Proposal to Create the DRI Foundation Innovation Competition for DRI

**Intent:** to create an annual process whereby the DRI Foundation invests in competitively-selected DRI proposals by supplying “seed” funds for proof-of-concept and/or initial confirmatory data collection for projects that would increase revenue streams to DRI for DRI-developed innovative technologies that are commercially viable.

**Purpose:** to encourage DRI faculty to innovate and move beyond initial funding barriers by setting aside from Foundation philanthropy (primarily from the NV medal dinner), two $100,000 competitively awarded grants to DRI Principal Investigators/Collaborators for 1-year duration projects.

**Summary of Mechanism:** The following steps will be executed annually:

1. The DRI Foundation identifies a 3-4 Trustee DRI Innovation Investment Committee, which will include a DRI Foundation member Trustee (January to March)
   
   Working with DRI’s VPR and EDDs the committee would:
   - announce the annual competition,
   - identify and sequester the funds from Foundation activities,
   - review proposals and select winners,
   - advise selected DRI faculty/collaborators,
   - review and approve final reports,
   - identify follow-on external opportunities for completed projects, especially in identifying how to get the innovation to market

2. The annual schedule for this process will be:
   a. Announcement of Competition and Internal (to DRI) solicitation of proposals – not later than May 15th
   b. Proposals submittal deadline – not later than June 1st
   c. Proposal selections announced – not later than June 20th
   d. Project initiations – July 1st
   e. Quarterly reviews with Foundation Committee
   f. Submittal of final report – June 30th
   g. Transition/Follow-on Alternatives discussion – not later than August 1st.
h. PIs offer presentation of final report to NNSC and SNSC faculty and DRI Foundation (*August following project closure*)

i. Effectiveness evaluation – *on the anniversary of project completion*.

3. Proposal Submittal Requirements
   a. Eligibility: Rank II/III/IV as PIs; all funds are restricted to DRI personnel and operations
   b. Successful PIs are ineligible to submit proposals to this program for 3 years following their previous award
   c. No ICR recovery occurs.
   d. Technical Proposal requirements:
      i. The following proposal sections will be used: Abstract, Problem or Statement of Need, Proposed Innovation, Approach, Expected Outcome – 5 pages max (single space, 12 pt font). Not counted in the pages are figures, tables, references or resumes/CVs).
      ii. CVs/resumes will not exceed two (2) pagers per investigator or collaborator.
   e. Cost Proposal requirements:
      i. Proposal budgets must be prepared and signed by a DRI Business Manager consistent with DRI processes/procedures.
      ii. Costs will include, in spreadsheet or table addressing:
         ✓ Labor
         ✓ Operations costs (equipment/facilities use and/or recharge)
         ✓ Other Direct Costs
      iii. The following costs are not allowable:
         ✓ Conferences, presentations
         ✓ Paper preparation costs, publication costs
         ✓ Proposal development and submittal costs.
         ✓ Capital cost equipment unless directly related to innovation proposed.