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### Program Snapshot

<b>Title</b>	Biofuels, Biopower and Biomaterials Initiative (B3I) Seed Grant Program
<b>Purpose</b>	A seed grant program for biofuels, biopower, and biomaterials research to support pilot studies focused on obtaining preliminary data that will lead to extramural funding in this area.
<b>Deadlines</b>	Friday, February 20, 2009 by noon
<b>Eligibility</b>	Eligibility is restricted to B3I members or researchers who will become B3I members. Eligible applicants include tenure track and non-tenure track faculty with independent research programs. Postdoctoral Research Scholars or Research Scientists that are members of a larger lab structure are not eligible.
<b>Amounts</b>	Anticipated funding range \$5,000 - \$20,000
<b>Questions?</b>	Dr. Joy Doran Peterson, 706-542-4115, <a href="mailto:joydoranpeterson@gmail.com">joydoranpeterson@gmail.com</a> Application Submission Support: Jessica Hawks, <a href="mailto:jhawks@uga.edu">jhawks@uga.edu</a> , 542-5056

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### Program Description

The University of Georgia Research Foundation has established a seed grant program for biofuels, biopower, and biomaterials research to support pilot studies focused on obtaining preliminary data that will lead to extramural funding in this area. The Seed Grant Program of B3I is intended to foster interdisciplinary research, preferably with an industry partner. A well-developed and clearly articulated plan to leverage seed grant funding for extramural support and/or commercialization potential is requested in the application. Where appropriate these non-state funds may be presented to the Georgia Centers of Innovation for consideration of additional funding. Eligibility is restricted to members, or researchers who will become members, of the B3 Initiative at the University of Georgia.

This announcement provides guidelines and instructions for faculty and senior research staff (see eligibility requirements below) who wish to submit competitive applications for consideration for funding beginning March 2009. Proposals that fail to follow the guidelines and deadlines will not be considered for review.

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### Eligibility Criteria

Eligible areas of research focus include the entire scope of basic and applied projects that examine the use of sustainable, renewable production of energy and co-products from biomass or biomass byproducts, improved crops for conversion to energy or co-products, enhanced management practices for growing such crops, improved methods for harvest and transport of biomass, pretreatment (before processing as well as thermochemical/mechanical pretreatment)

of biomass for conversion to energy or co-products, microbial or enzymatic conversion of biomass to energy or co-products. Downstream processing and fermentation of biomass to energy or co-products is also included in the scope of this program.

Eligibility is restricted to B3I members or researchers who will become B3I members. Eligible applicants include tenure track and non-tenure track faculty with independent research programs. Postdoctoral Research Scholars or Research Scientists that are members of a larger lab structure are not eligible. Inter-institution collaborations are encouraged. Eligible partner organizations include universities or non-university training facilities, such as technical institutes.

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## **Budget/Funding**

In general, seed grants will be in the \$5,000 to \$20,000 range and application budgets should reflect the amount of work that may be accomplished in a one-year timeframe. Although the desired outcome is significant extramural support and/or commercialization of the research, most projects will progress through funding stages. Support may be requested from the B3I Seed Grant program for one year. A project may be considered for a second year of funding based on progress shown in year one. A renewal application is required for the second year of funding and will be considered with new applications on a competitive basis.

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## **Application Procedures and Documentation**

*Must use the B3I application form available online at: [www.ovpr.uga.edu/forms/b3iapp.pdf](http://www.ovpr.uga.edu/forms/b3iapp.pdf).*

Cover page

Budget Pages (2 pages)

Limited to personnel, supplies, and travel for field work only  
Funds may not be used for salary support for the PI or Co-PI's

Compliance Requirement Form

Matching support (amounts and sources; include a letter from the matching source)

Potential sources of extramural funding for this project

Project summary (not to exceed 4 pages including figures)

(Please note that the review committee will be composed of scientists with backgrounds in this area but the proposal should be written to a general scientific audience)

Specific aims – as a list

Background, rationale and urgency for project

Brief description of research design and methods

Anticipated results

Plans and potential for continued extramural support

Commercialization potential

Do not include an appendix

Biographical Sketches (for the PI(s), senior and key personnel only)

**Email submissions as a PDF file to [ovpr@uga.edu](mailto:ovpr@uga.edu).**

**Please name the file as follows: [PI Last Name], [PI First Name] – B3I.**

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## **Application Deadlines**

**The deadline for submitting applications Friday, February 20, 2009 by noon.** Applications received after that time will not be reviewed in this funding cycle. Review will be completed by mid August with awards beginning September 1st, 2008.

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## **Evaluation Criteria and Procedures**

*Matching Funds.* Applications that include matching support (e.g. by direct industry cash or clearly defined in-kind match) are particularly encouraged. All matching funds must be supported by a letter from the partner organization stating the amount of the funding, the period of funding and the specific project aims to be supported.

\*One team funded for \$20,000 in the first round obtained an industry match of an additional \$20,000. The Centers of Innovation is considering another match of \$40,000, bringing the total for the one year of funding to a possible \$80,000 from the original \$20,000 seed money. The researchers have made progress and are planning to apply for a Federal grant this spring.

Proposals that foster Economic Development in rural areas and include matching funds from industry may be eligible for additional matching funding from the Centers for Innovation Program ([www.georgiainnovation.org/](http://www.georgiainnovation.org/)). Proposals selected for funding by the review committee that fulfill these requirements will be identified and the PIs of these proposals will be encouraged to submit them to this program for additional matching funds.

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## **Award Procedures and Conditions**

All research carried out under the sponsorship of a Seed Grant is subject to all of the University's standing policies regarding research. In particular, proposers of projects involving human subjects, laboratory animals, biohazardous materials, recombinant DNA, etc., must obtain the necessary approvals before commencing work. Money awarded cannot be released until these forms, when appropriate, have been submitted and approved.

*Time Period.* Grant funds must ordinarily be spent within the 12-month period immediately following the award. Funds not used within the award year will be forfeited.

*Continued Eligibility.* It is expected that those who receive a Seed Grant will continue to meet the eligibility requirements. Any grant recipient who, because of resignation or any other reason, fails to remain eligible at least through 6 months of the award period may be required to return the grant funds.

*Reports.* The initial report, summarizing what has been accomplished during the grant period, must be received within one month of the end of the 12-month award period. The final report, including information on publications and grant proposals generated as a result of the grant, must be received within 12 months of the end of the award period. Report forms are available on the OVPR website.

*Seed Grant Impact.* In order to track the impact of Seed Grant funding, participants are required to provide the following information using a web-based submission platform created for this purpose:

Abstracts submitted / presented (title, author, conference, location, dates)

Manuscripts submitted / published (full citations)

Grant proposals submitted / funded originating from seed grant support

Discovery disclosures / patent applications originating from seed grant support

Graduate students and post-doctoral trainees supported through seed grant projects  
(support includes stipend and / or supplies)

*Duplicate Funding.* If external funding is subsequently obtained to support any of the items requested in the proposal, the grantee must promptly notify the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.

*Acknowledgment.* Funds for awarded Seed Grants come from the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc., and any publications resulting from the projects awarded should acknowledge the source of funds: "(a portion of) this research was supported by a grant awarded by the B3I Seed Grant Program with funds from the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc."