



# Thames River Innovation Place

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thamesriverinnovation.org



## Request for Proposals

**Thames River Innovation Place** (TRIP) is building prosperity in the Thames River region through authentic innovation, collaboration, and diverse partnerships rooted in the region's **Blue Economy**. We are an unprecedented alliance of public, private, and nonprofit sectors in the communities of Groton and New London, in Southeastern Connecticut. We are committed to launching new ideas that leverage and enhance local **BlueTech** and all that is unique about this place at the mouth of the Thames River. Thames River Innovation, which began in July 2017, is supported by CTNext.

TRIP defines the **BlueTech/Blue Economy** space as a convergence of traditional maritime industries with the advanced technology sector, covering a broad spectrum of activities, for the mutual economic benefit of the greater Thames River region.

**Purpose of the RFP** TRIP, as part of CTNext's Innovation Places program, is seeking proposals for year three projects. Proposals must be submitted by close of business on **February 14**.

The intent of projects is to develop new initiatives and partnerships that will strengthen the region's BlueTech sector's ability to:

- Attract and retain top talent
- Create an environment for companies to start and grow
- Increase access to sources of capital for emerging companies
- Create a more vibrant and cohesive live/work/play community

Special priority will be given to projects that address:

- Re-define and celebrate the “entrepreneur” inclusively as a mechanism for discovering hidden talent and create a supportive environment for emerging entrepreneurs.
- Identify and fill market opportunities related to Thames River.
- Connect industry partners with academia and policy makers as a means of reducing barriers to innovation.
- Projects that take place in or directly impact Groton, CT.

TRIP funding requested may only cover a part of the proposal budget. Proposals must show evidence of matching funds from non-state sources at a ratio of no less than 115% of ask. Funds are distributed quarterly with proof of match.

If selected, proposed projects would begin March 1, 2020. Projects will be required to set milestones that must be reported on quarterly and complete by September 30, 2020. We recognize that this is a tight timeline and encourage potential projects to consider whether their idea is best suited for multi-phase funding. TRIP anticipates releasing a subsequent RFP in late Spring 2020 for funding in the Fall.

Please note, this RFP is a process. Our review committee will be available to meet with applicants to help strengthen the proposals as we move toward final proposal selection. See the timeline below for more details.

### ***Areas to Consider***

- How does your project contribute to enhancing the vibrancy of the Thames River region?
- How will this project help build the local economy or community?
- Do you have illustrations/images/concept drawings that can help explain your concept?

***Content of the RFP Submission Requirements*** Proposals shall include the following:

1. An introductory cover letter
2. Project white paper including background on the project and why it is important; overview of the project plan; what the project impact will be and who will benefit; partners, collaborators, and/or stakeholders; and budget narrative and funding request. Please limit this to two pages.
3. Key outcomes and metrics that will be used to measure the success of the project including 4-5 project milestones.
4. Timeline including targeted completion dates with quantifiable goals.
5. Total project budget including amount of funding requested and anticipated source(s) of matching funds. Please use template supplied.
6. Resumes or CVs of key staff members.

7. Projects invited to pitch may consider producing a powerpoint or other visual aids.

### ***RFP Timeline***

- January 31 - February 14: Proposals submitted
- February 17 - 20: Meetings and Q&A with TRIP Project Proposal Review Committee
- February 21: Select projects invited to pitch to TRIP Board of Directors
- February 24 - 28: TRIP proposals submitted for review to CTNext
- February 28: Notification of Awards
- March 1: Y3 contracts executed. Projects begin.

***About CTNext and its Innovation Places Program*** CTNext is a public/private network of entrepreneurs, mentors, service providers and others helping Connecticut's most promising startups succeed and grow. In 2016, CTNext expanded to new initiatives helping key places in the state become magnets for talent, supporting entrepreneurship in higher education, and focusing more on growth-stage companies. The first of these efforts, Innovation Places, launched on July 1, 2017 with Stamford, New Haven, Hartford/East Hartford, and Thames River as its four awardees. It weaves together entrepreneurship support and relationship-building with physical planning and development. <https://ctnext.com>

***For questions or to submit a proposal, contact:***

Elizabeth Pasqualini, Executive Director

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BUDGET TEMPLATE

		TRIP FUNDING	MATCH FUNDS	
<b>Income</b>				
	Grant	\$	\$	
	Private Investment	\$	\$	
	Program Revenue	\$	\$	
	etc.	\$	\$	
	Subtotal	\$	\$	
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			\$

<b>Expense</b>				
	<b>Administrative</b>			
	Overhead/Operations	\$	\$	
	Marketing	\$	\$	
	Salary	\$	\$	
	etc.	\$	\$	
	<b>Admin Subtotal</b>			\$
	<b>Program</b>			
	Program expenses	\$	\$	
	Salary	\$	\$	
	etc.	\$	\$	
	<b>Program Subtotal</b>			\$
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>			\$