



Rocket Fund 2025 Application Form

Application Link: https://platform.younoodle.com/client/entry-rounds/caltech_rocket_fund_2025/apply

Rocket Fund reviewers expect applications to be succinct and to the point, focusing on answering just what the questions request. Our review panels include subject matter experts from academia, government labs, industry, and investment groups that are experienced at assessing developing technologies and early-stage companies. If you have any questions about how to fill in the form, contact Caltech's Office of Entrepreneurial Programs stephanie.yanchinski@caltech.edu.

Company Name/Website

Key Contact: Title/Role, Email/Phone

Location: Street & Number, State/Province, City, Postal Code, Country

Academic Affiliation: founder, licensing, academic funding, R&D

Please check how you heard about the Rocket Fund:

- Rocket Fund email
- Rocket Fund Newsletter
- Rocket Fund Member referrals
- Social email/X
- Channel partners, incubators, accelerators
- Rocket Fund information events
- Other Newsletters
- Word of mouth

Rocket Fund Tracks: Please indicate your preferred track for Rocket Fund consideration by reading the technology sectors outlined in the Guidelines on the Rocket Fund Website <https://rocketfund.caltech.edu/apply> . Assign your company to the track best describing the market sector and application for your product that the Rocket Fund will support.

Track 1: Building Technologies

Track 2: Transportation

Track 3: Energy Technologies

Track 4: Agriculture & Food Technologies

Track 5: Water

Track 6: Climate and Environment Technologies

Summary Pitch: In a few sentences summarize the high-level problem your product will solve and what benefits your company will deliver to the customer and to the environment. Describe the impact which can include such things as energy savings, manufacturing efficiencies, greenhouse gas reduction, industry decarbonization, carbon dioxide capture, sequestration, and conversion, renewable energy adoption, and waste reduction. Word limit: 75 words max.

Technology: Briefly describe the technological advance underpinning your product. Describe how the innovation offers a competitive advantage over competing technologies in the marketplace. Please list/link any third-party validation (data, publications, test lab results, patents applied or received, customer letters of intent, MOUs) indicating that your technology could potentially work as claimed. Attach documents, and if available, a YouTube or Vimeo link here. Note file limit is 10 Megabytes. Word limit: 150 words max.

Target Market and Customers: Please describe your target customers and include a named list where possible. Provide realistic projections of the following: Total Addressable Market, (global and US), Serviceable Available Market, and the Serviceable Obtainable Market - the initial or beachhead market consisting of early adopters. Of the three, the SOM is particularly relevant as the Rocket Fund's aim is to help you reach these early adopters with technology that is derisked and proven to work in the commercial world. We look for a "bottom up" calculation of the SOM, based on assessing the current market, and on customer discovery and working relationships with your target industry. Word limit: 200 words max.

Potential impact on sustainability: Expand, in more detail, on the expected impact on sustainability once your product has been widely adopted, include goals with metrics that are integrated into your company's business model such as energy savings (kW hrs.); renewables adoption; greenhouse gas reduction (tons/yr.); CO2 mitigation; and electrification. Mention results from technoeconomic analysis, carbon lifecycle analysis and other tools that will quantify your impact. Word limit: 100 words max.

Diversity: Describe your company's approach to increasing diversity and to distributing the benefit of your innovative products to the broader community. This could include recruitment strategies or policies to diversity company leadership and staffing; delivery of benefits to underserved communities (e.g., grid resilience, distributed energy generation, pollution reduction); and job creation. Mention partnerships that underscore this commitment. Word Limit: 100 words max

Industry, Government, and University Partners: List partners and collaborators, followed by their role in your partnership: e.g., advanced applied R&D; product design and development; prototype building and lab testing, scaling up and manufacturing; funding; technical advice; product demonstration site, other. Include the partners offering a Rocket Fund demonstration site, which will be described in more detail in the next section. A DEMONSTRATION SITE WITH A POTENTIAL CUSTOMER OR GOLD STANDARD PARTNER WILL BE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE AN AWARD

Customer Sites for Demonstration: Please describe demonstration arrangements, including sites and partners, or your efforts to secure these. Rocket Fund will also fund demonstrations done at “gold standard” test labs yielding results that validate your technology with your target customers. If under discussion, please indicate the expected time for closure. Solidifying these agreements or finalizing negotiations will be essential by the time of the final awards in June 2025 to receive a Rocket Fund award. **Word Limit: 150 words max.**

Corporate Status: Please list the following: year company founded; funding from all sources: e.g., academic, government grants; fellowships; corporate partnerships; personal, family and friends; investment rounds; accelerator/incubator support; competition prizes; voucher programs (e.g., IN2 Wells Fargo, Shell GameChanger); sales and services. Please note: Ventures must be incorporated by the time Rocket Fund awards are made. Companies raising more than \$4 million in equity financing before applying by the deadline of March 3, 2025, are ineligible, but rounds exceeding this limit and secured during the Rocket Fund process are acceptable. Companies may receive unrestricted amount of government grant support. **Word limit: 150 words max.**

Please note that national and international companies will be considered but should intend establishing a California presence, legally able to operate in the US, and have a US corporate bank account at the time of the award.

The Rocket Fund Use of Funds: Summarize your planned use of the Rocket Fund award for designing, building and demonstrating your prototype by checking the boxes: minimum commercial prototype (MCP) design (TRL level 5 - 7); building and iteration of MCP; installation costs; consultation services for product engineering and manufacturing process development and scale up; software engineering; certification and lab validation services; equipment and parts purchase. Rocket Fund will consider other uses subject to negotiation. Note: The Rocket Fund does not cover patent costs or salaries.

Additional Funding: The Rocket Fund offers additional funding opportunities to all semi-final and final candidates through our channel partnerships (operating through RF referrals) with the IN2 Wells Fargo <https://in2ecosystem.com/> and GCxN programs <https://gcnrel.com/> and the Electric Power Research Institute. <https://www.epri.com/>

Startup companies selected to IN2 receive up to \$250,000 in a non-dilutive award to validate their technologies in the world-class laboratories at NREL. The Shell Game Changer accelerator powered by NREL offers access to financial resources and NREL's world class facilities and technical experts. *Please click yes or no whether you are interested in participating in these programs.*

The Electric Power Research Institute <https://www.epri.com/> can offer selected Rocket Fund applicants 1) access to lab testing facilities and technical support; 2) partnering on grant opportunities; and 3) connections to EPRI members. For example: SkyCool Systems, Inc. (Rocket Fund 2018) and Yotta Energy (Rocket Fund 2020) secured \$1.77m and \$1.23m grants respectively from the California Energy Commission, in partnership with EPRI. *Please click yes or no whether you will be willing for the Rocket Fund to share your information with EPRI on a confidential basis.*

TheRocketFundOffice: September 24, 2024

