questions regarding scientific and commercialization aspects of applications. **Before contacting the HelpDesk, please refer to the *Instructions for Applicants* document, which provides a step-by-step guide on using CARS.**

**Dates of operation:** January 5, 2015, to February 9, 2015 (excluding public holidays)

**Hours of operation:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 7 AM to 4 PM central time  
Wednesday, 8 AM to 4 PM central time

**Tel:** 866-941-7146

**E-mail:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

### 14.2. Programmatic Questions

Questions regarding the CPRIT Program, including questions regarding this or any other funding opportunity, should be directed to the CPRIT Product Development Program Director.

**Tel:** 512-305-8419

**E-mail:** [Help@CPRITGrants.org](mailto:Help@CPRITGrants.org)

**Website:** [www.cprit.state.tx.us](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us)