Innovation Grants help UT professor-led teams close the funding gap between research and commercialization.

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**
Applications are accepted on an on-going basis. Our application is simple.

- Name of protostartup.
- Team with titles, degrees earned and contact info.
- Description of the discovery/innovation.
- What will protostartup do and for whom?
- What funding (and $$$) have you received so far and by whom?
- Do you have IP? Have you disclosed your technology to OTC?
- Have you applied to NSF I-Corp or attended any of their regional programs?

Innovation Grants are intended to assess and develop the commercializability of University technology. Our mission is to support protostartups that have a high chance of being commercialized but are not likely to get there without gap funding.

Innovation Grants may be used for product development and marketing. **Funds may not be used for research.**

A partial list of allowed uses include:

- make/test/demo prototypes
- register/travel to conference
- travel to meet with key potential customers & investors
- validate market/pricing
- assess customer demand

Grant amounts generally range from $5,000-$50,000. We require applicants apply to the NSF’s Innovation Corp (I-Corp) or attend a Regional I-Corp program (or equivalent) for valuable entrepreneurship training.
Our Process

1. Recruit innovation grant donors.
2. Recruit professor-led protostartups.
3. Panel (including donors) match protostartups to grants.
4. Panel awards grants.
5. The Innovation Center supports and mentors protostartups.
6. Protostartups provide weekly email reports of 250-500 words.
7. Every month protostartups meet with the Innovation Center and a select group of peers.
8. Showcase
9. The Innovation Center tracks and provides ongoing support.

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