Princeton > Office of the
Research   Dean for Research

To:	Faculty and Research Staff in Science and Engineering
Date:	July 19, 2022
From:	Pablo G. Debenedetti, Dean for Research
Subject:	The Eric and Wendy Schmidt Transformative Technology Fund – Request for Proposals
Deadline:	**5:00 p.m. Friday, November 11, 2022**

I am delighted to announce this year's competition for support from the Eric and Wendy Schmidt Transformative Technology Fund (EWSF), endowed by the Schmidts' perceptive generosity. The purpose of the fund, as put forth by President Emerita Shirley M. Tilghman at its inauguration, is "to fund risk-taking projects, understanding that with risk comes not only the potential for huge reward, but some frequency of failure." The University therefore seeks to fund the following kinds of research:

- The invention of a disruptive new technology having potential major impact on a field of research.
- The development of equipment or an enabling technology that will transform research in a field.

Eligibility: Faculty and research staff.

Size and term of awards: The size of the awards is typically between $0.5M and $1M per project, depending on the number and requirements of high-quality proposals received. Funding will normally be spread over one or two years. In years where the quality of the submitted proposals is deemed inadequate, no awards will be made.

Allowable Expenses: Equipment, materials and supplies, support for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers directly working on the project. Renovation costs are not allowed, nor is salary support for the Principal Investigator or any research staff members. Additionally, these awards are exempt from indirect costs.

Application Procedure: Proposals must be no longer than five pages, and should focus on the research proposed, emphasizing its potential significance and impact. Please be sure to address the following issues:

- The proposal should explain why the invention or development of the specific technology is groundbreaking.
- Please include a simple budget containing sufficient detail to be reviewable by the committee. (The budget should be formatted on a separate page in the proposal and will **NOT** count towards the page limit.)
- Proposed research that would combine support from the EWSF and other sources is eligible. In such cases the sources, amounts, and status of non-EWSF support must be specified. It is essential to emphasize the impact and leverage ("bang for the buck") that a grant from the EWSF would provide.

Submission Information: Proposals should be sent electronically to John Ritter, Office of Technology Licensing (jritter@princeton.edu) by 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 11, 2022. Each PI will receive a prompt acknowledgement, as assurance that his/her submission has been properly received.

Selection Procedure: A peer-review committee will evaluate the proposals, and selection of awardees will be based entirely on the overall quality and innovativeness of the proposed research, its significance and its likely impact. The committee will be selected by the Dean for Research and will be composed of at least five faculty members and/or outside experts having scientific backgrounds across a variety of technical disciplines.

The committee will forward its recommendations to the University President, who will consider them and announce the winner(s). Typically, one to three proposals are recommended for funding on any given year.