

TechAdvance[®] Fund

Guidelines for Applicants

The goal of **TechAdvance[®]** is to de-risk and accelerate the commercialization of promising technologies developed at Rutgers. These funds are dedicated to advance early-stage technology development, proof of concept, and prototype development projects. TechAdvance is **not** intended to support basic or exploratory research.

The purpose of this document is to provide TechAdvance applicants, guidance on the program requirements, application and review process and post award program expectations. You can also visit our web site at techadvance.rutgers.edu for additional details and eligibility requirements. We encourage you to look at the document **TechAdvance Evaluation and Funding Process** (see [Applicant Resources](#)) to get a broader understanding of how the Fund operates.

1. TechAdvance grants are awarded in amounts up to \$100,000 for 12 months. and TechXpress awards up to \$25,000 are available for 6 months. **Please contact your Licensing Manager to discuss what award category your technology may qualify for.**
2. **Awardee's use of non-Rutgers consultants/contractors- IP assignment clause:**
To retain the ability to commercialize your technology, Rutgers needs to secure the ownership of intellectual property related to your technology. Therefore, all consultants and/or contractors engaged by TechAdvance awardees, or their associates must automatically assign ALL their IP rights to Rutgers by signing a legally binding agreement prior to beginning their collaboration. This will include any intellectual property directly, or indirectly, related to the technology underlying the TechAdvance project, that is created solely by them, or in collaboration with others, while conducting work under the contract with the awardee's lab. Please ensure this "Assignment of Inventions" is conveyed to all collaborators and consultants, and they agree, before making an investment in submitting a TechAdvance application.

Assignment of Inventions- Consultant agrees that all right, title, and interest in, and to, any copyrightable material, notes, records, drawings, designs, inventions, improvements, developments, discoveries, ideas, and trade secrets conceived, discovered, authored, invented, developed or reduced to practice by Consultant, solely, or in collaboration, with others, during the term of this Agreement and arising out of, or in connection with, performing the Services under this Agreement and any copyrights, patents, trade secrets, mask work rights or other intellectual property rights relating to the foregoing (collectively,

“*Inventions*”), are the sole property of Rutgers. The consultant also agrees to promptly make full written disclosure to Rutgers of any Inventions and to deliver and assign (or cause to be assigned) and hereby irrevocably assigns fully to Rutgers all right, title and interest in and to the Inventions.

If the consultant is required, under a valid contractual obligation, to assign his/her inventions to another entity. TechAdvance program will resolve such conflicts on a case-by-case basis.

3. Application Eligibility

- Notice of Invention (Rutgers docket number assigned)
- Rutgers owned technologies or Rutgers as lead for jointly owned technologies.
- Executed Copyright assignment.
- Positive DP1 (licensing manager recommendation)
- No existing funding for same statement of work
- No IP encumbrance (License/Option)
- Attendance to the ‘Road-to-Commercialization Symposium’
- Provisional patent application filed (not required for TechXpress)
- Industry interest and feedback on technology (not required for TechXpress)

4. Application Process:

1. The licensing manager recommends and initiates the TechAdvance application.
2. The TechAdvance program invites the applicants if all eligibility criteria outlined above and summarized in the table below are met.
3. Applicants submit their application on the web based TechAdvance application platform.
4. Industry experts (reviewers) evaluate proposals; typically, TechXpress applications are reviewed by one industry expert and TechAdvance (12 month) applications are reviewed by three industry experts.
5. Applicants are allowed to respond to reviewer concerns and/or revise their application after the first round of reviewer evaluations.
6. Funding decisions are based on reviewer recommendations, after final review of revised applications.

5. Budget requirements:

TechAdvance is a gap funding program that supports development work for the purpose of de-risking the technology asset. While the program provides resources and opportunities for innovator education, the following costs are out of scope for the program:

- Salary support for faculty and permanent staff
- Tuition and student fees incurred as a part of any coursework necessary toward earning a degree and/or certificate.
- Conference attendance
- Overhead expenses
- Publication fees

Other budget considerations:

- Equipment costs may not exceed 10% of total project costs.
- General lab resources beyond the TechAdvance project, are not supported by the award.
- Funds may not be allocated to improvements/enhancements/modifications to the existing hardware.

6. **The TechAdvance (12 month) application requires input from a potential licensee or industry partner.** If you have not contacted any potential industry partners or licensees to date, you may contact your Licensing Manager for assistance with this effort.

Applicants are expected to be judicious and accurate in providing all information requested in the TechAdvance application form. Significant university resources may be allocated to successful projects based on the applicant input. Applicants are urged to review the **Reviewer Evaluation Form** (see [Reviewer Resources](#) page) used by the industry Reviewers to evaluate TechAdvance applications. This document is good reference to determine what section needs emphasis when preparing the application. TechAdvance Reviewers are advised to pay extra attention to the proposed statement-of-work and budget. Therefore, applicants are recommended to prepare those two items in a cost-conscious manner.

7. **TechAdvance Reviewers** have significant industry experience and are experts in their field. To be mindful of the reviewers' time and to get full consideration, TechAdvance applications must provide sufficient information to gain a basic understanding of the new technology. Application must include the potential commercial value of innovative technology, what makes it unique, and the burning problem that it will solve.
8. The **one-year TechAdvance award** fund is disbursed in two equal installments. The first half of the funds are transferred to the awardee at the beginning of the project period. The **TechXpress** gives the full amount at the beginning of the 6-month project period.
9. The "Notice of award" date is recorded as the **project start date** for the project.
10. **Progress Report** is required for one-year awards, at or before 6-months after the project start date. The remaining half of the funds are transferred after satisfactory evaluation of the project progress by the industry reviewers.

11. In addition to formal Progress Reports, the TechAdvance team may also request a brief update on the progress of your project from time to time during the project period. Such updates may be given via phone, a brief email, or personal meeting. All awardees must submit a **Final report and pitch-deck** within one month of their project end date.
12. TechAdvance awardees also participate in a **Showcase Event**- “Post-project completion meeting”, 6 months after their project completion. In this event, they present the outcomes of their project and commercialization efforts. Awardees are provided personalized insights on commercialization strategies for their technology by the Innovation Ventures team.
13. TechAdvance awardees complete **annual surveys** for up to 5 years. These surveys are used to gauge the difference this funding made in getting the Rutgers University inventions market ready. The feedback is also used for making consequential improvements to the operation and performance of the TechAdvance program to better serve the needs of all Rutgers inventors.
14. Innovators are encouraged to explore other funding sources to facilitate commercialization of their technology. Applicants may therefore apply to TechAdvance as well as other sources of funding for the same work. However, if the applicants are awarded funding from another sponsor and elect to use it for the same scope of work, they must immediately inform the TechAdvance team. Awardees must withdraw the TechAdvance application if a potential conflict exists.

Thank you for your interest in the TechAdvance commercialization fund! We look forward to helping you with your technology development.

Please contact us at TechAdvance-program@research.rutges.edu

- The TechAdvance® Team

Table: TechAdvance® Funding Categories and Features Summary:

Feature	TechXpress	TechAdvance
Award Amount	Up to \$25,000	Up to \$100,000
Project Length	Up to 6 months	Up to 1 year
Technology Categories	All disciplines	Non-Life sciences technologies.
Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Invention filed. • Rutgers owned or lead technologies. • No existing funding for proposed work. • Licensing manager recommendation. • No IP encumbrance (License/Option). • Attendance to 'Road-to-Commercialization Symposium' Series. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisional patent application filed. • Industry interest and feedback obtained.
Funding Cycle	Applications invited and funded on a rolling basis.	
Time to Final Decision	Up to 65 days	Up to 120 days
Review/Industry Feedback	1 industry expert reviewer	3 industry expert reviewers.
Reporting Frequency (post award)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report and pitch deck required upon project completion. • Post-award completion meeting • Annual surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress report at 6 months • Final report and pitch deck required upon project completion. • Post-award completion meeting • Annual surveys