



for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health, Inc.

February 22, 2017

Alpha Foundation Announces Two New Solicitations

Today, the Alpha Foundation announces two new solicitations for research and development projects vital to meeting its mission of improving mining safety and health. Building on a solid base of prior and ongoing work, these solicitations seek to engage the broader research community in meeting mining safety technology development needs as well as to address mining health-related problems.

Solicitation AFC518, “Technology Development Projects”, offers funding for proof-of-concept of a proposed technology at the laboratory level. The intent and required outcome for projects funded through this solicitation is to build some tangible device, instrument, or machine that will improve mining safety and health. If the proof-of-concept is successful, the grantee will have the opportunity to apply for a second grant for a multi-year effort with significant additional funding to advance the concept to a working prototype and validate its capability through a high fidelity simulated or real operational environment. The Alpha Foundation is allocating \$3.5 million for this proof-of-concept technology development solicitation. It is expected that as many as 20 qualified proof-of-concept concept grants with a maximum funding level of \$175,000 per grant will be funded for a development period of up to 18 months. Significant additional funding, up to \$1.5 million per project, will be allocated to fund successful concepts in a second prototype development and demonstration phase.

Solicitation AFC618, “Exploratory Research Projects Regarding Mining-Related Health Problems”, will provide funding for novel, exploratory and developmental research efforts that challenge accepted paradigms in an effort that can lead to innovative solutions to mining health problems. While the identification of causal factors and exposure-response relationships are of major interest to the Alpha Foundation, special attention will be given to studies that have potential for contributing to or leading to an intervention. The duration of these projects will be up to 18 months and will be funded at levels up to \$150,000. The Foundation is allocating up to \$2 million total for this solicitation and anticipates funding as many as 15 grants. The Alpha Foundation recognizes that there are limits to what can be accomplished with this project duration and funding level. Projects that convincingly provide the basis for subsequent work likely to achieve advances in preventing mining injuries or illnesses will be invited to submit a proposal to request additional funding to further advance the findings or developments.

Proposals for projects that address the needs of these solicitations are due by 5 PM EDT on Friday, April 28, 2017. All proposals must be submitted through the Alpha Foundation Grant Management System. Further details on the solicitation are posted on the Alpha Foundation website at www.alpha-foundation.org or can be obtained by contacting grants@alpha-foundation.org via e-mail.