Educational Development and Stimulus Fund

Notice of Grant Availability

I. **A Program of Funding for STEM Education Development, Technology Vocational Training, and Maker/Hacker Spaces**

The Educational Development and Stimulus Fund (EDSFUND) is a private grant funding organization with the goal of helping educational institutions and non-profit Maker/Hacker Spaces obtain financial assistance to buy tools needed to create or complete projects.

This announcement is notification of EDSFUND's second round of grants availability. In this round, we are offering funding for the purchase of CNC tools and training from Tormach, LLC (www.tormach.com) and the DIWire fabrication tool from PensaLabs (http://www.pensalabs.com).

The grants EDSFUND awards will take the form of matching funds. EDSFUND will contribute 40% of tool purchase costs, while the applicant will furnish 60% Tormach tool purchase costs. EDSFUND maximum contribution per approved application will be $6000, unless an application combines both Tormach and DIWire tools in which case the maximum award will be $7000. EDSFUND anticipates that appoximately ten (10) applications will be funded in this second round.

Because this is a competitive grant program, applications for this second round will be accepted from July 1, 2015 to a deadline of September 30, 2015. Notice of awards will be issued October 15th, 2015 though

EDSFUND reserves the right to delay notification if we are overwhelmed with applications.

Evaluation of the grant applications will be performed by a Review Committee which will include engineers, educators, CNC technicians, and students. Awards will be made based on factors which are outlined in II (G) below.

II. Grant Guidelines
A. Eligibility of Applicants

Applicants eligible for funding will be schools or organizations, not individuals. Eligible applicants for this round of funding will be limited to those located in the United States.

Schools that have organized a 501(c)(3) entity should apply using that structure. Schools that do not have such a structure should apply using a cover letter on their school letterhead.

Applications from educational institutions must include documentation that the administrative structure of the school is aware that the application is being made, and that matching funds will be available should the applicant receive a grant award.

Maker/Hacker organizations must be organized as 501(c)(3), or at the least must provide documentation that application for 501(c)(3) status is underway, and that such certification is likely to be conveyed during the period of time that the organization will be pursuing completion of the project they describe in their application to EDSFUND.

B. Description of Your Project

EDSFUND prefers to fund projects, not programs. In other words, EDSFUND funding should promote the use of Tormach or DIWIRE tools to complete a specific project such as building a robot for a FIRST competition, rather than a general program of STEM enrichment. EDSFUND is well aware that the tools purchased with this funding will be used for ongoing educational purposes and Maker projects, but for the purpose of this grant round, EDSFUND prefers that applicants describe the project they want to complete, and the role Tormach and/or DIWIRE tools will play in the project. Applications should present in detail what Tormach tools will contribute to the project.

Because Tormach does offer educational classes in the use of its equipment, the cost of enrollment in such classes can be included in the project application. While EDSFUND will only fund the class cost, travel and lodging expenses can be part of the applicant's 60% matching requirement.

EDSFUND wishes to encourage creativity in projects proposed. For example, rather than simply fund a project to build a robot, we'd prefer to fund a project to build a robot that plays violin. Or, even better yet, a robot that assembles the violin it plays. EDSFUND wants preparation of this grant application to be a stimulus for the generation of ideas which coalesce into a defined project, which is then described in the grant application.

If the proposed project is a sub-component of a larger project, applicant should describe the entire project and detail how the proposal for funding from EDSFUND allows for completion of the larger project.

The application for funding should include a discussion of how the applicant is organized (is this a school class, or a Technology Club, or a Maker's Mill) and whether there is a group leader such as a teacher or volunteer mentor. The application should also detail the team's "workflow" concept. What will the Tormach equipment be used for? Will all team members learn to use the Tormach equipment or will there be specific team members using the equipment? And how many Team Members will there be? What are their roles?

The project description should also include a timeline for achieving the project goal. Preferably, the goal should be achievable within one year of notification of the grant award. If goal achievement cannot be accomplished within one year, discussion of the factors that mandate the delay should be included in the application.

C. Application Formats

Applications may be presented in a variety of formats. Applicants are encouraged to innovate. (Think of your application as something like a "pitch" for potential investors.) Websites conveying the application are fine, as are YouTube videos or any other format the applicant conjures up that effectively conveys the applicant's concept.

However, the project budget must be submitted as a written,

electronically transmitted document, and the application itself must be distributable without employing dead trees. EDSFUND is not interested in receiving printed applications.

D. Matching Funds

As noted in the Introduction, EDSFUND will match 40% of Tormach and/or DIWIRE equipment cost, up to a maximum of $6000 per applicant per round ($7000 if both Tormach and DIWIRE equipment is purchased). The application for funding should detail the complete scope of the project being proposed, as well as the projected total budget. If the applicant plans to buy tools or materials other than Tormach and/or DIWIRE equipment, the application should summarize details of that equipment or materials.

Matching funds provided by the applicant can come from any source (federal funds, club dues, whatever) but the source of the match should be detailed in the application. If matching funds are to become available on a specific date (say, a school fiscal year anniversary), this date should be specified in the application.

E. Funds Availability

Funds will be available immediately upon notification of award. Successful applicants will have up to one year from date of notification to purchase the Tormach equipment specified in their application, although applicants should note the desirability of completing their projects within one year of award. At the time of purchase of equipment from Tormach or Pensa Labs, EDSFUND will make payment of the grant award directly to Tormach, LLC or Pensa

Labs.

F. Timeline for Application and Funding

Applications will be accepted beginning July 1, 2015 with a deadline of Septemberrt 30, 2015. Applicants should be aware that developing a project concept and organizing to achieve that concept will require a concentrated effort to produce an acceptable grant application in the allowed period of time.

Notification of award winners will be made October 15, 2015. If EDSFUND is totally overwhelmed with applications, we reserve the right to delay that award notification date.

G. Recipient Reporting Requirements

EDSFUND is particularly eager to establish an ongoing relationship with the recipients of the grant funds. Hence, an EDSFUND representative will maintain contact with the award winners through the duration of their projects. EDSFUND would like to receive project updates and requires a Final Report in any format. (Yes, a project progress website or a YouTube summary of the project are acceptable). This Final Report is described in section "M" below.

A commitment on the part of the applicant to submit lesson or project plans to EDSFUND would be looked upon favorably by the Review Committee.

H. Grant Evaluation Criteria

As noted above, EDSFUND has established a Review Committee to

evaluate the grant applications. Awards will be based upon:

1. **Creativity and innovation of the proposed project**
2. **A clear identification of the problem or challenge the proposed project addresses, and the feasibility of addressing the problem or challenge**
3. **Detailed explanation of the role Tormach tools will play in completion of the project**
4. **The role students or Maker Place members played in conceptualizing the project**
5. **The role students or Maker Place members play in preparing the grant application**
6. **Creativity of the application (in other words, have some fun with this!)**
7. **Commitment of applicant to participate in an ongoing reporting process**

I. **Letters of support**

Letters indicting support for the project from interested parties such as school administrators, community leaders, or project mentors are of value. Letters of commitment of matching or additional funding, including in-kind contributions will also be considered favorably by the Review Committee.

J. **Certificate of Completion**

Upon receipt of a final report documenting project completion, EDSFUND will award a Certificate of Completion to each Team Member, including any teachers or mentors involved in leading or

advising the successful Team.

K. Technical Assistance to Applicants

A representative of EDSFUND will be pleased to provide technical assistance to potential applicants in preparation of their application, particularly if students or Maker Space members are creating the application. If applicants are unsure about the specifications of the Tormach or DIWIRE equipment or tooling they need to compete their project, EDSFUND will arrange for technical assistance directly from the manufacturers to the applicant.

L. Delivery of Final Report

EDSFUND requires a Final Report summarizing the project. This report will be of particular value if it identifies problems that were solved using Tormach or DIWIRE tools, or problems that were NOT solved because of lack of tool capability or adaptability. The final report should include images or video that EDSFUND can use to build a website documenting this round of funding. Photos of the tools at work will be especially valuable.

M. Distribution of Final Reports

EDSFUND will, upon receipt of all Final Reports, prepare a summation of all projects which will be made available, probably in the form of a website, to all applicants.

III. Summary of Requirements

A. Describe and document the applicant's organizational structure

B. Describe the proposed project

C. Describe how the applicant's team is organized and how the Team will proceed with work on the proposed project

D. Define the role of Tormach equipment in achieving the project goal

E.   Provide a project timeline

F.   Provide a specific list of the Tormach and/or DIWIRE equipment to be purchased with the EDSFUND award

F. Provide a complete project budget, including the required 60% (minimum) matching fund

G. Describe how the Project Team will interact with EDSFUND throughout the project, and how the Project Team will make a final report