

Romanian-American Foundation opens the Call for Applied Research Grants

Package of Information for Proof of Concept Call for Proposals is available at <http://artie.rafonline.org>

Bucharest, April 25th, 2013: The Romanian-American Foundation (RAF) announces the opening of the Applied Research, Technological Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ARTIE) Proof of Concept (POC) Call for Proposals, referred to hereafter as the ARTIE-POC Call.

Beginning early this year, RAF has launched a new strategic initiative: Applied Research, Technological Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ARTIE), which aims to support researchers in the innovation cycle to bring their ideas from the laboratory to the market.

“At RAF, we are very passionate about ARTIE; it has become a symbol for innovation in itself. We want researchers to find the process to become fellows very smooth, inclusive and attractive. Because ARTIE is about smart people innovating smart objects in a highly interconnected world, our community of RAF Fellows will live many knowledge and experience sharing events”, said Paula Apreutesei, ARTIE Fellowship Program Director.

ARTIE Program will have several components: applied research grants, technological entrepreneurship grants, community events. This Call for Proposals is in reference to Applied Research Grants.

RAF will invest 600 000 USD to fund Applied Research Grants in science, mathematics, engineering, and information technology. Areas of research that are of particular interest include, but are not limited to, the Internet of Things and the Internet of Services.

The value of each awarded grant will be a maximum 80 000 USD for a duration of eight months.

The ARTIE-POC Call has two stages: Stage I is the Expression of Interest, which is open to all individuals recognized as researchers by their Host Organizations. Stage II is the Full Application, which is available by invitation only to those teams whose Expressions of Interest were most highly ranked by the team of expert evaluators.

The deadline for Stage I is **May 25th**. Applicants are invited to create an online profile and read the entire guide for applicants. The process is described on the ARTIE-POC call website: <http://artie.rafonline.org>.



Press Release

www.rafonline.org

Groups applying for the ARTIE-POC Grants should be made up of a minimum of two and a maximum of four researchers. One of the researchers must be designated as the Team Lead. Researchers must prove their active status by providing a Letter of Recognition (template provided in the package of information) and must have an agreement with a Host Organization (employer or affiliated organization) (template provided in the package of information).

Grants are awarded and managed according to simple procedures that maintain the focus on output, outcome, and impact, and are designed to encourage creativity and combine flexibility with accountability.

The expected results of Applied Research Grants should be valid Proofs of Concept for new processes, products, services, methods, and procedures. Technical feasibility, financial sustainability and concept marketability for the product/service must be demonstrated.

The evaluation will be conducted by dedicated high-level independent experts and the selection will be performed by the ARTIE Scientific Board. The [Scientific Board](#) is comprised of renowned professors and researchers from prestigious academic institutions, from Romania and abroad.

At the end of the term of the Applied Research fellowship, those fellows who have successfully developed their Proof of Concept may be invited by RAF to apply for Entrepreneurship Grants.

About the Romanian-American Foundation

Established in 2009 by the American Congress, the Romanian-American Foundation (RAF) is the largest American philanthropic foundation in Romania, which funds programs in entrepreneurship, education, and community development. RAF's endowment is the result of successful investments in the private sector by the Romanian-American Enterprise Fund during more than 15 years of active presence in Romania. The Foundation's current endowment is \$50 million and it is expected to reach 150 million in the coming years. More information about the Foundation can be found in the [Annual Report 2011](#).

Contact information

Raluca Csatos – Executive Assistant

Raluca.Csatos@RAFonline.org

tel: +(4) 0312 261 223 , fax: +(4) 0312 261 239