

## **ELECTRI International Early Career Award 2017 Request for Proposal**

### **Program Objectives**

The Early Career Awards program seeks to generate early career interaction between faculty in the engineering and construction management disciplines and the electrical construction industry. It is intended to provide support early in the careers of faculty who wish to pursue projects and programs that will increase the visibility of the electrical contracting industry in U.S. colleges and universities, and will promote long-term relationships between university faculty and ELECTRI International research programs and National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) contractors.

### **Funding for 2017**

ELECTRI International expects to award two (2) Early Career Awards for 2017 in the amount of \$9,000.

### **Requirements**

Applicants should seek matching funds through their respective colleges and universities or other funding sources. ELECTRI grant funds will be distributed to the selected projects in the form of an unrestricted gift to the college/university in support of the faculty member. Funds may be used for student support, faculty salary, and travel. To enhance the academic value of the grant, ELECTRI anticipates that one outcome of the work supported by the grant will be a paper ready to be published in a peer reviewed forum and of interest to the electrical construction industry. Projects should be initiated as soon as possible after the grant is awarded and **must be completed within a six month timeframe.**

### **Example of Projects** (see list of previously funded topics at the end of this document)

While ELECTRI invites proposals on many topics, Early Career Awards must be used to focus on an issue of significance to the electrical construction industry. The funds may be used to supplement a new or on-going project in which a component or module is directly applicable to the electrical construction industry.

Examples:

- Pilot studies on key issues facing the electrical construction industry
- Development of electrical construction course materials
- Other innovative activities that will help advance the electrical construction industry

## **Eligibility**

Engineering and construction management faculty at U.S. colleges and universities with the rank of assistant professor are eligible to submit proposals. Only one proposal per investigator may be submitted.

Award recipients will become ineligible for future Early Career Awards. However, these individuals will be strongly encouraged to submit proposals to other ELECTRI research programs. An Early Career Award pilot study might be used as the basis for a subsequent larger scale ELECTRI research project.

Recipients of other ELECTRI International funded programs, e.g. the January awards for full research projects, are not eligible to submit proposals for the Early Career Award.

## **Selection**

Proposals will be reviewed by the ELECTRI International Program Review Committee and ranked based on intellectual merit, innovation, student engagement and the level of interaction the proposed activity will promote between the grantee and the electrical construction industry.

The Committee will select up to four top finalists by June 5, 2017. Finalists will be invited to the summer ELECTRI Council program meeting from July 13-14, 2017 in Boston, MA. At this meeting, ELECTRI Council members will vote upon the final ranking of proposals. The top two finalists will be awarded funding.

## **Travel Support**

Travel support of up to \$700 will be made available to all finalists to attend the meeting. Reservations for travel must be made through Worldwide Travel. More information will be provided if your proposal is short listed.

## **Proposal Submission Requirements**

1. A single PDF file using the attached submission form (see page 4)
2. At least one letter of support from department head/chair
3. A 2-page NSF format vita
4. A three-minute video (submitted via YouTube) from the researcher explaining his/her proposal

While not mandatory, ELECTRI strongly recommends including a letter from a NECA Contractor, NECA Chapter or an ELECTRI Council member who supports the proposal.

## **2017 Competition Schedule**

- 17 March    Request for Proposals**  
Distributed through the ASCE Construction Research Council, the Associated Schools of Construction, and the ELECTRI website.
- 28 April    Submission Deadline for Early Career Awards Proposals – 5:00 PM EST**  
Proposals must be submitted by 5:00 PM EST via email to Deborah Halpern at [dhalpern@electri.org](mailto:dhalpern@electri.org).
- May        Selection of up to Four Finalists**  
Submissions will be reviewed and judged by the ELECTRI International Program Review Committee.
- 5 June     Notification of the Finalists**  
Finalists will be notified via email as well as by an announcement on the ELECTRI Website.
- 7 July     Submission Deadline for Finalists' Presentations**  
Finalists will be notified in advance about the presentation requirements for the Council Meeting in July.
- 13-14 July    ELECTRI Council Meeting, Boston, MA**  
Finalists are required to attend the meeting and present their final proposals to the ELECTRI Council Members who will then select two recipients of the 2017 Awards.

## 2017 Early Career Award Submission Form

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title \_\_\_\_\_

Project Description

Specific Project Objectives

Types of interaction the project will create with the Electrical Construction Industry and the faculty/institution. List specific companies and/or NECA Chapters if applicable.

Expected outcomes of this project

List 4-5 milestone activities and completion dates

**Attach 2-page CV, letter of support from department chair/head, and – if available - support letter from electrical contractor/NECA Chapter in a combined PDF.**

**Proposal PDF and three-minute video link must be submitted via email to Deborah Halpern at [dhalpern@electri.org](mailto:dhalpern@electri.org) by April 28, 2017, 5:00 PM EST.**

## **Previously-Funded Early Career Award Topics**

- Building Information Modeling (BIM): Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges for Electrical Contractors
- Investigative Opportunities and Barriers of the Lean Project Delivery System (LPDS) to Electrical Contractors—A Pilot Study in a Healthcare Project
- Building Information Modeling for Electrical Contractors
- Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction Training for Electrical Workers
- Project Delivery Methods for Electrical Contractors in Energy Efficient Markets
- Integrating Industry into the Educational Setting to Promote Learning
- Financial Risk Management of NECA Contractors Through Copper Price Hedging
- Improving Combined Time-Cost Forecasting Capabilities for Contractors
- Recruitment Strategies for NECA Contractors
- Impact of U.S. Nuclear Plant Construction on Electrical Labor Productivity
- Involvement of Electrical Contractors in Integrated Project Delivery
- Strategies for Expanding the Electrical Contractor market in Pre-Construction Services
- Succession Planning & Mentoring Programs for EC's
- Broadening the EC portfolio Pilot Studies into Service as a Core of Business Excellence
- A Systematic Approach for the Assessment of Green Opportunities for Electrical Contractors
- Generating Success: An Exploration of the Issues Facing the Electrical Construction Industry through the Lens of Family Business
- Integrating Electrical Contracting into a Construction Management Program
- Exploring the Opportunities for Applying Lean Principles to Electrical Prefabrication
- Active Learning for Electrical System Constructability Evaluation
- Industrialization of Electrical Contracting: Supply Chain and Logistics Management
- Information Technology Assessment for Line Electrical Contractors
- Using BIM to Conduct Feasibility Analysis of Pre-fab & Modularization
- Best Practices for Journeyman Transition to CW/CE Supervisor
- Exploring Where the Electrical Construction Workforce Comes From and Their Career Awareness
- Electrical Contractors' Perception and Practices with Risk Management
- Best Practices for Early Adoption of Productivity Improvement Programs
- Flexible Overhead: Agile Strategies That Increase Electrical Contractor Profitability