Innovation Node-Los Angeles

Information for proposals

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**Background:**

USC Viterbi is pleased to be the home of the new NSF-funded Innovation Node-Los Angeles (LANode.org), a regional hub for technology commercialization and interaction between our engineers and the broader marketplace. Faculty should feel free to leverage this resource in their proposals.

**Suggested use:**

This document contains some language for your use. You do not need to ask my permission to embed any of it in your proposals, and you may edit it. (Just let me know if this helps you get funded!) If you would like to expand on it or discuss it further, please feel free to contact me directly at [abelz@usc.edu](mailto:abelz@usc.edu) .

**Terminology:**

Please note that IN-LA activities should be referred to as “technology commercialization,” the active process of planning for and executing the evolution of technologies to products or services in the marketplace (including civil and commercial applications) rather than “technology transfer,” a set of functions such as hiring, licensing, and similar focused activities.

**Language:**

In August 2014, USC was named the home of one of the seven national nodes supported by the National Science Foundation Innovation Corps program (“I-Corps”). This center, known as Innovation Node – Los Angeles (IN-LA), consists of a partnership between Caltech, UCLA, and USC; it serves as the Southern California regional hub for accelerating impact of university technologies via educational programs, commercialization support, and integration with the investment community. This effort, led by the USC Viterbi School of Engineering in a novel collaboration with the USC Marshall School of Business, reflects USC’s strong commitment to creating technologies with meaningful and measurable impact. As IN-LA’s partners generate more engineering graduate students than any other region in the country[[1]](#endnote-1), creating training programs that can have a disproportionate impact on the next generation of engineering leadership.

IN-LA provides specialized education for innovators and creates opportunities for mentors, investors, and innovators to engage. <YOUR PROGRAM> would participate in focused activities to introduce strategic investors and experienced mentors from commercial entities and sister federal agencies that would benefit from a greater understanding of <your technology>. These interactions will help inform <YOUR PROGRAM’S> specific research projects and drive faster conversion of research results into meaningful solutions.

In short, the presence of IN-LA at USC allows <YOUR PROGRAM> to achieve the following:

* Leverage other interdisciplinary activities at USC to create more cross-cutting technical advances,
* Interact directly with your community to inform application development and accelerate infusion,
* Accelerate impact through focused engagement with mentors, investors, and others with strategic interests in the output of this research effort.

1. http://www.asee.org/papers-and-publications/publications/college-profiles/2011-profile-engineering-statistics.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-1)