Pre-Proposal Solicitation for Limited Submission Opportunity

National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program

What: Internal pre-proposal competition for UNI faculty and staff interested in submitting a proposal to the National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program (NSF-MRI).

Pre-proposals in all NSF funded areas will be considered. Pre-proposals that focus on high performance computing and data analytics are encouraged.

When: Pre-proposals due to RSP Monday, 11/4/19
Applicants informed of results Friday, 11/15/19
Full proposals accepted by NSF Between 1/1/20 and 1/19/20

How: Review the information below and submit a pre-proposal to rebecca.rinehart@uni.edu.

Background: The National Science Foundation (NSF) Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) awards grants for the acquisition or development of research instruments. It focuses on multi-user/shared instrumentation that often supports research needs across disciplinary boundaries.

The MRI program only accepts 2 or 3 proposals, depending on the proposal track (see below) from an institution each year. As such, the UNI Office of Research and Sponsored Programs conducts an internal pre-proposal competition to select the proposals that will be submitted from UNI. Pre-proposals are scored by UNI faculty and staff reviewers. Reviews are not blind, however, reviewers are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest.

Eligible project costs are limited to the cost of the instrument, commissioning, and calibration, the direct and indirect costs of maintenance, and of appropriate technical support (including training) to operate the instrument during the award period. Salary support, including fringe benefits and indirect costs, is considered an eligible cost only for personnel directly involved in maintaining the instrument or providing appropriate technical support to operate the instrument.

Track 1: Proposals requesting from $100,000 to $1,000,000 (max. 2 submissions per institution)
Track 2: Proposals requesting from $1,000,000 to $4,000,000 (max. 1 submission per institution)

• UNI is also eligible to submit Track 1 proposals for less than $100,000
• UNI is exempt from the 30% cost share requirement

Instructions: Review the NSF MRI Program Solicitation 18-513 carefully. Proposed projects must fit the program guidelines. We encourage you to contact an NSF program officer to verify your project’s suitability or answer any questions about your project prior to submitting a pre-proposal. Any information from NSF program officers should accompany your pre-proposal.

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Include the following components in your Internal NSF-MRI Pre-Proposal. Submit the pre-proposal to rebecca.rinehart@uni.edu by Monday, November 4th.

1) **Limited Submission Cover Page (Department Head signature required)**

2) **Project Description (3-page limit, not including references cited)**

   - Describe the instrument to be requested
   - Justify the need for the instrument
   - What award period will be requested? (up to 3 years for acquisition proposals, 5 years for development proposals)
   - Explain the roles and responsibilities of the PI, co-PIs and senior personnel who will be primary users of the instrumentation
   - Describe how the award will build research capability at UNI
   - Describe how the MRI award will enhance research training of students
   - Describe any other Broader Impacts
   - Will any costs be requested beyond the purchase price of the instrument?
   - Who will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the instrument after the expiration of the award?

3) **Previous reviews (if applicable)**
   
   If this project has previously been submitted to NSF, please include reviewer comments from your previous submission. Include up to 1 additional page in your Project Description outlining plans for addressing reviewer comments.

**Questions:** If you have questions or would like to learn more please contact:

Rebecca Rinehart, Preaward Specialist at 3-6482 or rebecca.rinehart@uni.edu, or

Tolif Hunt, Director of Research and Sponsored Programs at 3-3025 or tolf.hunt@uni.edu.

RSP preaward staff are available to discuss this program and to review your pre-proposal prior to submission upon request, if received early enough.