**CJ CheilJedang Blossom Park Grants Program: Request for Proposals**

**INTRODUCTION OF CJ CHEILJEDANG & CJ BLOSSOM PARK**

The CJ CheilJedang started in 1953 as Korea’s first manufacturer of sugar which is one of the basic necessities in life. For more than half a century, the company has grown remarkably by expanding our business scope to include food, feed & livestock, bio, and pharmaceutical products.

CJ Blossom Park was established in 2015 to function as a brain hub to enable sustainable growth of CJ’s Research Institute by integrating research fields related to food, animal feed, bio-products and ingredients & materials.

CJ Blossom Park will play a pivotal role in making CJ a leading global company by developing innovative products using OnlyOne technologies, top-notch infrastructure, and world top-class R&D professionals.

**OVERVIEW OF THE 2017 CJ(CHEILJEDANG) BLOSSOM PARK GRANTS PROGRAM**

The CJ Blossom Park (CJBP) is offering seed funding (known as “CJBP grants”) to members and cooperative extension specialists at EKC for innovative, collaborative, interdisciplinary research projects aligned with the research area of the CJBP, as noted below.

**Research Areas**

1) Food Research Institute

- Convenience Foods (Frozen, Chilled & Shelf Stable) / Fermented Foods / Functional Foods and any related technologies including

: Novel Food Processing Technologies to improve product quality and process efficiency, to extend shelf life of various packaged foods, to enable value-added margin enhancement

: Natural Food Ingredients to extend shelf life, to replace current artificial ingredients, to improve functionality (texture, flavor, aroma, nutrition, color, etc.) in various food systems

: Analytics and mechanism in fermented foods, Consumer Research or Trend Research for Food Innovation

2) Feed & Livestock Research Institute

- Swine, Ruminant, Poultry, Aqua Feed & Pet Food / Specialty Feed and any related technologies including

: Improvement of Feed Efficiency, Nutrition-based Formulations (antibiotics replacement, particle optimization, milk production improvement), Development of Functional Materials (microorganisms, natural substances), Management for Commercial Farms & *In vitro/In vivo* Efficacy Evaluation of Feed Additives

3) Biotechnology Research Institute

- Feed Additives / Food Additives / Biomaterials and any related technologies including

: Microbial Fermentation, Strain Development, Protein Expression Control, Separation/Purification, OMICS-based Metabolic Engineering, Analysis, Biomass Processing, Particle Engineering (coatings) & Polymerization

4) Life Ingredient & Material Research Institute

- Basic Ingredients / Processed Ingredients / Specialty Ingredients (for personal care and household products) and any related technologies including

: Mechanism-based Enzyme Improvement and Mass Expression, *De novo* Enzyme design, Biotransformation, Solid Fermentation (value-added protoplasts), Anti-oxidation Control, Wheat Heat Treatment & Emulsification

※ More details : [www.cj](http://www.cj).co.kr

**Funding Level**

In 2017 CJBP will fund several projects of up to **100,000EUR** each.

**Main Criteria for Selection**

CJBP is seeking projects that contribute to CJBP’s business and fulfill some or all of the following criteria:

* Pertains directly to one or more of CJBP’s research areas, identified above.
* Significant market need and opportunity.
* Competitive advantage over technologies that are currently available or in development.
* Likelihood of generating high-value intellectual property assets.
* Strong potential to influence or address urgent challenges or opportunities for substantial change in CJBP’s business and research areas, including policies and/or
* Use of interdisciplinary approaches, preferably with a systems orientation.
* Meet high standards for quality research and originality.
* Appropriateness of the research objectives and proposed technical milestones.

We are also interested in stimulating new partnerships and programs through this grant initiative.

**Applicant Eligibility**

The CJBP grants program is open to all members and extension specialists at EKC. The Principal Investigator(s) and collaborators can be from any department, school, and program under the EKC. As noted above, external collaborators are also encouraged to participate in the program.

**Application Timelines**

* Pre-proposal due date : June 16, 2017
* Announcement of Semi-finalists : July 7, 2017
* Proposal Presentation : July 26~29, 2017 (@ EKC2017)
* Announcement of finalists : August 18, 2017
* Full proposal due date : September 29, 2017
* Announcement of awards : October 31, 2017
* Agreement : November 30, 2017
* Funding start date : TBD

Unless otherwise agreed by CJBP, the funding should be expended within one year of officially receiving the award from CJBP. The grant applications will be evaluated by a selection committee consisting of experts in CJBP, representing multiple disciplines and research areas in.

**Examples of Grant Expenses and Activities**

CJBP funding may only be used for research directly related to, and budgeted under the project, and may not be used for any other purpose. Expense types could include supplies, funding for graduate students or a post-doctoral fellows, or compensation for collaborating partners. Non-allowable expenses include: infrastructure, computer hardware, and rent. (If necessary, non-allowable expenses may be changed through additional negotiation.)

Proposed activities could include, but are not limited to:

* Field-based research or pilot work to identify challenges, opportunities, and/or solutions.
* Development of innovative policy ideas and strategies for achieving progress.
* Forum, meeting(s), or focus group workshops that facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue among researchers and stakeholders on a targeted topic within the broader research project. If included, such meetings need to be more than scholarly discussions; they should be aimed at generating clear results such as policy implications, collaborative work plans, or proposals for future research. These activities need to be confirmed by CJBP in advance

**Inventions & Intellectual Property**

**CJ & grant awardees may jointly own all Foreground Intellectual Property created as part of this research collaboration**.(Specific agreements related IP could be determined by mutual negotiation.)

The PI ***must*** report any and all inventions to CJBP no fewer than 30 days in advance of a public disclosure to allow CJBP staff to determine if such public disclosure contains new, potentially patentable subject matter.

Special Notes : Grant awardees will be required to sign a research agreement prepared by CJ., which includes, but is not limited to, intellectual property, confidentiality, reporting, and publication terms and conditions.

**PROPOSAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Contents of Proposal : 1. Pre-Proposal**

Pre-proposal submission deadline : June 16, 2017

Applicants should work with CJBP to develop a pre-proposal. Only one pre-proposal per applicant will be accepted.

* Cover Page

1) PI name and department

2) Project title

3) Total budget request

4) Non-confidential executive summary (150 words maximum) : this non-confidential summary may be used for press releases or shared with CJ partners. If an applicant has concerns about how the non-confidential summary may be used, CJBP will work with the applicant to address those concerns.

* Section 1 : Background, Significance, and Research Plan

Section 1 should not exceed 2 pages, including all figures.

1) Briefly describe the unmet need and potential commercial market for the technology, its novelty, and the envisioned potential applications. Compare the proposed applicants to the current state of the art and competing technologies.

2) Summarize the significant research related to this proposal, differentiating clearly between your own work and that of others in the field.

3) Specific aims : For each aim, provide a rationale and an estimate of the time required for completion, and describe the criteria that will be used to determine if the specific aims have been achieved.

* Section 2 : Supporting Information

1) Describe the current intellectual property position of the proposed technology, indicating whether the technology is based on already reported inventions, and whether the IP for such invention is held solely by Universities or jointly with other institutions, or if it has been licensed to a partner.

2) Total budget requested : provide estimated costs for the entire proposed funding period on a free template. PI salary, and salary for collaborators at other institutions are allowed.

3) Curriculum vitae for the Principal Investigator and any other key participants.

4) Identify all prior, current, and pending sources of support to the PI’s lab related to the proposed research project.

5) Reference list.

6) Supporting publications/manuscripts, provided as PDF files (Maximum of 3).

* Pre-proposal submission : Pre-proposal should be submitted as a single Microsoft Word (.docx) file, with the exception supporting publications, which should be provided as PDF files. Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to : cjbp\_grant@cj.net. The subject line should include the words 「CJBP Pre-proposal」and the PI’s last name.

**Contents of Proposal : 2. Full-Proposal**

Full-proposal submission deadline : September 29, 2017

Applicants should work with CJBP to develop full proposals, particularly with respect to the commercial development analysis and establishing technical milestones to maximize the technology’s commercial potential. Please note that Section 2 has page limits.

* Cover Page

1) PI name and department

2) Project title

3) Total budget request

* Section 1 : Executive Summary (250 words maximum)

1) Describe the need or opportunity and the significance of the proposed technology

2) State the major research objectives of the project and how they will advance the technology and enhance its patentability or commercial potential.

* Section 2 : Background, Significance, and Research Plan (should not exceed 10 pages, including all figures)

1) Brief introduction to the area of investigation. Summarize the significant research related to this proposal, differentiating clearly between your own work and that of others in the field.

2) Specific research objectives and the experiments planned to achieve each. Describe how the proposed research will enhance the invention’s patentability, commercial potential, and/or importance.

3) Key technical milestones, including a description of anticipated results and go/no-go decision points where possible.

4) Estimated cost and time for each objective, including a work performance schedule.

* Section 3 : Commercial Development Analysis

CJBP will work with applicants to prepare a commercial development analysis for the proposed technology. Specific arrangements might be made for face-to-face meeting when applicants are invited to submit full proposals. Minimally, the following items must be addressed :

1) Intellectual property : Provide a statement on the current IP status of the invention, including a description of any inventions that have already been made (by applicant or others) related to the proposed research. Also describe how the proposed research will enhance existing IP.

2) Market potential : Estimate the size and composition of the potential market, including comparisons to current technologies (if any). Describe the competitive landscape, including current development efforts by applicant or others, and what position the proposed technology occupies within this landscape.

3) Commercialization strategy : Describe potential commercialization strategies that could be pursued for the technology if the research aims are achieved. Include specific input from potential partners (e.g., companies, investors).

* Section 4 : Budget

A detailed budget should be provided on a free template (entire proposed project period). For the following categories :

1) Personnel : Please list all relevant personnel and their percent effort, even if salary support will not be requested from the CJBP. Salary for the PI or collaborators at other institutions is permitted.

2) Supplies : Equipment and computers are not permitted expenses.

3) Other : Please describe any services to be used and their expected cost, and include supporting information in section 5. Travel costs are not permitted.

* Section 5 : Supporting Information

1) Curriculum vitae for the Principal Investigator and any other key participants.

2) Identify all prior, current, and pending sources of support to the PI’s lab related to the proposed research project.

3) Reference list.

4) Supporting publications/manuscripts, provided as PDF files (maximum of 3).

* Full-proposal submission : Proposals should be submitted as a single Microsoft Word (.docx) file, with the exception supporting publications, which should be provided as PDF files. Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to : cjbp\_grant@cj.net. The subject line should include the words 「CJBP Full-proposal」and the PI’s last name.

**IF YOUR PROJECT IS FUNDED**

The funding for the selected grants will be initiated by 2017(month TBD). CJBP requires that successful applicants sign an agreement before payment of the grant award. The awardees will be required to submit a report of results/outcomes no later than three months after the completion of the project. The report should include a summary of the methods, activities and outcomes without pages limitation; expected next steps for research and/or outreach; and expected link to policy/practice and transformation of food/life systems.

The awardees will also be expected to summarize their research progress at an informal CJBP research workshop (date TBD but will generally be held during the project), and to present findings in a public forum at the end of the grant.

CJBP appreciates informal updates and information about progress during the course of the projects.

Please contact CJBP grants program team Yonghwan.Lee with any questions at yonghwan.lee@cj.net.