

# Innovation Grants

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



**WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD**

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.

## 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 is your commercialization timeline? What milestones will this grant help you reach?



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?

# 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.



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Innovation Center**  
Cockrell School of Engineering

## CONTACT

Louise Epstein // [louise.epstein@utexas.edu](mailto:louise.epstein@utexas.edu) // 512-567-1849

[www.engr.utexas.edu/innovation](http://www.engr.utexas.edu/innovation)