January 26, 2010

2010 Unsolicited Research Program
Request for Preproposals in Water Reuse and Desalination

Introduction

The WateReuse Foundation is seeking preproposals for funding consideration under its 2010 Unsolicited Research Program. The total amount of funds approved for the Foundation's 2010 Unsolicited Research Program projects is $301,531. The Foundation anticipates funding between two and four projects with a maximum funding level for any single project of $175,000. Preproposals are due by **March 8, 2010.**

Mission and Objective

The Foundation's research program is designed to meet the future needs of the water reuse and desalination communities. In an effort to identify those needs, the Foundation polled its Subscribers to identify their most important challenges (see Page 4). The mission of the Foundation's Unsolicited Research Program is to provide individuals in the research community with the opportunity to propose research projects that they feel will best address the challenges identified. Only projects that address one or more of these challenges will be funded. Proposers are encouraged to address emerging issues and propose original concepts or novel techniques, but research funded by the Foundation must have the potential for a practical application.

The Foundation would like to maximize the amount of research supported under its program. As a result, support for the project budget by other partners or alternatives will increase the likelihood of funding for a particular project.

Unsolicited Research Program Process

Unsolicited proposals are accepted once per year under a two-step process. The process is designed for maximum return to the Foundation and minimum effort by the proposers. An initial preproposal of no more than four pages in length is first submitted for review and screening.[*] In the second phase, full proposals are requested for those preproposals judged to have the greatest potential outcome for the water reuse and desalination communities. The number of full proposals requested is approximately twice the number of projects to be awarded.

The Foundation's Research Advisory Committee (RAC) will review the preproposals and recommend a shortlist of projects which merit a request for full proposals. The RAC will also be tasked with reviewing the full proposals for funding consideration. The timeline for the 2010 Unsolicited Research Program is as follows:

- **January 26:** The "Request for Preproposals" is released under the Foundation's Unsolicited Research Program;
- **March 8:** Preproposals are due to the Foundation;
- **May 23:** RAC reviews preproposals and makes recommendations for shortlist;
- **June 1:** Foundation notifies research teams whose preproposals were selected and requests full proposals;
- **July 12:** Full proposals due;
- **July-August:** RAC reviews full proposals and recommends projects for funding;
- **September 14:** Board of Directors reviews the projects and approves recommended proposals; and
- **October 4:** Award projects under the 2010 Unsolicited Research Program.

[*] Preproposals may be no longer than four pages (all supporting materials included), with at least 11 point font and 1-inch margins. Preproposals not meeting this requirement will be automatically disqualified.

Proposal Instructions

The format and content of the preproposals must include the following:

1. Preproposals **must be submitted electronically** in either MS Word or PDF format.

2. Preproposals must be **at least two (2) pages and no more than four (4) pages in length**, including figures, tables, appendices, references, and résumés/bios. **Preproposals exceeding four (4) pages in length (including bios and references) will be automatically disqualified.**

3. Preproposals must be formatted for standard letter size paper with 1-inch margins and a font of at least 11 characters per inch.

4. Preproposals must include the following:

    - **Project Title**

    - **Name of Person/Contact information/Organization Submitting the Proposal**

    - **Research Objective** – The research objective should be clearly identified in one or two sentences.

    - **Technical Approach** – Describe how the research will be conducted and tasks necessary to accomplish the objective. Identify technical challenges associated with the work.

    - **Originality and Innovation of the Research** – Briefly identify how the proposed work is unique and innovative.

    - **Potential Relevance and Future Applications** – Discuss why this work would be important to the water reuse and/or desalination community. Explain the potential benefits of the work and potential impact on future research.

    - **Budget** – A detailed budget is not required in preproposals. Preproposals should identify the amount of Foundation funds requested and other funding and in-kind support expected for the work.

      Projects will require matching funds of **at least 25%** of the total project costs. The matching contribution may consist of direct funding or in-kind contribution of such items as personnel costs, analytical and support services, facilities, consulting services, etc. An ideal source of in-kind services is the participation of water utilities which have an interest in the project. Respondents may contribute more than 25% to the project.

    - **Schedule** – A detailed task specific schedule is not required in the preproposal. However, an estimate of the project duration should be provided.

Utility Participation

The Foundation encourages research teams to include the participation of water and wastewater utilities in research efforts.

Application Procedure and Deadline

Preproposals must be submitted **via email** to Unsolicited@watereuse.org by **March 8, 2010**. Proposals received after **5:00 p.m. EST** on this date will not be considered. Receipt of preproposals will be acknowledged by email from the Foundation.

General Requirements

In-Kind Requirement: The researcher must obtain or contribute in-kind services, cash, or a combination of the two amounting to at least 25% of the total cost of the proposed project. Although in-kind contributions can come from a variety of sources, the primary objective of in-kind services is to encourage the participation of water and wastewater agencies in the project. In-kind services can include labor, materials, and other services.

Standard Agreement Conditions: The Foundation includes special contract provisions as a condition of research awards. Acceptance of these contract conditions is a requirement of Foundation funding. Researchers should determine, before submission of a proposal, that such conditions are likely to be acceptable to the Respondent, its subcontractors, and other participants. The standard funding agreement reflects the Foundation's requirement to solely own and publish a final report. The Foundation's standard funding agreement can be found on the WateReuse website at: http://www.watereuse.org/foundation/research/research-templates.

Eligibility: Any individual or organization is eligible for selection through the RFP review process, with the exception of non-adherence to proposal guidelines or ineligibility due to lack of timeliness or insufficient quality on other Foundation projects.

Equipment Purchase: In general, the Foundation does not pay for the purchase of major equipment for research tasks. Researchers submitting proposals should already possess, be willing to purchase or lease, or have access to the appropriate equipment and instruments to complete the proposed research tasks.

Publication: The Foundation publishes a final edited report and other deliverables for its Research Program projects. Researchers should allocate adequate resources and personnel for developing a final report that is technically sound and adheres to the Foundation's *Style Guide for Research Reports*. The guidelines establish formats and other publishing requirements. Researchers should be prepared to respond to technical comments from a Project Advisory Committee, as well as to address editors' questions and make changes to text, tables, and figures as necessary.

2009/2010 Key Research Challenges in Water Reuse and Desalination as Identified by Subscribers

1.	Addressing known & unknown contaminants that persist in recycled water
2.	Defining the risks of recycled water (risk assessment)
3.	Progression from non-potable to potable reuse
4.	Defining environmental benefits/drawbacks of recycled water
5.	Inland salt management
6.	Data/approaches to support development of public health criteria for recycled water
7.	Energy-water nexus for recycled water
8.	Project implementation issues (e.g., public acceptance, financing)
9.	Defining public health benefits & disadvantages of recycled water
10.	Data/approaches to support development of end use/ performance criteria for recycled water
11.	Energy-water nexus for desalination