

Limited Submission

Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI)

Most recent NSF announcement: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15504/nsf15504.htm> - toc

WVU Internal Due: **Friday, September 15, 2017**

Agency Full Proposal Due: January 10, 2018

Synopsis

The Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) serves to increase access to shared scientific and engineering instruments for research and research training. The program provides organizations with opportunities to acquire major instrumentation that supports the research and research training goals of the organization and that may be used by other researchers regionally or nationally.

Each MRI proposal may request support for the acquisition (Track 1) or development (Track 2) of a single research instrument for shared inter- and/or intra-organizational use. Development efforts that leverage the strengths of private sector partners to build instrument development capacity at MRI submission-eligible organizations are encouraged. **The University is allowed to submit only three (3) proposals (with a maximum of only two in Track 1) in this competition.** If you are interested in submitting for this solicitation, you must first submit an internal proposal by the above internal due date for external review and selection. **Moreover, if you will be listed as a funded sub-awardee an MRI submission from another institution, you will need to compete in this internal WVU competition as that may count against the WVU proposal allotment (email Sheena.Murphy@mail.wvu.edu for specifics).**

Internal Proposal Guidelines (5 pages):

Email to: Deanna.Whorton@mail.wvu.edu with subject line: "MRI Internal Proposal"

To include:

- PI(s) and Departmental and University Affiliations
- Proposal Title specifying Instrumentation Acquisition (Track 1) or Development (Track 2)
- Description of the Research Instrument and Needs: Description of the requested instrumentation, including manufacturer and model number where appropriate. This section should clearly explain why the requested equipment is needed. The existence and availability of comparable instrumentation (at organizations in close geographical proximity, or otherwise accessible through collaborations or cyberinfrastructure) should be included.
- Estimated Budget: Note: Projects requesting over \$1 million require an additional layer of review at NSF. The only divisions accepting proposals for less than \$100,000 are Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) and Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBES). For acquisition proposals 70% of the Total Project Cost must be for items that can be included in the Equipment Line of the NSF budget form.
- Cost sharing: Attach documented (copies of emails are sufficient) cost-sharing of precisely 30% of the total project cost (does not count against 5 pages for internal proposal).
- Outline: In two (or more) separate paragraphs address the intellectual merit and broader impacts of the project. The summary should be informative and understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader.
- Research Activities: Briefly describe and motivate the specific research and research training activities and projects that will be enabled with the desired instrumentation. The degree to which the planned uses of the proposed instrumentation constitute exciting, ground-breaking, or transformative research is a significant factor in the merit review evaluation of MRI

proposals.

- Users: In narrative or tabular form describe the personnel by research area, number, and type (e.g., senior personnel, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, undergraduate students). Include only those who will most actively use the instrumentation for research and research training on a regular basis.
- Impact on Research and Training Infrastructure: Briefly describe how the instrument will serve to attract researchers and make a substantial improvement in the institution's capabilities to conduct leading-edge research.
- Brief Management Plan:
 - A description of the space or the facility in which the instrument will be placed.
 - A description of how and by whom the requested instrumentation will be operated and maintained over the expected lifetime of the instrument.
 - The anticipated costs and the technical expertise needed to maintain and operate the instrument. If the expertise is not currently available, describe how it will be obtained.
 - A description of procedures for allocating the instrument time, if appropriate, and plans for attracting and supporting new users. Include information on anticipated usage and downtime.
- The following only applies to proposals that are MRI **resubmissions** to the NSF from FY16 or 17: please include all reviewer and panel comments and provide no more than 1 page discussion as to how this new proposal addresses those concerns. *None of these additional materials for resubmissions count against the 5 page total.*

Feel free to contact Sheena.Murphy@mail.wvu.edu with questions.