



Guidelines for FLOW Rocket Fund Applicants – 2016 - 2017

Awards: \$5,000 - \$75,000, with the opportunity for renewal in Rocket Fund Year 3; the larger awards will be given in two tranches, with agreed milestones.

Eligibility: Incorporated or in process; validated lab technology; raised no more than \$750,000 equity investment; led by students, new graduates or garage entrepreneurs; fits technology scope of the Fund; does not need to be a FLOW company but participating in the FLOW business plan competition is an advantage; national and international qualify as long as entity has interest in establishing California presence.

Scope: The Rocket Fund provides competitive grants for funding prototype development in cleantech university startups. Rocket Fund covers; Initial product design; commercial engineering; prototype build out; field testing; equipment purchase; and mentoring consultation for scale up and manufacturing.

Topics: 1) Energy Efficiency; Demand Response; Smart and Microgrid; Data Analytics and Energy Management; Storage; (Some topics of interest to utilities: see <http://www.flow.caltech.edu/etcc-3>) Energy storage, particularly connected to distributed energy generation; Internet of Things software & systems; Carbon Dioxide sequestration and conversion; Renewables; and Agriculture/Water Energy Nexus.

Intellectual Property: All teams intending to apply for an award must sign and submit **IP Declaration** and **IP Disclosure** forms at the time of entry, and e-mail them to the FLOW Office, C/O Stephanie C. Yanchinski, stephanie.yanchinski@caltech.edu. If you have applied for patents it is vitally important that the origin, ownership and status of IP be clarified at the time of application. If your technology is university-derived, teams must notify your faculty advisor, PI and technology transfer offices of your intention to apply.

Mentoring: All teams will be assigned mentors or must demonstrate they are already working with mentors that will help them achieve their Rocket Fund milestones. FLOW applicants must submit a **Mentor Request Form** at the time of submission.

IN-LA I-Corps Blitz Webinar Series: All FLOW Rocket Fund Applicants will be considered for the IN-LA I-Corps Webinar Series http://www.flow.caltech.edu/resources/documents/2017/2017_FLoW_IN-LA_Flier.pdf. All FLOW teams that successfully complete the educational program will qualify to apply for an additional \$50,000 in NSF I-Corps Team grants. The IN-LA leadership will evaluate and sponsor selected teams.

The Process and Timelines for Rocket Fund Round 1: **Note: Rocket Fund applications will be accepted at any time. The review process and awarding of grants will be done periodically throughout the year**

- September 30, 2016: Online application: [Rocket Fund Application Form](#)
- October, 2016: Panel Review, potential candidates submit business deck & video, Skype interviews
- November, 2016 – December, 2017: Awardees reviewed and selected
- March, 2017: Progress Report due
- August, 2017: Final Report

The FLOW DOE Cleantech Up Business Plan Competition:

All Rocket Fund applicants and awardees are invited to participate in the FLOW DOE Cleantech UP competition and win \$100,000+ in prizes and in-kind legal help, as well as connections to accelerator

programs and incubator facilities. FLOW's top team will compete with seven other regional winners at the DOE's National Cleantech UP competition in June, 2016. The bigger the impact and the closer you are to being investor-ready, the stronger the likelihood you will win either the Regional or National awards. For more information click on [FLOW Competition](#) or contact The FLOW office stephanie.yanchinski@caltech.edu 626-818-5092.

The FLOW Office 09.07.16