



for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health, Inc.

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Alpha Foundation Grant Opportunities: Current and Future

In order to build on the solid base of initial work while also expanding opportunities for engagement, the Alpha Foundation announces its plans for continued support of research and development projects vital to meeting its mission of improving mining safety and health.

Today, the Alpha Foundation announces its third solicitation for Single Investigator Grants. These will be provided for projects involving a single lead investigator and with an expected completion within a 2-3 year timeframe at funding levels consistent with such effort. They have been previously utilized by the Alpha Foundation to address broad focus areas of research that encompass all mining sectors and include both surface and underground mining. For the current solicitation, the Foundation has targeted specific aims within each of its four focus areas that will be the preferred targets of elevated interest for research studies.

In addition, the Alpha Foundation plans to expand its grantmaking activity by utilizing other funding mechanisms. While these have not been finalized and are subject to change, preliminary information is being provided at this time to enable the mining safety and health research community as well as complementary groups to plan accordingly.

Two prospective areas of grantmaking are:

- Collaborative Project Grants: These grants will be designed to bring expertise from different groups, organizations, and disciplines together to address specific mining safety and health research topics in 3-4 year projects involving research teams of two or more investigators with expertise in mining safety and health from one or more non-profit organizations. In some cases, the teams would include complementary expertise in areas such as occupational safety and health, data analytics, robotics, etc. as dictated by project topic. The complex nature of modern mining often requires a holistic approach to promote solutions or advancements in mine safety and health. The approach in this area of grantmaking will bring groups together to interact and provide a better opportunity through synergistic efforts to solve challenging mine problems. The Alpha Foundation will consider different models for research execution, including a "Center of Excellence" approach to bring the best talent together and fund a cohesive set of project efforts that address a common specific aim or group of tightly related specific aims that are focused around a common goal.

- Research Challenge Grants: These will be provided to individuals or teams in a two phase model involving funding to develop a proof of concept followed by funding to advance the most promising concepts toward a prototype design, with the latter being selected from the initial group of concepts. This approach seeks to develop new technologies or innovative solutions to specific safety and health hazards in mining, similar in principal to DARPA or NASA initiatives. The expected outcome will be a tangible technology, device, or design tool that previously did not exist or has been transformed to provide a capability that previously was unavailable. While funding can only be provided to non-profit organizations due to Alpha Foundation restrictions, collaborative efforts with industry will be acceptable and encouraged.

For further information:

www.alpha-foundation.org