NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTER
Out-of-Cycle / Rapid Response Request for Proposals

Super Intelligence in North Central Aquaculture: Opportunities and Challenges
Funding: Up to $50,000 per project
Submission schedule: Rolling; initial review begins [DATE]
Completion and expenditure deadline: August 31, 2027

Rapid development of **Super Intelligence (SI), also commonly known as artificial intelligence (AI),** has brought new opportunities and challenges for aquaculture farmers looking to use this new technology, creating a timely need to understand potential value, limitations, and practical applications.

Rapid response projects for this call should improve understanding of how these technologies can help producers in our region and support informed decisions about whether, when, and how to use them. Relevant areas that could be influenced include production and protocols, business management, communication with customers, biosecurity, costs and barriers to adoption. These all need to be filtered through an improved understanding of reliability and data confidentiality and needs for human oversight and validation.

A range of approaches could produce useful information for industry within the available time. One option is to convene a working group that develops a white paper of aquaculture producers, researchers, Extension professionals, and SI experts to assess opportunities and challenges and develop effective ways to share findings with industry. Other approaches include focused assessments, demonstrations, interviews, surveys, or workshops.

Expected outcomes
Proposals should identify clear, meaningful deliverables for industry or for those that support industry. Examples include a practical guide, concise regional assessment, or a webinar or workshop.

Funding and timeline
Requests may not exceed **$50,000 per project**. **Proposals review will begin November 15**, and will continue on a rolling basis until available funding is committed.

All project activities and expenditure of funds must be completed by August 31, 2027. Applicants should propose a realistic schedule following award approval and release of funds. Standard NCRAC eligibility, budget, and reporting requirements apply. Indirect costs and tuition remission are not allowable.

Proposal preparation and review
Follow **Appendix C, pages 16–18, of the NCRAC Operations Manual**. The narrative is limited to four pages (and can be shorter), excluding references, budget, and one-page vitae. Include the required proposal sections, completed checklist, and three support letters from commercial industry members or associations not directly involved in the project.

Proposals will follow NCRAC's out-of-cycle review process, beginning with Director review and proceeding through the appropriate committees, NCRAC Board, and USDA-NIFA. Awards are subject to available funding and required approvals.

Submission and questions
Submit to **Thomas Detmer, NCRAC Director, at tdetmer@iastate.edu**, copying **Ellen Nystrom at ejn@iastate.edu**. Submit by **November 15, 5:00 p.m. Central Time**, for consideration in the initial review. **Email subject:** NCRAC Rapid Response Proposal: SI in Aquaculture

Applicants are encouraged to contact NCRAC Director early to discuss project fit and submission requirements.

Sincerely,

Thomas Detmer
Assistant Professor, Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management (NREM)
Director, North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC)
Iowa State University