

2009 Proposal Solicitation

SEAONC Special Projects Initiative

SEAONC's Special Projects Initiative is intended to provide financial support for innovative projects that will serve SEAONC and its members through initiatives that improve and promote structural engineering practice. As outlined below, the scope of possible initiatives is broad with the goal to solicit creative project proposals from SEAONC members on topics that could not be accomplished through the standard SEAONC committee structure. Subject to the availability of resources and the quality of proposals, SEAONC expects to fund one or more projects per year, through one-year grants with funding up to \$10,000 per project.

Project Ideas: This special grants initiative covers a broad range of possible projects, with the key requirement that the projects benefit the SEAONC membership, the structural engineering profession at large, and/or the community at large on issues that involve structural engineering. This could occur through the advancement of knowledge, technology transfer, and/or promoting increased awareness of how structural engineering benefits society. Suggested ideas may include but are not limited to the following:

- *Research:* Focused technical studies on structural engineering issues. This could include analytical studies on ways to improve specific building code provisions or research to facilitate the introduction of new concepts in design and construction. Alternatively, the research could involve field studies and collection of data on design and construction practices. The grant monies could be used for project expenses, including compensation of the person conducting the research.
- *Testing:* Focused testing on an issue of engineering interest. Given the high costs of testing, this would likely be a grant that would be used to increase the scope of an existing testing project or for preliminary studies to develop a larger proposal to funding agency.
- *Publications:* Development of a unique publication of value to the SEAONC membership, the engineering community at large, and/or the public. This could be a report or paper, published in either hard copy or electronic form.
- *Community Outreach:* Activities that could include planning and conducting summit meetings on timely topics with leaders from industry, or conducting educational seminars for building code officials or key tradespersons whose work impacts the implementation of structural design and construction.
- *Business development:* Activities that improve business opportunities for structural engineers at an aggregate level, but not limited to specific firms or individuals. One example might be to host a networking & educational event for structural engineering clients, similar to software companies' "client conferences."

Eligibility: The Principal Investigator and Grant Applicant must be a current SEAONC Member.

Proposal Submittal Requirements: Proposal submissions shall consist of a Project Description, Budget and Budget Justification, and Qualifications for the Principal Investigator and other significant project participants. The Project Description is limited to 4 pages (8-1/2 x 11 sheets, single spaced, 11 pt font) and shall address (1) the objectives and scope of the project, (2) the project work plan, (3) project deliverables, such as a report, paper, seminar or other outcome, (4) statement of how the activity meets

the goals of the SEAONC special projects program, (5) project schedule, and (6) list of key personnel and their roles in the project. The Budget and Budget Justification is limited to 1 page and should include a breakdown and brief justification of how the requested funds will be spent. The Qualifications of the Principal Investigator and other key investigators should include a short (2-3 page) resume, including a statement on the unique qualifications of the individual as related to the project.

Submittal Process: The proposal, including all of the information requested above and a cover letter, should be sent electronically as a PDF file to the attention of Mr. Ken Miles at kmiles@SEAONC.org. Questions regarding the Special Projects Initiative should be sent via e-mail to Mr. Ken Miles at the same address. **The submission due date for proposals is 30 December 2009.**

Grant Awards and Funding: Proposals will be reviewed and award decisions will be made by the SEAONC Board of Directors. Award decisions are expected to be announced by mid- February 2010 with financial awards to commence in March 2010. It is anticipated that the project funding will be awarded in three increments (1) initial award – 10% of total budget, (2) interim award made upon receipt of an acceptable progress report made to SEAONC, including accounting statement on funds expended to date – 40% of total budget, (3) final award made up submittal of final project report, including accounting statement on funds expended and summary of project deliverables – 50% of budget. The project is expected to be completed within one year of the award date; and for budgeting purposes, indirect (overhead) charges are limited to 10% of the award amount. Any significant changes to the project scope, work plan and/or budget should be submitted in writing for review and approval by SEAONC.