Adjudication Criteria for Catalyst Grant LOIs

Criteria / Point	Poor	Fair	Good	Outstanding
Project rationale, goals, and objectives	Rationale is provided but with unclear linkages to the stated goals and objectives.	Rationale is clear and linked to the goals and objectives, though some may be overly broad or general.	Rationale is strong with clear linkages to well-articulated goals and objectives that are specific enough to gauge the success of the project.	Per good + project rationale, goals, and objectives collectively create a clear understanding of the significant need for the research and a keen interest in its results.
Project Impact and Alignment with the DSI Mission and/or Thematic Programs	Project impact is poorly explained and alignment with the DSI mission or the Thematic Programs is weak.	Project impact is explained and somewhat aligned with the DSI mission or Thematic Programs.	Project impact is clearly explained and is well-aligned with the DSI mission or the Thematic Programs.	Per good + project impact will significantly advance DSI mission or Thematic Programs and has strong potential to catalyze future activity at the DSI in related topics.
Research Approach and Methods * Novelty = new methodological approach or novel application of existing approach to an unsolved problem	Research approach is not clearly explained or is inappropriate for the problem. Proposal lacks novelty*.	Research approach is clearly explained and appropriate. Data and data sources are clearly described. Expected results are linked to project goals and objectives. Proposal has limited novelty*.	Research approach is clearly explained and appropriate. Data and data sources are clearly described. Expected results are linked to project goals and objectives. Methodological choice is justified by contrasting with alternatives. Proposal is novel*.	Per good + research approach goes well beyond achieving the goals and objectives of the original project and has potential for broader applicability to problems in other contexts.