

## **SMST Founders' Grant Guidelines**

This biennial grant is sponsored by the International Organization on Shape Memory and Superelastic Technologies (SMST), an affiliate society of ASM International and has been permanently endowed through a gift from Tom Duerig. The SMST Founders' Grant provides funding for early, exploratory research related to shape memory and superelasticity. It is expected that the funds will be used as a "seed grant," used to test a concept and lay a foundation for obtaining further funding from industry or government agencies.

The criteria for submission of a funding request are presented below. Applications for the SMST Founders' Grant of \$50,000 USD will accept applications from any academic or non-profit research institution. The applicant and researcher may be a student, research assistant, post doc, or professor. In any case, the quality and impact of the specific proposed research will be weighted heavier than the individual identity or the lab/team's general objectives.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. Improved properties of shape memory materials
2. Methods of engineering microstructure for performance
3. Lifetime and process-performance prediction
4. The mechanics and crystallography of transformations
5. New materials and alloying additions
6. Improved processing methods and advanced manufacturing methods
7. New applications

### **Criteria for Judging:**

Judging will be equally based on the following four factors:

- Value of research
  - Novelty (not a continuation of funding for an existing program)
  - Potential to transform state-of-the-art scientific understanding and/or technologies
  - Potential to create high impact publications
- Realistic ability to execute plan (clear path to deliverables)
  - Adequate physical facilities
  - Adequate ancillary support (e.g. site funding, personnel)
  - Credentials and publication record of researcher(s)
- Potential of gaining sustained funding beyond the immediate grant period
  - Targeted funding institutions (industry and/or government)
  - Research scope and relevance
- Overall quality of the proposal
  - Clarity and logic of the proposal
  - Grammatical quality

### **Application and selection process**

Each submission will be evaluated by the SMST Founders' Grant Selection Committee (the "Committee") appointed by the SMST Board, which includes a founding SMST member and SMST board members appointed by the SMST president and founding SMST member. Proposals will be judged based on the criteria given above. Each proposal shall be written in English and a maximum of eight (8) typed, double-spaced, Arial 12-point font, justified pagination pages in length, including cover page, figures, and tables, and should follow this format:

- Cover Page
  - Full contact information including email and direct phone with country code
  - Abstract (250 word maximum)
- Technical Volume
  - Introduction
  - Background
  - Research statement
  - Anticipated results
  - Anticipated path for sustained funding
  - An itemized budget for the program's expenses and amount of support requested, not to exceed \$50,000. (Budget form attached; Excel template provided upon request.)
  - Conclusion
  - Figures
  - Reference citations (listed references can be single spaced, but must be 12-point font and will be counted in the eight-page limit)
- CV(s) of individual(s) involved [not included in eight (8) page maximum]

### **Grant Details**

- The SMST Grant presentation cycle will match the SMST Conference cycle (currently every 24 months in correspondence with the SMST International Conferences.)
- Grant award will be announced and presented at the 2026 SMST Conference and the recipient(s) will present his/her research results at the next SMST Conference in 2028.
- Grant recipient will be notified at least 1 month prior to the SMST Conference.
- Recipient is expected to attend the SMST conferences at the onset and at the conclusion of the award period.
- Grant administration is handled through the ASM Materials Education Foundation.

### **Fellowship Details and Conditions**

Per the bylaws of the ASM Materials Education Foundation, the source of the grant funds, at least 95% of the funds must be used for direct costs (the institution cannot

apply more than 5% overhead). Expenses that are not allowable include such items as food/alcohol, computers or additional memory and ancillary supplies, office supplies, administrative fees, etc. Any expenditures on equipment exceeding \$5,000 must be expressly itemized in the grant proposal. Recipients are responsible for travel and housing expenses to attend the SMST Conference but will have one registration fee waived for each year of attendance as detailed below. Travel costs to conferences may be included in the budget.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The Founder's grant is for \$50,000 across the two-year period. Researchers are expected to participate in a committee update teleconference once each year, submit an Annual Activities and Finance Report by May 1<sup>st</sup> each year and attend the next SMST conference in two years to report on research findings. Annual Activities and Finance Reports should be brief and informative, following the templates and instructions provided.

### **Change in Field of Study**

Recipients are expected to promptly notify the committee of any change in scope and provide the reason for the change in scope.

### **Acknowledgment**

The recipient is responsible for assuring that acknowledgement of SMST support is made in any publication (including web-based publications) of any material based on or developed during the award, using the following terms: "This material is based upon work supported by the International Organization on Shape Memory and Superelastic Technologies, an ASM International affiliate."

### **Logo usage**

SMST's logo may be used by recipients only for the purpose of acknowledging support. Furthermore, the logo may be used to link to SMST's website to acknowledge support or affiliation, subject to approval by the SMST board.

**Deadline to apply for the 2026 SMST Grant is January 16, 2026, 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The recipient will be notified by March 20, 2026 and announced at the 2026 SMST Conference in Lo Jolla Torrey Pines, California. The recipient(s) will present research results at the 2028 SMST Conference.**

Each SMST Fellowship submission should be e-mailed as a .doc and a .pdf to:  
[foundation@asminternational.org](mailto:foundation@asminternational.org)

SMST - The International Organization on Shape Memory and Superelastic Technologies  
An Affiliate Society of ASM International  
9639 Kinsman Road  
Materials Park, OH 44073-0002, USA

Questions may be directed to Carrie Wilson, executive director of the ASM Materials Education Foundation: [carrie.wilson@asminternational.org](mailto:carrie.wilson@asminternational.org).

# SMST Founder's Grant Budget



**Applicant's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Requested grant period:** **May 2026-March 2028**

PROJECT INCOME	Anticipated	Committed	Total	Line Item Description
Please provide details for each line item in your project budget. For example: <b>Foundations (Other)</b> - Another foundation has				
SMST Founder's Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Other Foundations				
Government Grants or Contracts			\$0	
Organizational Budget (ie: individual contributions, fundraising events/products, membership/fees/earned income, endowed income)			\$0	
In-kind support			\$0	
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

PROJECT EXPENSES	SMST Grant Request	Other Funding	Total	Line Item Description
Please provide details for each line item in the description section of your project budget. For example: <b>Salary and Wages</b> - \$3,500 in wages will support the Research Coordinator to implement the programs. Wages were calculated as 10% of the Coordinator's time at a salary of \$35,000				
Salaries and wages			\$0	
Consultants and professional services			\$0	
Travel			\$0	
Project Supplies				
Equipment			\$0	
Office Supplies/Materials			\$0	
Postage and mailing			\$0	
Indirect expenses ie: rent/occupancy, utilities, maintenance)			\$0	
Other			\$0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	