

# Hypoallergenic facial hair dyes

BEAUTY AND SKINCARE

## Background

Facial hair dyes often struggle to balance effectiveness with gentleness, as the chemicals that color hair can be too harsh for sensitive facial skin, leading to irritation and allergic reactions. The coarse texture of facial hair further complicates consistent color matching, while application issues like uneven coverage and skin staining make it difficult for users to achieve satisfactory results. As a leading brand in hair care and color, we are dedicated to advancing our product line to meet the highest standards of safety and efficacy. We recognize that the delicate skin on the face requires special considerations in the formulation of hair color products. Our goal is to develop a hair color solution safe for use on facial skin that delivers the performance our consumers expect.

## What we're looking for

We seek proposals for temporary and permanent hair color products specifically designed to be safe and effective for facial use. The ideal solution should be suitable for sensitive skin, account for the coarse texture and growth patterns of facial hair, and address issues like uneven absorption of the dye and irregular color coverage.

## Solutions of interest include:

- Gentle dye formulations specific for facial skin that avoid irritation, allergic reactions, or other adverse effects.
- Novel hair dyes that adapt to the coarser texture of facial hair.
- Researchers and organizations experienced in developing cosmetic formulations of facial products and/or products for sensitive skin.

## Our must-have requirements are:

- Potential partners must be familiar with the specific regulations and safety measures required for products used on the face.
- Products must be formulated with hypoallergenic ingredients.
- Novel hair dyes should have a reasonable basis to believe they will not cause irritation or adverse effects on facial skin.

## Our nice-to-have's are:

- Long-lasting color retention, with a preference for natural tones (e.g., browns, blacks).
- Formulations with added benefits, such as moisturizing properties or enhanced skin care.
- Solutions that have undergone rigorous safety testing, with supporting claims such as dermatologically tested or hypoallergenic.

- Product features that enhance the application process, such as specialized applicators for even coverage or formulations/barrier creams designed to prevent skin staining.

**What's out of scope:**

- Formulations containing ingredients not deemed safe for facial application.
- Formulations containing known allergens commonly found in cosmetics.

**Acceptable technology readiness levels (TRL): Levels 2-9**

1. Basic principles observed
2. Concept development
3. Experimental proof of concept
4. Validated in lab conditions
5. Validated in relevant environment
6. Demonstrated in relevant environment
7. Regulatory approval
8. Product in production
9. Product in market

**What we can offer you**

Eligible partnership models:

- Sponsored research
- Co-development
- Supply/purchase
- Material transfer

**Benefits:**

**Sponsored Research**

Funding is available for development of methods or models that provide the desired outcome described above. Funding amount to be determined by mutually agreed-upon statement of work and consistent with existing funding range for graduate or postdoctoral level research.

**Expertise**

Partners will be connected to innovative global leaders in the beauty industry with over 100+ years of history & industry expertise.

**Facilities and Services**

We have facilities and labs in the US, Asia & Europe available for testing of potential solutions.

Please contact the University of South Florida Technology Transfer office representative for submission – Roisin McNally at [rmcnally@usf.edu](mailto:rmcnally@usf.edu)