Energy & National Security Seed Funding Call – Year 3 Announcement

To: Georgia Tech Faculty and Researchers
From: Energy & National Security Initiative Leadership Team
Subject: Launch of Year 3 E&NS Seed Funding Call

Attention to national security goals must intensify. Approaches to achieving these goals will need to become more proactive and get out ahead of deepening cross-border trade, integrated supply chains, cyberwarfare, threats from state and non-state actors, interconnected financial and infrastructure systems, and shifting global energy geographies. Energy and national security have long been linked through fossil fuel dependence and nuclear diffusion, but these interconnections are broadening and deepening.

Energy systems in the U.S. are largely privatized while national security remains a public good. Because of this, new mechanisms are needed to align private incentives with public goals including energy systems that involve multinational and state owned and/or operated assets. Georgia Tech's existing strengths in nuclear, critical minerals, supply chains, and critical infrastructure cybersecurity—spanning IAC, CoE, CoS, CoC, and GTRI—position the institution to contribute significantly to this evolving domain. In response, SEI and GTRI established the ***Energy & National Security Initiative*** designed to mobilize Georgia Tech expertise towards tackling some of these emerging challenges.

In its first two years, the seed-funding program supported research through two pathways: Category A's modest exploratory awards supporting concept development, and Category B's multi-phase projects. Together, these projects were centralized across several recurring themes:

- Climate-Related Threats and the Grid
- Nuclear-Related Security Factors
- Supply Chain Issues and Security
- Reliability of Renewables, Integration, and Grid Cybersecurity

Collectively, this work affirmed the breadth of GT's expertise and demonstrated the need for continued investment, motivating the extension of the seed funding call. As such, Year 3 efforts will be more ambitious— aiming to further the program's focus on solution-based outputs, external collaboration, and stronger alignment with federal priorities.

We implore all interested teams to begin to reflect on the below questions which will shape and guide the direction of Year 3 endeavors. Teams currently supported by this initiative may reapply for Year 3; however, proposals must reflect a substantially reimagined effort rather than an extension of existing work.

<u>Proposal Consideration Questions</u>

- What is the national security or geopolitical energy policy dilemma (or set of issues) that your project is designed to address?
- What is the specific issue of vulnerability or opportunity for advancing national security interests identified by your project that can speak to this broad energy-national security policy dilemma?
- What is the specific nexus of science-technology-economics-strategic/policy in this research that can be examined/leveraged to understand key vulnerabilities and opportunities in order to investigate broader energy-national security/geopolitical dilemmas? What are the key/refined policy issues that can derive from this focus?
- How do you propose to extend your research focus and approach, as well as construct an interdisciplinary team, to address/explicate this national security/geopolitical dilemma? What stands to be the "value-added" contribution of this effort towards addressing these national security/geopolitical challenges/issues/policies?

Interested teams should submit a Notice of Intent here by ***February 20***: **NOI Submission**

The full RFP is expected to be released in early March with a proposal deadline for mid-March. Projects will be one-year efforts and will begin July 2026.

Building on the successes of the first two years, this initiative seeks to advance Georgia Tech's leadership at the energy–national security nexus through continued investment in impactful, collaborative research. We look forward to the innovative proposals and collaborations that will emerge as the program moves into its third year.