

Fostering innovation is one of the three pillars of the AFS mission to serve the metalcasting industry through advocacy, innovation, and education. AFS has a long history of sponsoring metalcasting research and innovation programs and a portion of all AFS corporate member dues are set aside each year to fund research.

### **Goals & Objectives:**

The goal of AFS research is to move the metalcasting industry forward, remove technical barriers and gaps, and improve the overall efficiency and quality of the metalcasting process. AFS works with leading casting technical experts to discuss state of the industry, and ask leading questions such as: What would make our job better? What would we like to be able to do in 5 years, or 10 years that we cannot do now? AFS research projects help develop new technologies, improve our understanding of basic casting issues, and benchmark best practices.

### **Project Development:**

Developing and executing research projects is a critical part of the AFS Technical Committee structure and most research projects are developed within the AFS technical committees. The members serve as the project steering committee to help monitor and direct the research toward project goals and objectives. AFS also accepts research proposals from outside researchers and universities. However, these projects will be directed back to the AFS technical committee most relevant to the research topic, for review and evaluation. **All projects submitted for AFS funding must have the approval and sponsorship of the relevant technical committee and division.**

### **Submission Procedure:**

After a research proposal has been approved by the AFS technical committee and division, it can be submitted to the ASFS Research Board for funding consideration. All projects must be submitted on the official AFS proposal form, available through AFS Technical Services. Each submitted proposal must include a project monitoring (steering) committee including members of the sponsoring AFS Technical Committee.

### **Research Board Approval:**

The AFS Research Board will review the proposed research project for potential funding. The research principal investigator and a member of the sponsoring committee will be asked to present the project goals to the Research Board members. The board will evaluate the project for technical objectives, potential impact on the metalcasting industry and availability of AFS funds. The board can approve the project for funding, decline to fund, or return the project back to the sponsoring division for further development.

**The attached chart provides a visual summary of the research project development and approval process.**

**AFS Procedure for Developing Research Projects for AFS Funding**

