



Guidelines for FLOW Rocket Fund Applications – 2018

Awards: \$10,000 - \$75,000, with the opportunity for renewal

Eligibility: Incorporated or in process; validated lab technology; raised no more than \$750,000 equity investment; students or new graduates encouraged; fits technology scope of the Fund; Participating in the FLOW business plan competition an advantage; national and international qualify as long as entity has interest in establishing California presence.

Scope: The Rocket Fund provides competitive grants for funding prototype development in cleantech startups. Rocket Fund covers: Initial product design; commercial design engineering; prototype build out; field testing; equipment purchase; and mentoring consultation for scale up and manufacturing.

Topics: 1) Energy Efficiency; Demand Response; Smart and Microgrid; Data Analytics and Energy Management; (Some topics of interest to utilities: see <http://www.FLOW.caltech.edu/etcc-3>) 2) Renewables and 3) Agriculture/Water Energy Nexus.

Intellectual Property: All teams intending to apply for an award must sign and submit **IP Declaration** and **IP Disclosure** forms at the time of entry, and e-mail them to the FLOW Office, C/O Stephanie C. Yanchinski, stephanie.yanchinski@caltech.edu. If you have applied for patents it is vitally important that the origin, ownership and status of IP be clarified at the time of application. If your technology is university-derived, teams must notify your faculty advisor, PI and technology transfer offices of your intention to apply.

Mentoring: Teams must demonstrate they are working with mentors that will help them achieve their Rocket Fund milestones or [request a mentor](#). All FLOW applicants must submit a **Mentor Request Form** at the time of submission.

IN-LA I-Corps Webinar Series: All FLOW Rocket Fund Applicants will be considered for the IN-LA I-Corps Webinar Series [link to updated flier page] http://www.FLOW.caltech.edu/resources/documents/2016/2016_FLOW_IN-LA_Flier.pdf. All FLOW teams that successfully complete the educational program will qualify to apply for an additional \$50,000 in NSF I-Corps Team grants. The IN-LA leadership will evaluate and sponsor selected teams.

Timelines for Rocket Fund 2018: Rocket Fund applications will be open January 1 – March 31, 2018 and July 1 – September 31, 2018. Note: Rocket Fund applications will be accepted at any time. The review process and awarding of grants follow closure of the application process. Register with FLOW for announcements: FLOWinfo@caltech.edu.

The FLOW Business Plan Competition:

All Rocket Fund applicants and awardees are invited to participate in the FLOW's DOE/Cleantech UP competition and win \$100,000+ in prizes as well as in-kind legal help, and Start-Up ANSYS engineering design software, boot camp programs and leads to manufacturing and scale up support and facilities. FLOW's top team will compete with seven other regional winners at the DOE's National Cleantech UP competition in June, 2018. For more information click on [FLOW Competition](#) or contact the FLOW office stephanie.yanchinski@caltech.edu 626-818-5092.