

## 2024 University Academic Alliance in Taiwan (UAAT)-University of Illinois System (U of I) Joint Research Project Call for Proposal

UAAT and U of I have launched the Joint Research Project for institutional research scientists. This program aims to facilitate both research and development collaboration and the delivery of talent, innovations, and resources from universities/institutions to impactful contributions, building foundations for the future Grand Challenge Project collaborations. The goal is to promote economic and societal development through the research and development of innovative technologies, while facilitating collaboration between the two entities.

UAAT and U of I together expect to fund a number of selected proposals and offer **up to USD \$150,000 (approximately NTD \$4,800,000) per selected proposal combined**. In other words, each entity will offer **up to USD \$75,000 (approximately NTD \$2,400,000) per selected proposal**. Applications should be jointly submitted by both UAAT and U of I faculty. The UAAT Secretariat and the U of I Office of the Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation (OVPEDI) will administer the program.

### 1. Solicitation Areas

1.1 Priority focus areas for the program include **Next-generation Semiconductor (+Quantum), AI & Data for Human Well-Being, and Sustainability**. (See Attachment 1 for key topics in each area)

### 2. Eligibility

2.1 Both UAAT and U of I applicants must be full-time, tenure-track faculty members for the duration of the funding period.

2.2 Each project must have at least one UAAT principal investigator (PI) and one U of I PI.

2.3 Each project must include participation of at least two UAAT member universities and one U of I member university/institution (including the universities to which the PIs belong). The list of member universities in UAAT and member institutes in U of I can be found in Attachment 2.

### 3. Funding Information

3.1 Total funding available for this joint call is USD \$1,200,000, approximately NTD \$38,400,000, shared equally by UAAT and U of I.

3.2 Funding amount per selected proposal is up to USD \$150,000, approximately NTD \$4,800,000. In other words, each party will offer up to USD \$75,000, approximately NTD \$2,400,000, per selected proposal.

3.3 Each selected proposal will receive an even distribution of funding from UAAT and U of I to their respective PI.

3.4 The actual amount of funding available and the number of projects funded in will be reviewed and determined by mutual agreement between UAAT and U of I.

- 3.5 Funding period is one year, starting from December 1 in 2024 and ending on November 30 in 2025. Unless jointly approved by the coordinators, there will be no extensions beyond this timeframe.
- 3.6 Funding not spent by the end of the funding period must be returned so that unspent balances can be re-allocated.
- 3.7 Funding covers international travel by university/institution faculty members and students, hosting scholars from the other university (daily stipends in principle), international events, meetings, personnel expenses for postdocs and student (no faculty salaries), supplies, research equipment, and additional expenses that are necessary to facilitate the advancement of research.
- 3.8 Funding does not cover indirect cost recoveries (ICR).
- 3.9 Funding should only be utilized for the selected proposal and approved budget plan.
- 3.10 All expenses must comply with the guidelines of the respective parties to which reimbursement is to be sought.

#### 4. Application Information

- 4.1 All proposals must be jointly submitted by both UAAT faculty member(s) and U of I faculty member(s).
- 4.2 All proposals must address the importance and significance of the project, technical details, overall planning, the clarification of intellectual property rights that are likely to be generated (position and strategy), and plans for future developments of the collaboration project at the end of this project that are envisioned.
- 4.3 To promote international academia-industry collaboration, collaboration and partnership with industries (e.g., in forms of providing matching fund, internship, R&D collaboration, joint workforce/talent development etc.) in the project are encouraged. Higher priority will be given to proposals that include corporate/industry partners and university-industry collaboration.
- 4.4 All proposals should clearly explain the motivation for holding the activity, including how the relevant UAAT and U of I institutes or departments are involved and can benefit in the long term from this cooperation and what synergies can arise.
- 4.5 Proposed activities should have a clearly defined focus with scientific and technical merit, demonstrate innovation and economic/societal impact, and serve as a catalyst for moving research forward to a path of Grand Challenge project.
- 4.6 Proposed activities can take place either at UAAT or U of I.
- 4.7 Proposed activities' inclusion of third parties is permitted; however, the additional costs must be covered by these parties themselves.
- 4.8 Please refer to the **Attachment 3 for the Proposal Template**.



4.9 To apply, joint project proposals should be submitted to [the online application system](#) by September 20th, 2024.

4.10 Late application will not be considered.

**5. Selection and Result Notification**

5.1 Proposal selection will be made by a joint selection committee consisting of UAAT and U of I representatives.

5.2 Selection of representatives will be coordinated by the UAAT Secretariat and the U of I System OVPEDI.

5.3 The joint selection committee reserves the authority over the proposal selection, taking into account strategic priorities and the availability of funding.

5.4 Higher priority will be given to proposals that include corporate/industry partners. Letters of intent (support) from industry partners should be included as clear indication.

5.5 Funding will be provided on a competitive basis, following the selection criteria below:

Criterion	%
1) Scientific merit, technical merit, excellence of innovation potential, potential impact	40%
2) Clear plan and goals for the activity during the one-year program	20%
3) Description of the UAAT and U of I PI's research profiles (excellence of project leaders, scope of the fields/labs represented in the proposed activity) and synergy between them	20%
4) Information on how the cooperation can be sustained beyond the initial funding phase, plans for securing funding for the project at the end of this grant, and other forms of future development (e.g., commercialization, economic impacts etc.) that are envisioned. Suitable outline of how the future development or the generation of the listed benefits will be achieved, if applicable. Plans to assess and validate the quality and effectiveness of the project's outcomes. Higher priority will be given to proposals that include corporate/industry partners and university-industry collaboration.	20%

5.6 Successful applicants will receive a letter of award outlining the process to accept the funding.

5.7 Feedback on individual applications will not be provided.

**6. Intellectual Property**

6.1 For purposes of this program, intellectual property will remain with the university that generated such intellectual property (what's mine is mine, and what's yours is yours).

6.2 In the event that new intellectual property will be generated jointly by the universities/institutions from the program, both sides will agree to reach a mutually beneficial agreement with respect to intellectual property ownership, management, protection and further development and exploitation.

## 7. Recipient Obligation

- 7.1 Recipients must mention the funding in all appropriate media, including any events arising from activities supported by this funding should include an acknowledgment of “UAAT-U of I Joint Research Project” and any publications/presentations arising from activities supported by this funding should include acknowledgment of “This publication/presentation is supported in part by the Joint Research Project between University Academic Alliance in Taiwan and the University of Illinois System.”
- 7.2 Recipients must submit a summary report/presentation two months upon the end of the funding period.
- 7.3 Recipients must comply with all relevant laws and university regulations, including those relating to intellectual property, codes of conduct, etc.

## 8. Important Dates

Milestones	Dates
Call for Proposals published	July 1, 2024
RSVP for Information and Partnering Webinar RSVP at <a href="https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/694334654">https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/694334654</a>	July 15, 2024
Submit slides for optional two-minute talk during Webinar	July 20, 2024
Information and Partnering Webinar (Optional participation)	July 23, 2024 at 8 – 9 pm (Central Daylight Time) July 24, 2024 at 9 - 10 am (Taiwan Standard Time)
Project proposal submission deadline	September 20, 2024
Announcement of awards	November 2024
Proposed activities commence	December 1, 2024

## 9. Coordinator

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## 10. Attachments

- 1 - Key topics in each solicitation area
- 2 - List of member universities in UAAT and member institutes in U of I System
- 3 - Proposal Template