Pre-Proposal Solicitation for Limited Submission Opportunity

National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program

Pre-Proposal Due Date: Monday, November 27, 2017 by 4 p.m.

What: On Wednesday, November 8th the National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation program (NSF-MRI) call for proposals was revised. As such the internal pre-proposal competition for UNI faculty interested in submitting a proposal to the NSF-MRI program has been revised to reflect a change in the due date and possibly a change in proposal type as well.

Primary Revision: The NSF-MRI changed the definition of the two application tracks. The new track definitions are applicable to the current funding cycle:

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 submissions per institution)

Per revised program solicitation guidance NSF 18-513, all projects must still be either an acquisition project or development project. Institutions may now submit as many as three acquisition or three development projects, or any combination of the two, however only one (1) of those submissions may exceed the $1,000,000 request threshold and only two (2) may request between $100,000 and $1,000,000.

• UNI is eligible to submit a proposal for less than $100,000 (Track 1 proposal).
• UNI is still exempt from the 30% cost share requirement.

When: Pre-proposals are due to the Research & Sponsored Programs (RSP) office by Monday, November 27th, 2017; if selected to move forward, full proposals are due to NSF between January 29, 2018 and February 5, 2018.

How: Review the information below and submit a pre-proposal to RSP by November 27th via email.

Background: The National Science Foundation (NSF) hosts an annual competition to award grants to qualified institutions for major research equipment, called the NSF Major Research Instrumentation program (NSF-MRI). The NSF-MRI program is a limited submission opportunity, meaning that an applying institution may only put forward 2 or 3 proposals, depending on the proposal track (see above) in any given funding cycle. In situations where a granting agency offers a limited submission opportunity, the UNI RSP office conducts an internal pre-proposal competition to select the proposals that will be allowed to submit on behalf of UNI. All pre-proposal reviews are conducted by UNI faculty.
Those interested must submit project summary materials for their proposed projects by **November 27, 2017** to be considered for submitting a proposal to this limited submission opportunity on behalf of UNI. To complete your pre-proposal, please see the instructions below.

**Instructions**: Review the **REVISED NSF MRI Program Solicitation 18-513** carefully. Proposed projects must fit the program guidelines. We encourage you to contact the NSF program director to verify your project’s suitability or answer any questions about your project prior to submitting proposals for the internal selection. Any information from NSF program directors should accompany your pre-proposal.

*Please include the following two components in your Internal NSF-MRI Pre-Proposal:*

1) **Cover Sheet:**
   - Complete NSF MRI Pre-Proposal Cover Sheet, available at the RSP website, by following this link: [Limited Submission Cover Page](#), or by contacting rebecca.rinehart@uni.edu
   - PI/PD and Department Head signatures required

2) **Project Narrative (5-page limit, not including references cited):**
   - Describe the roles and responsibilities of the PI, Co-PIs and senior personnel who will be primary users of the instrumentation.
   - Description of equipment to be requested.
   - Brief descriptions of primary research projects that will be enhanced by acquisition of equipment, including the level of student involvement in each project and the sources of funding (current or planned submissions) that support the research.
   - One paragraph summarizing the Intellectual Merit of the proposal.
   - One paragraph describing the Broader Impacts of the proposal.
   - Discussion of how the equipment will enhance research and research training at UNI.
   - Justification of need.
   - Description of secondary UNI users, collaborations, and outside users.
   - Indicate if this is an Acquisition or Development proposal.

*Note: If you are re-submitting an NSF MRI proposal, please include reviewer comments from your previous submission. Include up to 1 additional page outlining plans for addressing reviewer comments.*

**Pre-Proposal Due:** Monday, November 27, by 4:00 pm

**Submit Pre-Proposal to:** rebecca.rinehart@uni.edu, label the subject line "NSF MRI".

**Selection Notification:** Tuesday, December 12, by 4:00 pm

**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 RSP at 3-3025 or tolif.hunt@uni.edu.