



H.E. "Gene" Rainbolt (Chair)

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Chairman of the Board
Heritage Trust

Paul G. Risser, Ph. D.

Executive Director
EDGE Policy Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Paul Risser, Ph.D.

405-319-8288

EDGE Policy Board approves 21 of 94 applications for second step in funding process

EDGE Policy Board members Wednesday approved 21 pre-proposal applications from a field of 94, representing the first round in the funding process for the latest of Oklahoma's economic development programs. This week's step is the first in what is expected to be an annual process from an endowment that backers hope someday to reach \$1 billion.

EDGE, or Economic Development Generating Excellence, has approximately \$13 million for its first round of funding, according to Paul Risser, Ph.D., Executive Director of the EDGE Policy Board.

The 21 applicants are being asked to submit full proposals which will be due in mid September. Wednesday's approved proposals include projects in biotechnology, agriculture, aerospace, weather science and energy with many projects overlapping into multiple categories.

"Members of the EDGE Policy Board were gratified with the quality of the proposals, including many that were not included in the 21 approved applications," said Risser. "We are off to a great start, however, we cannot overlook the need to advance the EDGE Endowment Fund to its full \$1 billion. At that level, we would be enabled to fund further down the list and reach many of those quality projects that were left on the table."

Risser added, "The 94 pre-proposals clearly signal there is great potential in Oklahoma for technology-based innovation and the EDGE Fund has now demonstrated the capacity to facilitate moving this innovation toward high-tech business opportunities."

The size of awards will be determined by the EDGE Policy Board which is chaired by H.E. "Gene" Rainbolt and consists of Samuel Combs III, Gary W. Derrick, Thomas Kupiec Ph.D., Ken Levit, James Meyer and Bond Payne.

The EDGE Endowment Fund is managed by a legislatively-mandated Board of Investors who certifies the amount of funds available each year to the EDGE Policy Board, which in turn, determines how the money will be allocated.



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The following principal investigators have been invited to submit full proposals:

Biotechnology

- Rheel Towner (Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation) – Nanoprobes for Diagnostic Imaging and Therapeutics
- Paul DeAngelis, Ph.D. (University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center) – Oklahoma Glyco-manufacturing Facility: Going Global with Next-gen Sugar-based Therapeutics
- John Harley, MD, Ph.D. (JKAutoimmunity, Inc. and Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation) – OCITE: The Oklahoma Center for Immune and Translational Excellence
- Jian-xing Ma, MD, Ph.D. (Charlesson LLC) – Nanoparticle-mediated drug delivery for the treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy and Age-Related Macular Degeneration
- Scott Rollins, Ph.D. (Selexys Pharmaceuticals Corporation) – Biotechnology Drug Development Alliance (BDDA)
- Michael Anderson, Ph.D. (Presbyterian Health Foundation) – RxO: The Oklahoma Drug Development Consortium
- P. Lloyd Hildebrand, MD (Nantiox, Inc.) – The Oklahoma Nanobiology Initiative
- David Boone, Ph.D. (Ortho Care Innovations, LLC) – RESTORED (Research, Education, Science and Technology for Orthopedic Rehabilitation and Economic Development)
- Micheal Centola, Ph.D. (Rigen Inc.) – Autoimmune Biomarker Consortium

Agriculture

- Yanqi Wu, Ph.D. (Oklahoma State University) – Breeding a Switchgrass Seed Industry in Oklahoma
- Steve Trost Ph.D., P.E. (Strategic Solution International, LLC) – Sustained Research to Improve Livestock Health and Profitability: Integrating Development, Use, and Validation of Advanced Biosensors



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Aerospace

- James Grimsley (Design Intelligence Incorporated, LLC) – Modular Unmanned Air Vehicles (MUAVs): Research, Development and Manufacturing Opportunity for Oklahoma
- Andrew Arena (Oklahoma State University) – Oklahoma Flight Innovation, Research and Testing - Unmanned Aerial Systems (OKFIRST – UAS)
- Shivakumar Raman (The University of Oklahoma) – Reverse Engineering Towards Advanced Manufacturing (REAM)
- Allen Apblett (Oklahoma State University) – Commercialization of Passive Wireless Corrosion Sensors for Aerospace Applications

Weather Science

- Dr. J. Scott Greene (The University of Oklahoma) – The Renewable EDGE
- Kelly Hurt, Ph.D. (The Chickasaw Nation) – Arbuckle-Simpson Water Bank Project

Energy

- Edward Knobbe (ICx Nomadics, Inc.) – Semiconductor Solutions for Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Dr. Jeffrey Harwell (The University of Oklahoma) – Boosting Oklahoma Oil Production with Next Generation Surfactant Technology
- David Arthur (Southwest NanoTechnologies) – Carbon-Nanotube-Coated Flexible Films for Photovoltaics (Solar Cells)

Other

- D. Webster Keogh, Ph.D. (Oklahoma State University) – Sensor Technology: A National Center and Industrial Focus for Oklahoma

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