



DATE: January 3, 2012

TO: University of Illinois Students and Faculty

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SUBJECT: FGI Graduate Research Grant Opportunity

The Fabricated Geomembrane Institute (FGI) headquartered at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will award research funds for an initial two-year period to support ideas that advance the use of fabricated geomembranes in containment applications. The FGI is an association of 50 companies focused on advancing the use of fabricated geomembranes through education, research, and technology transfer. FGI member support for this program may include: geomembrane materials; access to geomembrane manufacturing, fabrication, installation, and testing facilities; and possible geomembrane site visits.

The FGI research grant is \$10,000 per year for two years (subject to annual review). The research can focus on any aspect of fabricated geomembranes such as: formulation, welding, field testing, installation, durability in exposed and unexposed applications, chemical resistance, or any other measure of fabricated geomembrane performance.

Projects that involve participation by the private sector (especially FGI members) or other universities are welcomed and encouraged. The FGI will establish an advisory committee to evaluate, award, and monitor the program. Students are encouraged to “connect” with one or more FGI Members before submitting a proposal to better understand the problems that need to be solved in the field of fabricated geomembranes.

Interested faculty members and students should submit a brief research proposal, no more than four pages in length, by May 1, 2012. Selection of the winning proposal will be made by June 1, 2012. Proposals submitted after the deadline will remain in consideration for the following year.

Proposals should briefly describe: the problem to be addressed, the current state of knowledge, how the research will advance current knowledge, what the expected result(s) of the project will be, how this result will increase the use of fabricated geomembranes, how the funds will be used to support the research. A successful project will be one that yields the publication of at least one technical article in a major industry standard journal and ultimately has a commercial impact.

Formal announcement of this opportunity will be made at the ASCE GeoCongress 2012 in Oakland, California on March 25-29, 2012. Information and submission requirements are available at the FGI website (www.fabricatedgeomembrane.com) and the FGI display booth during GeoCongress 2012.