

# 2008 Request for Proposals

## Florida Citrus Advanced Technology Program



### Control of Citrus Greening, Canker and Emerging Diseases of Citrus

# Request for Proposals

The Florida Citrus Advanced Technology Program (FCATP) is sponsored by the Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council (FCPRAC). The objective of this program is to apply new technologies to protect and improve the profitability of the Florida citrus industry.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

A Pre-proposal Summary is required of those who plan to submit proposals to the FCATP (see section on Application and Submission Information).

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP should not exceed 3 years in duration.

Awardees are encouraged to establish regular contact with the FCATP staff and potential industry partners to ensure that potential disease interventions identified in the course of research receive early attention for further development and possible commercial application.

Quarterly status updates and annual reports will be required of all awardees.

## Supported Areas of Research

Currently, the citrus industry faces serious threats of production loss from infectious diseases, particularly from the citrus greening disease or huanglongbing (HLB). Citrus greening is believed to be caused by a fastidious bacterium belonging to the genus *Liberibacter*. The FCATP seeks to stimulate research leading to the immediate field evaluation of interventions that will break the citrus greening disease cycle. The following are research topics that will be given consideration by the FCATP:

1. **Citrus Greening Priority Topics** Upon the request of the Florida Department of Citrus, the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies convened a panel of experts in April 2008 to prioritize Citrus Greening research topics. The resulting priority list is posted at the following URL:

<http://www.fcprac.com/nas-proposal-2008.html>

It is anticipated that the majority of the funding will be directed towards proposals that address these topics.

2. **New Ideas for Citrus Greening Intervention** The FCPRAC welcomes proposals based on novel methods or approaches that have not been previously used for the control of plant disease, if supported by a solid scientific rationale.
3. **Citrus Canker and Emerging Diseases** Canker is another serious disease caused by a bacterium from the genus *Xanthomonas*, which is now endemic to the state. FCPRAC calls for proposals to address the control of Citrus Canker disease and to anticipate effective preparation and responses to future disease threats.
4. **Economic Research** The FCPRAC welcomes proposals for integrating epidemiological data and economic analysis to create models for understanding or predicting the economic impact of disease on the sustainability and profitability of the citrus industry.

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## Timeline

**June 16, 2008** Request for Proposals Announcement  
**July 14, 2008** Pre-proposal Summary Submission Deadline  
**August 1, 2008** Comments on Pre-proposals sent to Applicants  
**September 5, 2008** Proposal Submission Deadline  
**October 31, 2008** Award Notification from FCPRAC  
**November 21, 2008** Start Date for Projects

## Funding

Individual award amounts are unspecified. The FCPRAC is allocating up to \$20M in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009. The program will fund projects of up to 3 years duration, with preference given to projects whose level of effort and time-to-results are commensurate with the urgency of the disease threats facing the industry. Continued funding will be contingent upon the submission of brief quarterly written status updates and annual reports that show satisfactory progress. Indirect costs will not be funded and should not be included in the budget.

## Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by any appropriate research institution or organization: academic, private, non-profit, commercial, federal or state and by individuals of any citizenship or residency, from any location.

## Application and Submission Information

### I. Submission Instructions

A single-page Pre-proposal Summary is required of those who plan to submit a proposal to the FCATP. The Pre-proposal Summary form, Cover Sheet, and Budget Form can be downloaded at the following URL:

<http://www.fcprac.com/nas-proposal-2008.html>

Pre-proposal summaries should be submitted to: [citrusproposals@nas.edu](mailto:citrusproposals@nas.edu)

Pre-proposal summaries will be reviewed by NRC staff in order to determine the review panel expertise requirements and also by the FCATP staff in order to provide guidance in the final proposal preparation, as applicable.

All required documents should be submitted on the deadline and to the contact person specified in this announcement (see Section III. Submission Deadlines).



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Correspondence from NRC and FCATP staff regarding submissions will be sent via e-mail; therefore, applicants are strongly advised to provide accurate e-mail addresses.

## II. Proposal Format and Content

Proposals should be written in the English language and submitted as e-mail attachments in portable document format (pdf). Page margins should be 1-inch on all four sides. Use Times New Roman or a similar font set to 12-point and 1.5 line spacing. Page numbers should be placed on the lower right hand corner with the PI's last name and the page number (for example, Rogers-2).

Each proposal is required to have the following:

1. **Cover Sheet** (located at <http://www.fcprac.com/nas-proposal-2008.html>)
2. **Abstract/Project Summary** The abstract/project summary must not exceed 300 words. It should include the title, statement of the problem, a brief description of proposed solution to problem, and methodology.
3. **Project Narrative** The narrative should not exceed 15 pages and should include the following:
  - i. **Introduction** (should include the statement of the research question/problem, a review of relevant state-of-the-art technologies, ongoing research related to the proposed project, research goals/objectives).
  - ii. **Relevance of project to the program objective**
  - iii. **Experimental Approach** (proposed activities or sequence of activities to obtain results, methodology/techniques, how results will be assessed or analyzed, expected outcomes, scope of the study).
  - iv. **Practical Application** (how research findings can be used to devise disease intervention methods).
  - v. **Cost/Benefit Analysis** of proposed intervention, if applicable.
4. **Principal Investigator/Project Director and Key Personnel CVs**
5. **Budget Form and Budget Justification**

(located at <http://www.fcprac.com/nas-proposal-2008.html>)

6. **Literature Cited**

## III. Submission Deadlines

The Pre-proposal Summary must be received by the NRC by July 14, 2008 (5 pm Eastern Standard Time). Upon submission of the Pre-proposal Summary, the FCATP staff will provide additional proposal guidance, as applicable, no later than August 1, 2008. The proposal must be received by the NRC by COB on September 5, 2008 (5 pm, Eastern Standard Time). Send proposals to:

[citrusproposals@nas.edu](mailto:citrusproposals@nas.edu)

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## IV. Proposal Acceptance

Proposals may not be considered for review and funding if 1) Preproposal summaries were not submitted for review by NRC and FCATP staff, 2) proposals were not received by the deadline indicated in this announcement; 3) formatting guidelines (font size, page limitations, page/line numbering, etc) were not followed, and 4) any of the required documents (cover sheet, budget information, CVs of PIs/PDs etc.) are missing.

### Proposal Review Information: General

Proposals will be evaluated first for compliance with administrative requirements and then reviewed by a panel assembled by the NRC for technical and scientific merit. The NRC panel will review proposals based on the evaluation criteria provided in the next section.

### Review Criteria

1. **Proposal Relevance** Clear articulation of objectives; relevance to the FCATP focus areas; strength of rationale; practical application.
2. **Proposal Quality** Appropriateness of experimental approach/methodology; consistency of timelines and milestones with nature of project and level of effort; feasibility/probability of success.
3. **Personnel, Facilities and Budget** Appropriateness and relevance of expertise involved; experience of key personnel; appropriateness of research facilities; appropriateness of budget.

### Proposal Review Confidentiality

Proposals will not be available to the public; however, information from the proposals will be described in the recommendation of the NRC panel to the FCPRAC. Do not include proprietary information in the proposal. If you believe disclosure of proprietary information is essential to the evaluation of the proposal, please describe the circumstances of your situation in a letter and send it to [citrusproposals@nas.edu](mailto:citrusproposals@nas.edu)

### Award Notification

Applicants will be notified of final funding approval by Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions of Award

Communication and close collaboration with the FCPRAC program staff is encouraged to quickly develop and commercialize promising disease interventions. Project results and data will be made available to the broader research community through the FCPRAC website and other designated websites.

Intellectual property (IP) resulting from the research will be the property of the individual, institution, or corporation receiving the award; however, FCPRAC will maintain a non-exclusive right to that intellectual property for use in the Florida market. FCPRAC must be notified in advance if formal IP protection will be sought. Awardees seeking to commercialize intellectual property will greatly benefit from a development partnership with the FCPRAC. Applicants are responsible for compliance with all applicable government regulations and permits.



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## Reporting Requirements

Brief, single-page quarterly updates are due on January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 and will summarize progress in the preceding 3-month calendar periods. Annual reports are due 30 days after the year anniversaries of the project awards. Awardees should detail progress towards stated milestones including a summary of the relevant intellectual property, data sharing with scientific community, and next steps toward field applications.

The quarterly updates and annual reports are to be submitted to the FCPRAC website URL:

<http://www.fcprac.com>

## For further information, please contact

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[citrusproposals@nas.edu](mailto:citrusproposals@nas.edu)

# Notes

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FLORIDA CITRUS PRODUCTION RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL  
2008 Proposal Submission Guidelines  
June 2008

Chairman Peter McClure  
Staff Barbara Thompson

[WWW.FCPRAC.COM](http://WWW.FCPRAC.COM)

This document is dedicated to the many hard-working researchers,  
FCPRAC Council members and the CREC Word Processing Department  
who invest their time and energy into serving the Florida citrus industry.

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