



## NOTRE DAME-IBM TECHNOLOGY ETHICS LAB FALL 2021 CALL FOR PROPOSALS APPLICATION PACKET

### CFP Overview

Formed in 2020 and funded by a 10-year, \$20 million commitment from IBM, the Notre-Dame IBM Technology Ethics Lab (the “Lab”) seeks to promote human values in technology through applied projects that address core ethical challenges of the digital age.

The Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab is pleased to release this inaugural Call for Proposals, focusing on **six core themes**. The Lab welcomes a broad interpretation of these themes to potentially cover a wide range of ethical questions and challenges.

- SCALE - projects that address the limits of networked technologies; the risks of large data models; frameworks for mitigating systemic risks; or methods for scaling safely and responsibly.
- AUTOMATION - projects that address how we preserve autonomy in the face of automation; the risks of automated processing/algorithmic decision-making; or how to revive and apply the right to the freedom of thought to digital technologies.
- IDENTIFICATION - projects that address how to design ethical digital ID schemes; the ethics of reputational or scoring systems; ethical frameworks for the use of biometrics; or the ethics of immunity certificates/passports.
- PREDICTION - projects that address the ethical limits of prediction; ethical frameworks for the use of predictive technologies; policy guidance for accountability and recourse with respect to predictions and predictive technologies.
- PERSUASION - projects that examine when it's acceptable or unacceptable to nudge or persuade; the line between persuasion and manipulation; how to design ethical frameworks for neurotechnologies; or the role of design and defaults to avoid dark patterns and the like.
- ADOPTION - projects that address how to design ethical frameworks for procurement; establish guardrails for public-private collaborations; develop governance models and oversight.

Successful applications will propose a defined deliverable (such as, but not limited to, draft legislation, code, white papers, product design principles, visualizations, mixed media, and more) that addresses at least one of the above core themes to be completed by December 2022.

### CFP Projected Timeline

#### 2021

- **October 12** - Open CFP
- **November 23** - Close CFP **Deadline extended to November 29.** Questions will be accepted at [techlab@nd.edu](mailto:techlab@nd.edu) through 5 PM ET on November 23 and are not guaranteed an answer if submitted after that time.

#### 2022

- **January 21** - Recipients announced; projects kick off
- **Spring** - Short-term projects due



- **Summer** - Medium-term projects due
- **Fall** - Long-term projects due

### **Project Awards**

Applicants will need to identify which type of project (short-, medium-, or long-term) they are applying for. Applicants should select the type of project that is most realistic for the proposed project. Please find the anticipated award ranges below:

- Short-term (up to 3 months) = \$10,000 USD
- Medium-term (up to 6 months) = \$15,000 USD
- Long-term (up to 9 months) = \$25,000 USD

Note that short-term projects may kick off anytime before September 2022, and medium-term projects may kick off before June 2022. Long-term projects should kick off in February 2022. All projects must be completed by the end of the award year (calendar year 2022). Applicants will be asked to provide proposed kickoff and close dates as part of the application form and to provide brief explanations of how they plan to use the funding and time for their proposed project.

The anticipated total funding amount is \$500,000 USD.

Notre Dame's Office of Research will assist with allocating the award among multiple team members according to the preferences of the team.

For applicants from academic institutions, no indirect or overhead costs may be taken.

### **Eligibility**

Applications will be accepted between Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 8 AM ET (UTC 12 PM) and Tuesday, ~~November 23, 2021~~ **November 29, 2021** at 5 PM ET (UTC 10 PM). For information on how to submit an application, please refer to the "Proposal Preparation" section below.

Applicants are welcome to apply from all industries and sectors, including but not limited to academia, government, civil society, and industry.

Applicants may apply as a team (up to three individuals per team) and are encouraged to form inter- and multi-disciplinary teams representing different industries and sectors. If applying on behalf of a team, please include at least one practitioner. We welcome and encourage applications from diverse teams, and applications from the United States as well as internationally.

Please only submit one application per team.

Applicants affiliated with the University of Notre Dame and IBM are not eligible.

### **Proposal Preparation**

Please submit an application via [this Google Form](#). Applications submitted through other channels will not be accepted for consideration. Only one application per team is requested. Applications cannot be revised after submission.

Within the application, please be prepared to share the following information:



- Name, email address, current institution and position, and location of all team members
- A brief description of the project, what success will look like for the project, and anticipated challenges
- Identifying the relevant themes, industries, deliverables, timeline, start and end date, and a brief description of how the award funding and time will be used
- Please submit a résumé, work summary, or curriculum vitae (CV) for each team member. No specific format is required. Résumés, work summaries, and CVs should be emailed to [techlab@nd.edu](mailto:techlab@nd.edu).
- Applications should be submitted in English. (Please email [techlab@nd.edu](mailto:techlab@nd.edu) if you require assistance completing the application in English).
- Application forms submitted without all required attachments will not be accepted for consideration.
- Please note that we may reach out after submission to the email address provided by the primary applicant with additional questions or clarifications.

### **Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be reviewed and approved by the Lab Steering Committee based on the following criteria:

- Were all required documents and information provided in the application?
- How diverse is the project team?
- Is there at least one practitioner on the project team?
- Does the project align with the Lab's mission to promote applied, interdisciplinary research on core technology ethics questions? Does the project promote human values in technology?
- Does the project team have a clear picture of success, including a defined deliverable?
- Does the project address at least one of the Lab's key themes?
- Does the project address a relevant industry or intersection of industries?
- Is the proposed deliverable applied in nature, i.e. not traditional academic research?

### **Contact Information**

Please direct questions or concerns to [techlab@nd.edu](mailto:techlab@nd.edu).