

**Call for Project Proposals**  
**Honda Research Institute USA, Inc.**  
**Honda Dexterous Hand Project**

## **1. Introduction**

Honda Research Institute USA, Inc. (“HRI-US”) is pleased to invite university professors and researchers with laboratories to submit proposals for an opportunity to participate in the **Honda Dexterous Hand Project** (the “Project”)—an initiative designed to encourage innovation, creativity, and problem-solving among the next generation of professors, researchers and engineers.

This Project offers Participants the opportunity to explore ideas that align with HRI-US’ mission to create new value through technology, sustainability, and mobility solutions.

- Selected university laboratories (each, a “Participant”) will receive a simulation model and related software of Honda’s latest dexterous multi-fingered robotic hand (“Honda Dexterous Hand 2025 Model”) in February 2026 for use with this Project only to help the Participant test and further refine its proposal.
- Each Participant will have additional opportunities to operate the Honda Dexterous Hand 2025 Model at the HRI-US facility in San Jose, California, including at the Intelligence Robotics Research Lab (the “Honda Facility”) during the Summer of 2026 for a collaborative hands-on research and experiment with HRI-US researchers for a period of 2–3 weeks (the “Facility Visit”). Operation of the simulator and hardware will be guided by and under the instruction of HRI-US researchers.
- The outcomes generated from this Project by a Participant may be used by such Participant for academic publications and/or related research.
- Any new methodologies, know-hows, and research results generated from this Project by a Participant will belong to such Participant and HRI-US or its affiliates will receive a right of first negotiation for any resulting outcomes or technologies.
- Each Participant will be given priority consideration by HRI-US during its 2027 distribution program involving the next generation model (2026 Model) of the Honda Dexterous Hand.
- Specifications of the Honda Dexterous Hand 2025 Model can be found here: [Specifications](#).

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## **2. Eligibility**

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Any professors or researchers from an accredited university leading a laboratory may apply to participate in the Project. Applications from students alone will not be accepted.
- Any students participating in this Project (as part of a selected university) must be currently enrolled graduate students at such accredited university and must maintain their enrollment status through the conclusion of the Project (around September 2026).

## **Export Control Restriction:**

**Participation is limited to students who are not citizens or legal permanent residents of certain sanctioned and embargoed countries or affiliated with or employed by parties subject to U.S. Government export control restrictions.**

Specifically, students must not be:

- Foreign nationals who are citizens or legal permanent residents of countries currently subject to comprehensive U.S. embargoes or sanctions, i.e., **Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria**, unless authorized by the U.S. government;
- Listed on, affiliated with or employed by any party for which the United States Government maintains restrictions on certain exports, reexports, or transfers of items (See the [Consolidated Screening List](#), note these lists may include universities); or
- Otherwise prohibited from participating in research or technical collaboration under **U.S. Export Administration Regulations (EAR)** or **International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)**.

By submitting a proposal, applicants confirm they meet these criteria and acknowledge that participation may be subject to export control review.

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## **3. Project Scope**

Proposals should align with HRI-US' research interests or focus areas relevant to dexterity, such as:

- **Teleoperated manipulation**
- **Human-tool based assembly / disassembly**
- **In-hand manipulation**
- **Dynamic object handling**
- **Dexterous grasp planning**

Projects outside of these areas will also be considered if they demonstrate clear innovation and relevance to HRI-US' research interest.

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## **4. Submission Requirements**

Each proposal must include:

1. Project Title
2. Faculty Advisor and University / Department
3. Applicant's name(s)

4. Project Summary (max. 300 words)
5. Objectives and Expected Outcomes based on selected Project Scope
6. Methodology / Approach
7. Description of the experimental concept and scenario to be conducted using the Honda Dexterous Hand
8. Timeline and Milestones (between receipt of the Honda Dexterous Hand 2025 Model and implementation at the Honda Facility)
9. Potential Impact / Benefits
10. Summary of current research topics and past achievements related to the proposed experiment (works on hands, control, or learning are especially desirable).
11. Explanation of expected results and utilization of the Project (e.g., PhD dissertation, conference paper, student training).
12. Expected number of team members for the Facility Visit and the team's approximate schedule. Please note that the maximum number of attendees allowed from each selected university laboratory is 5.

All submissions must be written in English and compiled as a single PDF document.

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## 5. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Originality and innovation: Novelty of the scenario and methodology
- Technical feasibility:
  - Whether the experimental scenario effectively leverages the Honda Dexterous Hand's capabilities, including dexterity, strength, and other key features
  - Showcases a clear advantage of the Honda Dexterous Hand's unique features over other end-effectors (grippers, suction cups, or hands with limited dexterity), especially on tasks they find difficult
- Potential social, environmental, or technological impact
- Alignment with HRI-US' research and development goals
- Clarity and professionalism of presentation

Participants are expected to develop and validate their algorithms in simulation before visiting the Honda Facility to conduct experiments on the actual hardware.

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## 6. Support / Funding

Participants will receive the following support from HRI-US:

- **Lodging support.** HRI-US will arrange hotel or other lodging accommodations near the Honda Facility to house Participants during the Facility Visit at its expense. Participants

are not required to stay in any accommodation provided by HRI-US. Any Participant that chooses to opt out of Honda-provided lodging shall be responsible for arranging its own accommodation and pay for all associated costs. It is each Participant's responsibility to determine whether there are gift rules, limits, conflicts of interest, and reporting requirements under its university policies that would prevent a university from accepting the lodging as offered here.

- **Mentorship.** Participants will receive mentorship from HRI-US researchers or engineers on the operation of both the simulator and the hardware.
- **Hands-on operation.** Participants will be able to operate the Honda Dexterous Hand 2025 Model at the Honda Facility.

**No Funding.** HRI-US will not provide any compensation, funding, or reimbursement for participation in this Project. Each Participant is responsible for its own expenses and costs, including, without limitation, transportation, meals, and hotel accommodations (if opting out of Honda-provided accommodations).

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## 7. Submission Process

Please submit your proposal by February 27, 2026 via:

 **Honda Dexterous Hand Project** [CFP submission link](#)

By submitting a proposal, applicants acknowledge and agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions of the Project outlined below, including all applicable laws, university policies, and export control regulations.

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## 8. Key Dates

- **Call for Proposal Opens:** January 12, 2026
- **Proposal Submission Deadline:** February 27, 2026
- **Notification of Selection via Email:** March 6, 2026
- **Release of simulation of the Honda Dexterous Hand 2025 Model to Participants:** Mid-March 2026
- **Progress Check on the Simulation:** Late May 2026
- **Hands-on research and experiment at Honda Facility:** total 2-3 weeks between July 2026 and September 2026

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## 9. Contact

For questions or additional information, please contact:

**Dexterous Hand Project Team, Intelligence Robotics Research Division, HRI-US**

 [DexterousHandCFP@honda-ri.com](mailto:DexterousHandCFP@honda-ri.com)

## Terms and Conditions

By submitting a proposal to the **Honda Dexterous Hand Project**, each applicant (and if selected by HRI-US, each Participant) acknowledges and agrees to the following terms and conditions:

### 1. Eligibility Confirmation

Applicants confirm that they meet all eligibility requirements described in the Call for Project Proposals, including compliance with **U.S. export control laws and regulations**. Applicants who are subject to U.S. sanctions, embargoes, or listed on any U.S. government restricted or denied parties list are not eligible.

### 2. Original Work

All submitted proposals must represent the applicant's **original work**. Any use of third-party ideas, data, or materials must be properly credited and used in accordance with applicable intellectual property and copyright laws.

### 3. Intellectual Property (IP)

If selected to participate in the Project as a Participant, each Participant agrees to sign HRI-US' [Intellectual Property Agreement](#), which provides that, any ideas or proposals submitted in response to this Call for Project will remain the Participant's sole property. To the extent any new methodologies, know-hows, and research results are generated solely by such Participant during this Project, the ownership of such methodologies, know-hows, and research results and related intellectual rights shall remain with the Participant, and Participant agrees to grant to HRI-US and its affiliates a **right of first negotiation**, for a period of sixty (60) days, to review, evaluate, and discuss the proposed ideas and any licensing arrangements regarding such methodologies, know-how, or research result.

### 4. Confidentiality

Applicants **should not** include confidential, proprietary, or sensitive information in their proposals. Any information submitted to HRI-US in connection with this Project will be treated as non-confidential and each applicant expressly consents to the disclosure by HRI-US to its officers, directors, employees, contractors, and affiliates **for evaluation purposes** only. Each applicant further acknowledges and agrees that HRI-US or its affiliates may currently or in the future develop information internally, or receive information from other parties, that is similar to the information or material submitted by the applicant in connection with this Project. Nothing in this Agreement will prohibit HRI-US or its affiliates from developing or having developed products, concepts, systems or techniques that are similar to or compete with the products, concepts, systems or techniques contemplated by or embodied in the proposal submitted under this Project, provided that HRI-US and its affiliates do not utilize the information and material submitted by the applicant. Further, due to exposure to the information provided by the applicant, HRI-US

or its affiliates may gain or enhance general knowledge, skills, and experience (including ideas, concepts, know-how and techniques) related to their own business (“**General Knowledge**”). The subsequent use by HRI-US or its affiliates of such General Knowledge without reference to the information provided by the applicant in written, electronic or other fixed form, will not constitute misappropriation.

#### **5. Compliance and Ethics**

Participants agree to comply with all applicable laws, university policies, research ethics, and safety standards, including those related to human subjects, data privacy, and export control.

#### **6. Program Modifications**

HRI-US reserves the right to modify, postpone, or cancel this Project. All decisions regarding Project selection and funding shall be at HRI-US’ sole discretion.

#### **7. Publicity and Media Release**

If selected to participate in the Project as a Participant, each Participant agrees to sign HRI-US’ standard Media Release.

#### **8. Liability**

If selected to participate in the Project as a Participant, each Participant agrees to sign HRI-US’ standard [Participant Waiver and Release](#). Any refusal or failure to sign the Participant Waiver and Release will disqualify the selected applicant from participation.

#### **9. On-Site Facility Visits**

If visiting the Honda Facility, each Participant will comply with the Honda Facility’s rules and regulations governing the security, maintenance and safety of such Facility, including such policies and procedures provided to the Participant prior to the Facility Visit. Photographing or otherwise recording HRI-US’ property is strictly prohibited without written permission from an authorized representative of HRI-US. Everything a Participant sees, hears, or experiences on site is considered confidential.