



University of Southern California
Viterbi School of Engineering
OHE 200
Los Angeles, CA 90089-1450

Office of the Dean

Tel: (213) 740-0617
Fax: (213) 740-8493

M E M O R A N D U M

To: VSoE Faculty and Staff

**From: Maja J Matarić
Senior Associate Dean for Research**

Date: October 26, 2007

Subject: VSoE Research Innovation Fund Call for Proposals

On September 27th, VSoE announced the **Research Innovation Fund**, a new program aimed at fostering novel strategic research directions, projects, and activities in the school. The following memo is the first call for proposals for the Fund.

Faculty with novel ideas and collaborations are encouraged to apply to the Fall 2007 Research Innovation Fund Call for Proposals. Examples of activities fundable by this program include: 1) organizing workshops at USC that bring external experts and visibility to the school; 2) establishing an Organized Research Unit (ORU) team and proposal; 3) obtaining pilot data toward strategic identifiable external funding opportunities; and 4) establishing lasting research resources for the school. Other innovative ideas for supporting new strategic research programs are invited.

Faculty of any rank may apply, excluding visiting faculty. To be considered for this award, applications must provide a realistic justification of the strategic value of the grant, demonstrating how the award will make a difference in stimulating new research relevant to the school's priorities or in new attracting research support.

Awardees will have discretion in the budgeting and re-budgeting of funds to meet their research needs within the guidelines of the fund and the terms of the proposal. However, funds may not be transferred to another project. Awards will include fringe benefits but are not assessed indirect costs and are not transferable to other institutions.

A brief (2 page) report of the results of the funded project will be due one year after the award is made.

The proposals should include the following components:

- 1) Title page: project title and list of participating faculty (1 page)
- 2) Project description: brief motivation, background, project plan, and justification (up to 4 pages)
- 3) CVs of the participating faculty

All materials should be submitted in electronic form to vsoe.research.admin@vsoe.usc.edu by 9am, Monday, November 26, 2007. It is expected that the awarded funds will be made available immediately.

Approximately \$50,000 in Fund support is expected to be awarded in the fall cycle, and a similar amount in the spring. All applications will be reviewed by a faculty committee, which will provide advisory input to the Sr. Associate Dean for Research and the Dean for final award selection. Questions regarding this new program should be directed to the Sr. Associate Dean for Research.

Maja J Mataric'
Professor of Computer Science and Neuroscience
Founding Director, USC Center for Robotics and Embedded Systems(cres.usc.edu)
Director, USC Robotics Research Lab (robotics.usc.edu)
Senior Associate Dean for Research, Viterbi School of Engineering
University of Southern California
3650 McClintock Avenue, OHE 200
Los Angeles, CA 90089-1450
tel: (213) 740-4520, fax: (213) 821-5696
mataric@usc.edu
<http://robotics.usc.edu/~maja>