



SUNY TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATOR FUND CLASS OF 2025 SOLICITATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

Pre-Proposals accepted through Wednesday, April 30, 2025 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Invited Full Proposals accepted through Friday, June 6, 2025 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund (“TAF”) provides funding to support the translation of SUNY research-derived innovations into commercial products which promise to make the world a better place for all. Since its launch in 2011, TAF has successfully advanced the commercial readiness of more than 70 SUNY innovations and catalyzed over \$16 million in follow-on investments. In most cases, research-derived innovations emanating from academic labs lack the critical proof-of-concept data needed to attract development support and investment by potential licensees or investors. TAF seeks to bridge this gap by providing financial support to enable and/or accelerate the completion of critical milestones needed to demonstrate the commercial viability of a given innovation. The aim is to identify opportunities where targeted investments will provide significant impacts on making SUNY innovations available to the public. Different from fundamental research, TAF investments support proof-of-concept and technology development projects to validate the commercial viability of SUNY technology. TAF’s goal is to facilitate the translation of SUNY technology into marketable products and/or services by growing strategic academic-industry partnerships, catalyzing follow-on investment, and building new entrepreneurial ventures.

TOPIC AREAS AND FUNDING TRACKS *(EXPANDED FOR 2025)*

Funding Track 1 – Open TAF

Open TAF is open to any high-potential SUNY technology that uniquely addresses an acute problem within a supportive market. Open TAF is the traditional TAF program format that has operated since 2011.

SUNY intends to fund up to seven (7) projects under the Open TAF topic.

Funding Track 2 – Mission TAF

SUNY and the Griffiss Institute (“GI”), a nonprofit talent and technology accelerator for the United States Department of Defense (“DoD”), are proud announce Mission TAF, a defense-focused technology proof-of-concept fund to revolutionize the defense industrial base by fast-tracking cutting-edge innovations being developed across SUNY to solve the DoD’s toughest challenges. This high-impact initiative identifies, funds, and scales breakthrough solutions that enhance national security and economic competitiveness. By uniting top innovators at SUNY, industry leaders, and government partners, Mission TAF is igniting a new era of defense technology to outpace emerging threats and help secure the future. For the purposes of Mission TAF, SUNY and GI are interested in funding proposals within four technology areas:

1. Quantum Science
2. Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) and Autonomy
3. Integrated Network Systems-of-Systems
4. Integrated Sensing and Cyber

Technologies and innovators funded through Mission TAF will receive additional support from GI to connect with partners from the defense industrial base to support further commercialization of funded innovations. More details on the specific technology focus areas can be found in Appendix A of this document.

SUNY and GI intend to fund up to four (4) projects under the Mission TAF topic.

FUNDING

Each award will be up to \$50,000 for both the Open TAF and Mission TAF topics with individual projects receiving support at the level deemed necessary to achieve the proposed project objectives.

DISBURSEMENT AND USE OF FUNDS

Funds are awarded to the Principal Investigator (“PI”) for direct project costs for a period of up to twelve (12) months. Funding will be released in tranches upon successful completion of project milestones. Milestones must be tangible with objectively measurable endpoints that are proposed to overcome one or more specific, identifiable, and externally validated hurdles to commercialization.

Funds awarded through Open TAF or Mission TAF cannot be used for tuition, construction, renovation, legal fees, patent costs, or permits. Funds may be used for salary and fringe benefits for project personnel if a definitive need is outlined in the submitted proposal and if securing the required personnel will not significantly delay the overall project. All funds must be used solely for the project described in the application and negotiated in the TAF Funding Agreement.

TAF awards are intended to close the gap between research and commercialization; therefore, TAF projects need not be restricted to laboratory research. Allowable expenditures of TAF funding include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Materials;
- Supplies;
- Travel;
- Prototype development; and
- Independent contracting.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Proposals will be accepted from all fields of research in which the proposed project fulfills the goals and funding priorities of the program outlined above. Additionally, proposals must meet both the proposer and project eligibility requirements as outlined in this section. To be considered eligible for funding, both the PI and proposed project must meet the following criteria:

Proposer Eligibility

- Only SUNY faculty, staff, and students are eligible to apply for TAF funding. Pre-Proposals must be submitted by the PI. Full Proposals must be endorsed and submitted by the campus RF Operations Manager or designee.
- The PI must have an open and active invention disclosure on file with their respective Technology Transfer Office (“TTO”) upon which the proposed project will be based, and said disclosure must have been submitted by the deadline for submission of Pre-Proposals. Pre-Proposal applications will not move forward if a disclosure has not been filed with their institution’s TTO.

Project Eligibility

- The technology which provides the basis for the proposal must not be exclusively licensed to an entity other than a SUNY-affiliated startup or small business, or encumbered by any other prior obligations that would preclude unencumbered commercialization (i.e., sponsored research agreement, ongoing collaboration with an industrial partner, consulting agreement, etc.). Please note that technologies that have been optioned or non-exclusively licensed may be eligible for TAF funding, depending on the circumstances.
- If the intellectual property surrounding the invention disclosure is co-owned with another academic institution, SUNY must be the lead institution under a fully executed Inter-Institutional Agreement or similar agreement. PIs should contact their respective TTO if they are unsure about the intellectual property ownership status of their invention.
- Funds received through a TAF grant cannot be used for basic research or as general funding for the PI’s lab. Project proposals should specifically address how achieving identified project milestones will move the invention towards commercialization.
- Project milestones and deliverables must be achievable within twelve (12) months of the start of funding and within the requested budget.
- Startups or small businesses are not eligible for consideration of TAF funding through either topic.
- Previously funded TAF projects are eligible for TAF funding under the Open TAF or Mission TAF topics so long as the eligibility criteria are met.
- Applicants can only apply for one of the topics, Open TAF or Mission TAF, and TAF personnel reserve the right to reclassify applicants’ proposals to the appropriate topic if needed.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their interest in submitting a Pre-Proposal with their respective TTO or designated representative prior to preparing and submitting a Pre-Proposal Application to ensure that it meets the eligibility requirements and that it is likely to receive institutional support.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All applications will be reviewed for compliance according to the eligibility criteria identified in the previous section. Noncompliant applications will be rejected without further review. An External Review Committee (“ERC”) comprised of business and technical experts, investors, and venture development professionals will evaluate the invited Full Proposals based on a combination of factors, heavily weighted by the probability of commercial success and the likelihood that TAF funding can positively influence a successful

outcome. The ERC will advise the TAF Managing Director regarding funding recommendations. Projects enabling near term (e.g., within six (6) to twelve (12) months) commercialization events will be prioritized for TAF funding. See Appendixes D and E for the Open TAF and Mission TAF scoring rubrics, respectively.

Competitive Full Proposals will clearly and substantively address the questions and categories listed below. The ERC and TAF Managing Director and other reviewers will consider the answers to these questions when making final investment decisions.

The Market Opportunity: Has a specific market need been identified? Is the need aligned with an acute problem faced by many/most market participants? Is the intended market large and growing? Does the market structure support or discourage new products and/or new company entrants (# of participants, regulatory environment, capital intensity, value chain, supply chain, etc.)? How have the market size and need been validated (i.e., customer or industry outreach)? Has any member of the proposed project team (or startup team) participated in any formal customer discovery training and outreach, through an National Science Foundation I-Corps Node, I-Corps Site, etc.? Who was contacted and what is their feedback? Have any potential licensees expressed interest? What specific feedback from a licensee is available? If a startup company will be established, what would be the potential market entry point and initial target market(s)?

The Technology: How does the technology uniquely address the market need? What product or process will the technology be incorporated into? What market-leading and/or state-of-the-art solution does the technology promise to displace (in some/all applications)? What specific customer metrics will be improved? What are the primary outstanding technical risks? What is the status of any intellectual property protection (e.g., patent applications, issued patents, registered copyrights or marks)? What specifically do(es) the patent(s) allow the market to do that others cannot? What technical challenges will the proposed TAF project help overcome?

The Commercialization Opportunity: How do you envision the product development and commercialization path? What are the primary product development milestones and timeline (starting from current state and progressing until commercialization)? What are the primary barriers to commercialization (technical and non-technical)? What technical or other commercialization risks will be addressed and mitigated with the requested TAF funding? How does the proposed TAF project support the commercialization strategy? How did customer, partner, and/or end-user feedback inform the commercialization plan for the technology and/or the aims of the proposed project?

The Commitment: What commitment of resources (e.g., patent expenditures, equipment, prototyping, testing, etc.) has the campus or a third-party made to support the technology development and/or TAF project? What steps have or will the campus and project team take to secure the commitment of a third-party to support the commercialization and development of the technology post-TAF?

The Team: Does the proposed project team have a successful track record of working together? Why is the project team well-suited for the proposed project? How are current team members interacting with relevant leading researchers and scientists? Who is advising the project team with respect to commercialization?

For Mission TAF Only: Assuming successful commercialization, how would your innovation affect one or more strategic DoD objective(s)?

APPLICATION/PROPOSAL PROCESS

All individuals intending to participate in Open TAF or Mission TAF are strongly encouraged to contact their respective campus TTOs immediately to formally express their interest, ensure compliance with all campus specific TAF proposal submission requirements, and clarify any questions related to the invention status of their technology.

The submission and review of proposals will consist of a three-stage process:

1. Pre-Proposal submission to and screening by TAF personnel.

The first stage is required of all applicants who wish to be considered for support through the TAF Class of 2025. Submission of Pre-Proposals must take place on or before the published deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2. Full Proposal submission to and evaluation by ERC.

The second stage will take place only for those who submitted a conforming Pre-Proposal and who are invited to submit a Full Proposal. Full Proposals will be reviewed by the External Review Committee.

Full Proposal applicants, especially those who have not previously participated in commercialization training (e.g., National Science Foundation I-Corps) are strongly encouraged to participate in a 90-minute virtual Full Proposal preparation and ERC presentation workshop offered by TAF personnel.

3. Virtual presentation to the ERC.

The final stage applies to all applicants who have been invited to submit Full Proposals. The virtual presentation to the ERC is required for all Full Proposal invitees to be considered for TAF funding.

For Mission TAF Only: A separate ERC comprised of specifically of select subject matter experts from the DoD will review invited Full Proposals and participate in the virtual presentation for the Mission TAF topic.

Application Details

Pre-Proposal Application (Accepted through Wednesday, April 30, 2025 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time)

The Pre-Proposal will be comprised of:

1. A two-page written application submitted using the TAF Pre-Proposal application form, see Appendix B.
2. A short slide deck (10-slide, 20-point font max) addressing the key questions and categories outlined in the Evaluation Criteria section of this document.

After an initial review of the Pre-Proposal submissions by TAF personnel, a subset of submissions that have met all of the eligibility requirements will advance to the second and final stage where they will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. The purpose of this initial review is to limit the number of Full Proposal submissions

to those that are relatively strongest, thereby limiting the time and effort of applicants unlikely to receive funding. PIs whose Pre-Proposal failed to advance will be notified, and, if applicable, invited to resubmit in a future round of TAF.

Full Proposal Application (Invited Applicants Only, accepted through Friday, June 6, 2025 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time)

The Full Proposal will be comprised of:

1. A five-page written application using the TAF Full Proposal application form, see Appendix C.
2. Up to two relevant letters of support from development partners, investors, or customers/end-users.
3. A three-minute video summarizing the commercialization opportunity.
4. In addition, invited Full Proposal applicants may choose to update the slide deck that was submitted as part of their Pre-Proposal Application.

The Full Proposal written application involves a more detailed explanation of both the proposed project, including a detailed, milestone-based budget and timeline, and how it will enhance and/or accelerate the commercialization potential of the underlying technology. Full Proposals that meet both the content and formatting requirements will need to be completed and submitted on or before the published deadline for the round. Applications that fail to meet the requirements or which are submitted past the published deadline will not be reviewed.

Up to two letters of support should be included with the Full Proposal. The letters should help confirm the market problem, validate that market participants agree that the proposed solution is needed and competitive, or endorse how successful completion of the project plan will: (a) facilitate the formation of an investible startup company or small business that will further develop and commercialize the technology; or (b) enable an innovation to become more attractive for licensing and/or partnering with established companies.

Applicants invited to submit a Full Proposal will also need to record and submit a video summarizing the commercialization opportunity of the subject innovation as part of their application.

Applicants invited to submit a Full Proposal will also be required to deliver a 10-minute presentation to the ERC, followed by a 10-minute question and answer period with the ERC virtually through a video conferencing platform. The primary purpose of the presentation is to provide an opportunity for the ERC to seek clarifying information about the application. Please note, this is not intended to be an academic presentation of the science behind the underlying technology. Instead, the presentation should briefly describe the technology and focus on the commercial opportunity, including how the proposed milestones will facilitate commercialization. Applicants invited to submit a Full Proposal are required to prepare for the presentation through participation in a workshop offered by TAF personnel and practice presentation sessions. A presentation template will be provided in advance for applicants invited to submit a Full Proposal.

Following final presentations, ERC members will score presentations against a standard scoring rubric (see Attachments D and E for Open TAF and Mission TAF scoring rubrics, respectively), provide feedback to applicants, and make funding suggestions to the TAF Managing Director. Full Proposal applicants will be notified within two (2) weeks following final presentations. The funding decision can include:

1. Fund proposal in full as-is;
2. Fund proposal for a subset of milestones; and/or

3. Suggest alternate milestones or different funding levels.

Post-Award Activities

Post-Award Requirements – In addition to utilizing the funds to meet the milestones and/or deliverables as approved by the ERC, awardees will be required to participate in and adhere to the following post-award activities.

Conflict of Interest Management – Awardees will be required to address any conflicts and execute a conflict management plan, if necessary. Awardees will also need to sign an acknowledgement addressing restrictions on funds and obligations. Completion of these items is mandatory; funds will not be released until these items have been satisfactorily addressed.

Milestone Reports – A Milestone Report must be submitted to the TAF Program Manager upon completion of a milestone. The Milestone Report should identify the milestone(s) and/or deliverable(s) that were met (or not met) and provide a summary of all applicable data and results. In addition, and only if applicable, the Milestone Report should update the status of industry engagement and/or entrepreneurial interest. The purpose of the Milestone Report is to provide information back to the TAF Program Manager on whether the next funding tranche should be released as well as general feedback on how the program is facilitating the commercialization of a given technology. In cases where the data is inconclusive or subject to interpretation, the TAF Program Manager, at his or her discretion, may engage a third party (e.g. External Review Committee member) for feedback in deciding whether or not the next tranche of funds should be released.

Interim Progress Reports – If, for example, there are more than 2 months between scheduled Milestone Reports, the Program Manager may include a schedule for Interim Progress Reports in the funding agreement.

Final Report – Provided that a project was not terminated following receipt and review of an Interim Report, a Final Report summarizing completion of previous milestones as well as providing details specific to progress towards and/or completion of the final milestone must be submitted to the TAF Program Manager at the conclusion of the award period. Any requests for extensions must be made prior to the conclusion of the award period.

Post-Award Reporting – For a period of at least 5 years, awardees and their respective home institution will be required to submit annual reports identifying the following information with respect to each subject technology that has received TAF funds:

- New patents filed.
- Options and licenses executed.
- Startups formed.
- Federal, foundation, and industry funding, including subcontracted amounts, whether received by the home institution or startup licensee.
- License and equity revenue to home institution.
- Private investment in startup licensee.
- Jobs created by startup licensee.

Release of Award Funds – The first tranche of a TAF award will be released as soon as practicable after awards are announced and are contingent on completing and submitting the required documentation to the TAF Program Manager. As a result, PIs must not spend any funds prior to actual disbursement and receipt into the PI's project account.

The initial disbursement will be based on the budget approved to accomplish the first funded milestone. The release of additional funds will be contingent upon and triggered by demonstration of successful achievement of the stipulated milestones and/or deliverables, as evidenced in the Milestone Reports. Failure to provide timely reports demonstrating the progress on and/or completion of the stipulated milestones and/or deliverables may result in delay of payment and potential termination of the project. In the event the reported results are less than convincing or indicate a failure and/or inability to achieve a successful outcome for a given milestone, the project may be terminated with no further funding provided. The failed milestone and any subsequent milestones that were not funded are eligible for consideration in a future proposal provided that the PI can provide convincing support for why the milestone is likely to be successfully achieved.

Requests for Extensions – Requests for (unfunded) extensions may be made on a milestone-by-milestone basis. Approval of such requests is solely at the discretion of the TAF Managing Director. However, in no event will the sum of extensions for any given award exceed twelve (12) months. Repeated extension requests may jeopardize approval and funding of subsequent milestones.

The deadline to submit Pre-Proposals for consideration to the Open TAF and Mission TAF topics is **Wednesday, April 30, 2025 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time.**

The deadline for invited applicants to submit Full Proposals to the Open TAF and Mission TAF topics is **Friday, June 6, 2025 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time.**

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

The PI and project staff of any awards funded through TAF shall abide by all SUNY policies, with particular attention to the [SUNY Patents, Inventions and Copyright policy](#).

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR RESIGNATIONS AND TRANSFERS

In the event of the PI's resignation or inability to continue the project, the TAF Managing Director, in consultation with the appropriate institutional official, will evaluate the specific circumstances to determine the disposition of the remaining funds. If a PI intends to transfer to another institution, they are required to contact the TAF Managing Director, who will evaluate the specific circumstances to determine if the award is transferable.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION and QUESTIONS

Both Pre-Proposals and invited Full Proposals for TAF Class of 2025 funding should be submitted by PIs, in coordination with their campus RF Operations Manager or designee and TTO, to TAF@rfsuny.org on or before the submission deadlines. All questions regarding this program should be e-mailed to TAF@rfsuny.org or discussed with your campus TTO ahead of the submission deadlines.

Appendix A

Mission TAF Funding Topics

Quantum Science

Quantum Science is the study of physical properties at small, even atomic, scales. It holds the potential to unlock groundbreaking advancements across various fields. Key focus areas include quantum networking, quantum computing, atomic clocks, and quantum sensors, covering topics such as trapped ions, the distribution and analysis of quantum entanglement, superconducting materials, quantum interfacing, quantum transmission, and other related quantum communication technologies. Quantum computing can enable extraordinary computational speeds and solve complex analytical problems. Quantum sensors offer unprecedented accuracy in areas like position, navigation, and timing. With its ability to provide more precise information, accelerate decision-making, and enhance encryption, quantum science is poised to lead to transformative technological innovations.

Trusted AI and Autonomy

Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) is the engineering field focused on enhancing the capabilities of software applications to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. Machine learning, a subfield of AI, involves training software models using example data, simulations, or real-world experiences, rather than direct programming or coding. Autonomy refers to the engineering discipline that expands the ability of robots to perform tasks with minimal human interaction. AI has the potential to greatly enhance the performance and functionality of a wide range of systems and operations.

For AI, machine learning, and autonomous systems to be effective, they must be trustworthy and ethical. These systems must be reliable, ensuring consistent and accurate performance under all conditions. They must also be designed to operate safely, with built-in fail-safes, and be secure from attacks, data breaches, and unauthorized access. Effective human-AI collaboration and decision-making require these principles to ensure they are both beneficial and secure.

Integrated Network Systems-of-Systems

Integrated Network Systems-of-Systems technology focuses on enabling seamless communication and real-time dissemination of information across a variety of systems, ensuring effective command and control in contested environments. This capability must support the integration of diverse systems, allowing interactions between different sensors and devices. An interoperable network that utilizes emerging technologies across the electromagnetic spectrum, such as 5G, software-defined networking and radios, and modern communication tools like cloud-based collaboration platforms, data transfer technologies, and blockchain, will improve the integration of various mission systems. This will enable fully connected command, control, and communication systems that are capable, resilient, and secure.

Integrated Sensing and Cyber

To gain an advantage in complex and highly contested dynamic environments, it is essential to develop wideband sensors capable of operating at the intersection of cyberspace, electronic systems, radar, and communications. These sensors must be versatile and able to address advanced challenges, moving away from being limited to single functions or siloed applications.

Appendix B

SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund Class of 2025

Pre-Proposal Application

Application Instructions

- The **Pre-Proposal Application** must be completed electronically using this form.
- Fill in each box using the questions to guide your answers. Please Note: The box size for each section is fixed. Any text entered that cannot be seen in the allowed space will not be reviewed.
- The Pre-Proposal Application may not exceed 3 pages: this Cover Page + 2-page application.
- The document margins should NOT be changed; Font size should be Calibri, 11.
- The final document must be submitted as a signed PDF. Submit to TAF@rfsuny.org according to the SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund ("TAF") Class of 2025 Solicitation and Administrative Guidelines.

COVER PAGE

Project Title	
Funding Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Open TAF <input type="checkbox"/> Mission TAF
Participating Campus	
Tech Transfer Case Number	
Applicant Contact Information	
<i>Name</i>	
<i>Title, Department</i>	
<i>Email</i>	
<i>Phone</i>	

Acknowledgement	
I have read and understand the eligibility and program requirements set forth in the TAF Class of 2025 Solicitation and Administrative Guidelines. I acknowledge that this proposal is eligible for submission based on the criteria set forth therein. I further understand that if I am invited to submit a Full Proposal, I will be obligated to meet certain additional criteria in order to remain eligible for consideration and that there is no guarantee that the Full Proposal will be funded. Please check one of the following:	
<input type="checkbox"/> I have previously participated in the NSF I-Corps Program <input type="checkbox"/> I participated in customer discovery training (I-Corps equivalent) <input type="checkbox"/> I have not participated in I-Corps/other customer discovery activities. I am committed to participating in the I-Corps Site Program.	
Applicant Signature:	

The Market Opportunity

Guiding Questions:

- What specific market need has been identified? How large and/or widespread is the need? How acute is the underlying problem? Please quantify your answers where possible.
- How have the market size and need been validated (i.e., customer or industry outreach)?
- Has any member of the proposed project team (or startup team) participated in any formal customer discovery training and outreach either through an NSF I-Corps Node, I-Corps Site, etc.? Who was contacted and what is their feedback?
- Have any potential licensees expressed interest in the technology? What specific feedback from a licensee is available?
- If a startup company will be established, what would be the potential market entry point?
- Does the market structure support or discourage new products and/or new company entrants (# of participants, regulatory environment, capital intensity, value chain, supply chain, etc.)?

The Technology

Guiding Questions:

- What product or process do you envision the technology will eventually be incorporated into?
- How does the technology enable a solution that uniquely address the market need?
- What market-leading and/or state-of-art solution(s) does the technology promise to displace (in some/all applications)? What specific customer metrics will be improved?
- What alternate/evolving solutions are being pursued by others? Why are you likely to outcompete these alternate solutions?
- What data or evidence have you generated that gives you confidence in eventual commercial success?
- What are the primary outstanding technical risks?

Appendix C

SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund Class of 2025

Full Proposal Application

Application Instructions

- The invited **Full Proposal Application** must be completed electronically using this form.
- Fill in each box using the questions to guide your answers. Please Note: The box size for each section is fixed. Any text entered that cannot be seen in the allowed space will not be reviewed.
- The Full Proposal Application may not exceed 6 pages: this Cover Page + 5-page application.
- The document margins should NOT be changed; Font size should be Calibri, 11.
- The final document must be submitted as a signed PDF. Submit to TAF@rfsuny.org according to the SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund ("TAF") Class of 2025 Solicitation and Administrative Guidelines.

COVER PAGE

Project Title	
Funding Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Open TAF <input type="checkbox"/> Mission TAF
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I have read and understand the eligibility and program requirements set forth in the TAF Class of 2025 Solicitation and Administrative Guidelines. I acknowledge that this proposal is eligible for submission based on the criteria set forth therein. I further understand that if I am invited to submit a Full Proposal, I will be obligated to meet certain additional criteria in order to remain eligible for consideration and that there is no guarantee that the Full Proposal will be funded. Please check one of the following:	
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Applicant Signature:	

The Market Opportunity

Guiding Questions:

- What specific market need has been identified? How large and/or widespread is the need? How acute is the underlying problem? Please quantify your answers where possible.
- How have the market size and need been validated (i.e., customer or industry outreach)?
- Which potential customers and/or industry experts have been contacted? What is their feedback?
- Have any potential licensees expressed interest in the technology? What specific feedback from a licensee is available?
- Does the market structure support or discourage new products and/or new company entrants (# of participants, regulatory environment, capital intensity, value chain, supply chain, etc.)?

The Technology

Guiding Questions:

- What product or process do you envision the technology will eventually be incorporated into?
- How does the technology enable a solution that uniquely address the market need?
- Who will pay for the solution (this is your customer)? How does your customer derive value?
- What data or evidence have you generated that gives you confidence in eventual commercial success?
- What is the state of your current technology? What proof points have been demonstrated?
- What proof points needs to be demonstrated next? Why do you believe these proof points are most critical?

Competitive Approaches

Guiding Questions:

- What market-leading and/or state-of-art solution(s) does the technology promise to displace (in some/all applications)? What specific customer metrics will be improved?
- What alternate/evolving solutions are being pursued by others?
- How does your proposed solution compare vs. existing and evolving solutions when considering the metrics that are most important to the customers? Please include a competitive matrix using the following format:

	Value Element #1	Value Element #2	Value Element #3	Value Element #4
Our Solution				
Other Solution #1				
Other Solution #2				
Other Solution #3				

Commercialization Risks

Guiding Questions:

- What key risks exist today? Please consider all risks related to commercialization, even if they are outside the scope of this project (i.e. will not be mitigated as part of the project). Please consider risks related to: market, technology, value proposition, unit economics, the business model, regulatory, team, etc.

Intellectual Property Status

Guiding Questions:

- What is the status of any intellectual property protection (e.g., patent applications, issued patents, registered copyrights or marks)?
- What specifically do(es) the patents(s) allow you to do that others cannot?

Budget Summary

Budget Item (8 point font permitted)	Funds Requested	Cost Share/ Matched	Description
Personnel – Salaries/Wages			
PI(Faculty or equivalent)	n/a	\$x,xxx	Ex. Institution cost share
Name and Position			
Name and Position			
Personnel - Fringe			
Name and Position			
Name and Position			
Materials and Supplies			
Item			
Item			
Consultant/Vendor			
Testing Services	n/a	\$x,xxx	Ex: Provided by industry partner
Item			
Other Expenses			
Item			
Item			
TOTAL BUDGET			

Project Team

Please explain why your team is well-suited to succeed under the proposed project. Which external partners and/or people have been recruited or need to be recruited to help achieve success

What would you like to tell us that we didn't ask?

SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund Class of 2025

Appendix D - Open TAF Scoring Rubric

Scoring: 4 = Superior/Clear Evidence; 3 = Satisfactory/Some Evidence; 2 = Marginal/Limited Evidence; 1 = Unsatisfactory/No Evidence

Project Title:		
PI:		
	SCORE	COMMENT
1. Market Opportunity: The market problem or need is clear and acute. The addressable market is large.	-	
2. Solution: The technology/solution is well suited to address the market opportunity in a differentiated and compelling way.	-	
3. Opportunity/Solution Validation: There is clear 3rd party evidence that one or more meaningful market participants are interested in the technology/solution and are willing/able to assist in achieving commercial success	-	
4. Competitive Positioning: The technology/solution is well-positioned compared to existing and evolving alternatives. Applicant has identified the key metrics that matter.	-	
5. Risks and Mitigation: Key technical and commercial risks have been identified. One or more significant risk(s) are likely to be mitigated if this proposal receives an award.	-	
6. Intellectual Property: The underlying IP is strong. The IP is likely to lead to a meaningful competitive advantage.	-	

Scoring: 4 = Superior/Clear Evidence; 3 = Satisfactory/Some Evidence; 2 = Marginal/Limited Evidence; 1 = Unsatisfactory/No Evidence

4. Project Plan and Budget: The project plan is reasonable and will likely be achieved within 12 months and within budget. Successful completion of the plan is likely to: i. facilitate the formation of an investable startup company that will further develop and commercialize the technology; or ii. enable an innovation to become more attractive for licensing and/or partnering with established companies.	-	
7. Project Team: The Project Team has the experience and expertise needed to complete the Project Plan. Appropriate external partners and/or collaborators have been identified.		
TOTAL SCORE	-	
Opportunities: Please identify any opportunities not considered by the applicant.		
Risks: Please identify any significant risks (e.g. market, competition, business model, regulatory) that would limit the commercial potential.		
Do you have any other comments you'd like to share?		

SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund Class of 2025
Appendix E - Mission TAF Scoring Rubric

Scoring: 4 = Superior/Clear Evidence; 3 = Satisfactory/Some Evidence; 2 = Marginal/Limited Evidence; 1 = Unsatisfactory/No Evidence

Project Title:				
PI:				
	WEIGHT		SCORE	COMMENT
INTRODUCTION	5%	Describe your technology. What is it? What are its benefits? What makes it unique?		
TOPIC ALIGNMENT	18%	With which technical topic area in this program is your research aligned? Argue your technology's alignment with the topic you identified.		
ADVANCING THE STATE OF THE ART				
1. ALTERNATIVE TECHNICAL APPROACHES	18%	Briefly enumerate the current and emerging solutions to the problem your technology addresses. Describe why your technical approach is superior to the alternate approach(es).		
2. PERFORMANCE METRICS		Provide your metrics to the proposed solution and explain how these metrics effectively measure and demonstrate how the effort will be accomplished.		
3. ADVANCING THE STATE OF THE ART		Describe the degree to which your technology would improve the state of the art.		
TECHNICAL APPROACH				
1. SCIENTIFIC FEASIBILITY	59%	Is the science behind the solution sound? Convince reviewers who don't have deep expertise in your field that your innovation is built atop sound scientific and engineering principles.		
2. MATURATION NARRATIVE		Present a summary of your team's planned approach to deliver a solution for your selected topic. What's your starting point? What does your project look like at a high level?		
3. RATIONALE		Convince us your Technical Approach overall is the right one. Rationalize the plan above in light of alternative approaches.		
4. RISKS AND MITIGATION PLANS		Prove that you understand the technical risks that still exist between you and a fully mature solution. What are your top areas of risk, why, and what is your plan to mitigate those risks?		