

## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The long term goal of this proposal is to establish radiation protection as one of the academic/professional study tracks in the Environmental Sciences Institute of Florida A&M University. The initial stage is a graduate program focused on Health Physics, and with emphases on: (i) radiation dosimetry; (ii) operational radiation protection, including radiological contamination prevention and radiological assessment; and (iii) radioactivity in the environment, including radionuclide fate and transport. In the first two years of the graduate program, student recruitment and other groundwork will proceed, with the aim of developing an undergraduate program to begin in the third project year.

A grand total sum of \$1,189,507 is requested for the first two years of operation, to cover the cost of hiring essential new faculty and staff, recruiting students nationwide, acquiring classroom and laboratory needs, and providing students with the instruction and experiential learning necessary for success. The project Principal Investigator Frederic Essien ([Frederic.essien@fam.u.edu](mailto:Frederic.essien@fam.u.edu)), will count on support and collaboration from Vice President Larry Robinson ([Larry.robinson@fam.u.edu](mailto:Larry.robinson@fam.u.edu)) and Dr. James Bogard of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory ([bogardjs@ornl.gov](mailto:bogardjs@ornl.gov)).

The proposed project will recruit a steady stream of African-American and other minority students into radiation protection careers and thereby, expand the overall strength of the radiation protection workforce as well as significantly increase the proportion of under-represented minorities in the radiation protection professions.