



# Concrete Advancement Network (CAN)

*NSF Industry-University Cooperative Research Center (IUCRC)*



# Concrete Advancement Network (CAN) – NSF IUCRC

## Internal Request for Proposals (RFP)

*Cycle: FY 2025*

### 1. Introduction

The Concrete Advancement Network (CAN) is an NSF Industry–University Cooperative Research Center (IUCRC) dedicated to accelerating next generation, low carbon, high-performance concrete technologies. This RFP solicits a research project that directly addresses priority needs identified by CAN’s Industry Advisory Board (IAB). Successful projects will:

- Deliver practical data, prototypes, or methods that members can adopt; and
- Generate intellectual property governed by the CAN Master Membership Agreement (royalty-free, non-exclusive to members).

### 2. Key Dates

| Milestone                                      | Date               |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| RFP released                                   | <b>1 Jul 2025</b>  |
| Final day to submit clarifying questions       | 10 Jul 2025        |
| <b>Full proposals due (email by 17:00 CT)</b>  | <b>31 Jul 2025</b> |
| Academic & industry peer review window         | 4 – 8 Aug 2025     |
| Preselection IAB e-vote (to choose presenters) | 15 Aug 2025        |
| Slide decks due from invited teams             | <b>5 Sep 2025</b>  |
| Project presentations & final IAB vote         | 11 Sep 2025        |
| Award notification & project start             | <b>1 Oct 2025</b>  |

### 3. Eligibility

- Lead PI must hold a faculty or research appointment at any CAN Site.
- Mult institutions or interdisciplinary teams are highly encouraged and preferred.

## 4. Proposal Preparation & Format

Submit **one PDF (max 4 pages, 11-pt font, 1-inch margins)** using the CAN template.

| Section                           | Length      | Required Content                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. Title Page                     | ½ p         | Proposal title; PI(s); site; contact info                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| B. Project summary                | ½ p         | Briefly describe the project's objectives, methods, and expected impact.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| C. Problem Statement & Objectives | ½ p         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clearly define the problem addressed.</li><li>Explicitly link the project to one or more of the IAB's identified research areas.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| D. Research Plan                  | ½ p         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Detailed description of the proposed methodology, experimental design, and analytical approach.</li><li>Clearly defined aims, objectives, and deliverables.</li><li>Timeline for key milestones and activities over the project duration. Six-month blocks ending Mar 2026 &amp; Sep 2026; list major deliverables with metrics keyed to industry needs.</li></ul>                                                       |
| E. Expected Outcomes & Impact     | ½p          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Describe the anticipated research outcomes and their potential impact on the field and industry.</li><li>Discuss how the project will contribute to the pre-competitive knowledge base of the CAN Center.</li><li>Outline a plan for disseminating research findings to the IAB and the broader scientific community (e.g., presentations at IAB meetings, peer-reviewed publications, intellectual property).</li></ul> |
| F. Budget & Leverage Table        | ½ p         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide a detailed breakdown of requested funds per category (personnel, supplies, travel, etc.).</li><li>Justify each budget item's necessity for the project's success.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| G. Facilities & Team              | ½ p         | Key equipment; roles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| H. IP & Commercialization Plan    | ½ p         | Path to provisional patent; member adoption roadmap                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| References                        | not counted | IEEE or ASTM style                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## Attachments (not in page count)

- Budget spreadsheet (Excel template)
- Gantt chart (same six-month bins as budget)

## 5. Budget Guidelines

- **Project Term:** 24 months (two consecutive 12-month budget periods).
- **Year-1 IUCRC Cash Request (FY 2025-26):** up to **US \$50,000**.
- **Year-2 IUCRC Cash Request (FY 2026-27):** anticipated at a level comparable to Year 1 pending FY 2026-27 budget availability, satisfactory Year-1 progress, and IAB approval. A provisional Year-2 budget that can be scaled to match the final funding commitment should be prepared.
- **Allowable costs (both years):** personnel, tuition, materials & supplies, domestic travel, fringe/overhead per site rate.

## 6. Proposal Submission Process

1. Submit all required files **by e-mail** to **can-iucrc@uwm.edu** with the subject line: FY25 Proposal – [PI Surname]
2. Combine Sections A–H and the reference list into a **single PDF** named **PI-Surname\_CAN-FY25.pdf**.
3. Attach the **Excel budget spreadsheet** (using the CAN template) to the same e-mail.
4. You will receive an acknowledgement e-mail within **1 hours** of submission. If no confirmation arrives, contact [aghayan@uwm.edu](mailto:aghayan@uwm.edu).

## 7. Award Conditions & Reporting

- Contract start: 1 Oct 2025 (funds released upon countersigned SOW).
- Progress reviews: every **six months** (Mar / Sep).
- IP: All foreground IP is governed by the CAN Master Membership Agreement (royalty-free, non-exclusive to members).
- Final deliverables due **30 Sep 2027**: verified data package, ROI model, IP disclosure, and pilot-scale rollout plan.

## 8. Contacts & Resources

- RFP questions: [can-iucrc@uwm.edu](mailto:can-iucrc@uwm.edu); [aghayan@uwm.edu](mailto:aghayan@uwm.edu)
- NSF IUCRC policy: <https://iucrc.nsf.gov>
- CAN templates & appendices: link provided in release email.