

New CONNECT/Calit2 Portal Will Help Innovators Access Federal Grants

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As more and more federal grant funding “hits the streets” CONNECT and Calit2 are launching a new Federal Funding Opportunities Portal to help San Diego’s innovators keep pace. The new service will be part of the CONNECT website and will allow innovators to receive daily, weekly or monthly notification of all federal grants that apply to their area of focus.

The Federal Funding Opportunities Portal was originally developed by Calit2 to help faculty members at UC San Diego. It currently features profiles of nearly 750 UC San Diego faculty members and their research profiles. Using Web 2.0 tools, the Portal allows faculty to network with likeminded UC San Diego researchers, form research teams and participate in joint project proposals, and pinpoint new funding opportunities from more than 60 federal agencies.

Calit2 is now developing a customized version of the Portal for CONNECT. CONNECT members will be able to customize the type of funding opportunities they receive and sign up for e-mail notification. The Portal’s automated system will then match the company's research areas with similar keywords and phrases in each federal grant solicitation. The new service will also help companies find and team up with research partners at UC San Diego where grant requirements include a public-private partnership.

The new Portal is expected to go online in the final quarter of 2009.