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NRC Awards Research and Development Grants

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced today it is awarding 20 research and development grants totaling nearly \$10 million. These grants are part of the \$16 million appropriated by Congress in fiscal year 2022 under the University Nuclear Leadership Program authorization. NRC peer-reviewed a total of 89 research and development grant proposals.

This is the third year the NRC has offered a research component under the University Nuclear Leadership Program, which provides funding to support research and development for nuclear science, engineering, technology, and related disciplines. The grants help the NRC assess the future nuclear energy landscape and prepare for upcoming technical challenges. The intent of the grants is to develop a workforce capable of supporting the design, construction, operation, and regulation of nuclear facilities, and the safe handling of nuclear materials. Based on the peer-review evaluations, the NRC's Office of Regulatory Research recommended the following awards:

<i>Institution Name</i>	<i>City/State</i>	<i>Proposal Technical Area</i>	<i>Recommended Amount of NRC funds</i>
University of Tennessee	Knoxville, TN	Characterization of fresh and spent nuclear fuel for nuclear power plants	\$ 500,000
Louisiana State University	Baton Rouge, LA	Digital engineering/analytics, advanced sensors and controls for nuclear applications	\$ 499,865
University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA	Advanced materials and manufacturing for nuclear applications	\$ 500,000
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Urbana, IL	Human and organizational factors and human reliability analysis for nuclear applications	\$ 499,879
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Troy, NY	Characterization of fresh and spent nuclear fuel for nuclear power plants	\$ 500,000
University of New Mexico	Albuquerque, NM	Safety analyses for reactor designs and fuel cycle technologies.	\$ 500,000
University of Nevada, Reno	Reno, NV	Safety analyses for reactor designs and fuel cycle technologies.	\$ 500,000
University of Notre Dame	Notre Dame, IN	Advanced construction techniques for nuclear builds	\$ 499,942
Ohio State University	Columbus, OH	Advanced materials and manufacturing for nuclear applications	\$ 499,908
Pennsylvania State University	State College, PA	Safety analyses for reactor designs and fuel cycle technologies.	\$ 500,000

Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN	Characterization of fresh and spent nuclear fuel for nuclear power plants	\$ 500,000
University of Maine	Orono, ME	Digital engineering/analytics, advanced sensors and controls for nuclear applications	\$ 500,000
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Blacksburg, VA	Safety analyses for reactor designs and fuel cycle technologies.	\$ 499,996
Pennsylvania State University	State College, PA	Safety analyses for reactor designs and fuel cycle technologies.	\$ 500,000
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Urbana, IL	Safety analyses for reactor designs and fuel cycle technologies.	\$ 500,000
Washington State University	Pullman, WA	Characterization of fresh and spent nuclear fuel for nuclear power plants	\$ 500,000
North Carolina State University	Raleigh, NC	Digital engineering/analytics, advanced sensors and controls for nuclear applications	\$ 500,000
University of California Los Angeles	Los Angeles, CA	Human and organizational factors and human reliability analysis for nuclear applications	\$ 500,000
Rochester Institute of Technology	Rochester, NY	Characterization of fresh and spent nuclear fuel for nuclear power plants	\$ 498,770
University of Florida	Gainesville, FL	Advanced materials and manufacturing for nuclear applications	\$ 499,828
		Total	\$ 9,998,188

The NRC announces grant opportunities on www.grants.gov, which enables the public to find and apply for federal funding opportunities. Panels of reviewers, from academia and the NRC, evaluate the grant proposals. The composition of the panels is diverse, with most panelists having experience reviewing proposals for government agencies and advanced credentials in nuclear engineering, health physics, radiochemistry or related disciplines. All panelists must certify no conflict of interest for the proposals they evaluate.

The remainder of the FY2022 UNLP funds will be allotted for scholarships, fellowships, trade schools/community colleges and faculty development and awarded by the end of April 2023. The final research and development grant awards will be posted later this year on the NRC website.