

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY

Paros-PGI Observatory Technical & Innovation Center (OTIC)

To: LDEO Scientific Research Community

From: Steering Committee, Observatory Technical & Innovation Center

Date: Feb 2nd 2023

Subject: Request for Proposals

The Paros-PGI Observatory Technical & Innovation Center [OTIC] Steering Committee is requesting proposals for the development of innovative instruments to be used in making laboratory and/or field observations. More than one proposal may be selected for funding.

* Additional funds may be made available that can be used to buy equipment, design software or some piece of test gear to help enable your OTIC project. To be considered for additional funding, such additional items must be of general use to the Lamont community and would revert to the Technical and Innovation Center at the conclusion of your project for future shared use by the Lamont community.

The deadline for proposals is **Wednesday March 15th, 2023**.

Rules:

1. Projects should be innovative (e.g., while purchase of off-the-shelf equipment is not considered innovative, innovation may be brought out through significant modification or integration of such equipment). Use of the technological development enabled by these OTIC funds as leverage to help acquire external funds is highly encouraged.
2. The total budget should be in the \$50-120K range (though grants requesting less have been awarded), and should be used for dedicated equipment, materials, software and engineering/technical salaries. We will not provide funding for purchases of non-specific equipment (e.g. general-purpose computers/laptops), scientist/administrative salaries or travel.

If your project requires an item that will eventually be of general use to the Lamont community, identify it as such on a separate line in your budget for consideration for separate funding (see Note * above).

The budget should not include ICR, but must include a 3% administrative fee applied to non-equipment items.

3. Proposals can be submitted by anyone on the LDEO scientific and engineering staff (including graduate students and post docs).

A proposal from a graduate student must have approval from their advisor, either implicitly by serving as co-PI, or by providing an email expressing approval to the committee.

4. Proposals are recommended to be less than 4 pages long and should not exceed 5 pages in length (with 1" margins, 1.5 line spacing, 12 pt fonts), including text, figures, and tables. A separate single page itemized budget should be attached. Proposals must be submitted by email as a PDF to the OTIC co-chairs Spahr Webb (scw@ldeo.columbia.edu) and Nick Frearson (nfre@ldeo.columbia.edu).
5. The OTIC Steering Committee will serve as the Selection Committee. The Committee may select multiple proposals for funding subject to the availability of funds and quality of proposals, however, there may also be no awards made in a given cycle. Members of the steering committee are not precluded from submitting proposals, but those who are associated with a proposal will be recused from the entire selection process, thus the committee may temporarily replace committee appointees when discussing these cases.
6. OTIC funds for selected projects will be transferred to a new non-government account. Cost overruns will not be entertained and will be the full responsibility of the project PI.
7. Project duration is not to exceed 12 months. Requests for a one-time no-cost extension for a second 12 months will be considered.
8. In view of the potential for unforeseen issues arising in high-risk endeavors, the steering committee will consider requests for supplemental funds up to \$20k to help bring a particularly promising project to successful conclusion.
9. A brief progress report will be required 6 months from the start date of the project and a brief final report (2 pages) describing the outcome of the project will be due within 3 months of the conclusion of the project. This report should include references to any publications or externally supported grants that have resulted (or been proposed) from this work.

If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact, Spahr Webb/Nick Frearson Co-chairs.

Thank you,

The OTIC Steering Committee, Spahr Webb, Nick Frearson Co-chairs