

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة التعليم العالي
والبحوث العلمي



الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي
National Research Foundation

Patent Filing Award 2011

Call for Submission of Proposals

KEY DEADLINES

Proposal submission
Award announced

13:00, Monday, 28 November 2011
January 2012

Terms of Reference

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All responses to this Call for Proposals will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the proposal or as may be required under law.

www.nrf.ae

هاتف: ٤٠٢٤ ٤٢٧٥ ٤٩٧١ ♦ فاكس: ٤٢٧ ٨٧٣٥ ٤٩٧١ ♦ ص.ب ٥٠١٧١٧ ♦ دبي ♦ الإمارات العربية المتحدة
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National Research Foundation Patent Filing Award 2011

I. Introduction

The National Research Foundation (NRF) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) advances the UAE national research agenda by awarding grants for research on a competitive basis in those fields of endeavor that will improve the quality of life of the citizens of UAE or contribute to the development of the UAE as a knowledge-based society.

Patents are an important manifestation of high-level research, innovation and technological advancements. The economic growth as well as an improved quality of life and the environment of the UAE depend heavily on the innovation potential of its scientific and inventive institutions and their members. The NRF aims to foster national inventions by launching a patent filing award competition.

The **Patent Filing Award (PFA) 2011** offers financial support to inventors who want to protect their intellectual property by obtaining a patent for an outstanding invention with a clearly identified market potential.

II. Award Objectives

The PFA 2011 aims to:

- Support inventors in the UAE to file an internationally recognized patent
- Strengthen the innovation potential of the UAE
- Foster high-quality research that aims at potential commercial impact
- Increase the benefits of research conducted in the UAE for the benefits of the economy and society

III. Award Information

The PFA 2011 is granted to researchers and inventors working in an institution (public or private) established in the UAE to support their efforts in filing an internationally recognized patent.

The patent filing process has to be concluded within **12 months** after notification of this grant. This means that the patent has to be submitted. An official proof of this submission by the authorized patent office needs to be provided to NRF at the end of this period (e.g. acknowledgement of receipt).

The patent should be filed in any of the worldwide-recognized patent offices, mainly the US Patent Office (USPTO) or the European Patent Office (EPO). In cases of good justification other patent offices may also be considered as patent granting authorities.

The financial support that can be claimed under this award is **up to 60,000 AED**. Eligible costs have to be directly related to the patent application process. Such cost may include any application filing and protection fees (including e.g. international search fees, international filing fees, etc.), as well as costs for patent attorney or any other directly related expenditures.

IV. Eligibility Conditions

1. Only inventors being employed in UAE federal institutions and the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA)-approved institutions in UAE can submit PFA 2011 applications. The list of CAA institutions is available at the CAA website as follows: <https://www.caa.ae/caa/DesktopModules/Institutions.aspx>
2. The inventor must reside in the UAE at the time of filing the patent as well as at the time of submission of application for the PFA 2011.
3. The assignments of the rights of the patent must be to an organization that is legally established in the UAE.

If any of the above conditions are not met, then NRF reserves the right to declare the nominee ineligible.

V. Application and Submission Instructions

Inventors applying for the PFA 2011 have to submit their application electronically via the NRF Website.

Each PFA 2011 application must specify the ***Frascati domain*** of science and technology in which the proposed work will lie primarily and will be reviewed. Details of the Frascati domains may be found on NRF's website (<http://www.nrf.ae/ref/frascatiManual.pdf>). Exactly **one Frascati** domain must be selected, and should be the one closest to the proposed work, or be the Frascati domain in which the principal contributions will be made.

The submission must contain the following:

- **Motivation letter:** *mandatory*
This includes a one-page description of the motivation to file a patent, including the institutional background as well as the scientific context in which the patentable intellectual property was developed (e.g. specific research project). The motivation letter should also state where the inventor is planning to file the patent (e.g. USPTO, EPO) and whether an international patent is foreseen or not.
- **Description of invention:** *mandatory*
This section (max 3 pages) provides a clear description of the invention to be patented. It needs to address the following elements:
 - Degree of inventiveness, with a clear description of the inventive factor
 - A description of the invention's practical application
 - Identification of the potential commercial impact
 - Potential benefits for the economy and society, improvements in the area of employment and quality of life, and/or protection of the environment in the UAE
- **Budget overview:** *mandatory*
A short overview of the expected costs that will be covered by the award

A budget Template is provided on the NRF website:
http://www.nrf.ae/ref/pfa_budgetTemplate.doc

- **Curriculum Vitae:** *mandatory*
A full CV including the inventor's scholarly bibliographic data including any relevant publications and previous patents or other scientific merits

Deadline for submission: **13:00, Monday, 28 November 2011.** **The deadline for submission is absolute. Failure to lodge the application by that time and date invalidates the applicant from this competition.**

VI. Proposal Review and Funding Criteria

Eligible submissions will be judged on the following merit criteria:

- the degree of inventiveness and the identified inventive factor
- the invention's practical application
- the potential commercial impact
- the potential benefits for the economy and society, improvements in the area of employment and quality of life, and/or protection of the environment in the UAE

Proposals will be evaluated using electronic, postal or panel reviews by an international jury having expertise in the fields relevant to the proposals. Once NRF has completed the decision process, all nominees, whether successful or not, will receive copies of the jury's evaluation report.

VII. Award Administration

Award Notification: NRF will make the notification of the award or declination to the submitting individuals. An Awarding Ceremony will be celebrated in early January 2012 (exact date to be announced in advance) and the selected inventors are expected to participate in this event.

Special Conditions: PFA 2011 awards are subject to all the usual NRF conditions for grants.

VII. Agency Contacts

The NRF contact information is listed on the NRF website. Before approaching NRF with questions, please check the information on the NRF Webs site, specially the relevant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section.

VIII. Key Dates

Timeline of Applications and Evaluations:

STAGE	DATE
1. General Announcement and Call issued	10. October 2011

2. Deadline for submission	28. November 2011
3. External evaluation of applications completed	22. December 2011
4. NRF sends notification on jury decision	2. January 2012
5. Awarding Ceremony	Early January 2012