

REQUIRED PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING NSF MRI PROPOSALS

This is a limited submission initiative. Please review the Internal Proposal Instructions and review criteria listed below.

Please note that the information contained within this announcement is for internal processes only. NSF has not yet published an updated solicitation for the FY12 NSF MRI program competition. General information about the program is available at <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri>.

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

The Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) serves to increase access to shared scientific and engineering instruments for research and research training in our Nation's institutions of higher education, museums, science centers, and not-for-profit organizations. This program especially seeks to improve the quality and expand the scope of research and research training in science and engineering, by providing shared instrumentation that fosters the integration of research and education in research-intensive learning environments. Development and acquisition of research instrumentation for shared inter- and/or intra-organizational use are encouraged, as are development efforts that leverage the strengths of private sector partners to build instrument development capacity at academic institutions.

To accomplish these goals, the MRI program assists with the acquisition or development of shared research instrumentation that is, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs. Instruments are expected to be operational for regular research use by the end of the award period. For the purposes of the MRI program, proposals must be for *either* acquisition *or* development of a single instrument or for equipment that, when combined, serves as an integrated research instrument (physical or virtual). The MRI program does not support the acquisition or development of a suite of instruments to outfit research facilities or to conduct independent research activities simultaneously.

Note: This is a limited submission opportunity in that an institution may submit up to three proposals, one of which ***must*** be for equipment development. (This limitation includes consortium partnerships where NU is a subcontractor.) **Also note** that there is a **required cost sharing** of 30% mandated within the solicitation.

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 01, 2011: Internal proposals uploaded into Depot by 5PM Central Time
- November 14, 2011: Review by Internal Review Committee
- November 21, 2011: Internal notification provided to PIs whose internal proposals were approved
- January 26, 2012 (TENTATIVE): Deadline for full submission proposals to NSF

Faculty interested in submitting an Internal Proposal should refer to instructions below for generating an internal proposal and uploading a proposal into the Depot system for the peer review committee. Internal proposals should be uploaded into Depot **no later than 5PM on November 1, 2011**.

INTERNAL PROPOSALS

Internal Proposals uploaded to Depot for review by the Internal Review Committee must contain the information below. Proposal documents should utilize one-inch margins and must be typed in NSF-appropriate typefaces and sizes. Once completed, all documents should be combined into a **single file** and uploaded into Depot.

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1. A lay summary/narrative which includes the following elements (four pages max):
 - a. A title. The title must include the words “**Equipment Acquisition: Your Project Title**” or “**Equipment Development: Your Project Title.**”
 - b. A description of the equipment and justification of need.
 - c. A list of faculty who will be involved in the submission and the estimated number of researchers who will benefit from the use of the equipment
 - d. A description of project and management plans, including plans for the maintenance, operation, and technical support of instrumentation; a plan for attracting new users; any other requirements as outlined in the NSF guidelines for the MRI Program (e.g., how the instrument will impact interdisciplinary science, research in the private sector and/or other academic institutions, risk factors involved and how they will be addressed).
 - e. A summary of your proposal as outlined in the program solicitation (refer to FY 11 until FY 12 becomes available <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11503/nsf11503.pdf>). The summary MUST address the "Intellectual Merit" and "Broader Impact" of the proposal.
2. NSF-formatted biographical sketch of all key personnel (two pages max each)
3. A summary budget, inclusive of the required 30% cost sharing. If the total budget is greater than \$1 Million, documentation of departmental chair(s) and school dean(s) commitments will be required (copies of email threads are acceptable).

Internal Proposal files should be named "LastName_FirstInitial_NSF_MRI.pdf," replacing "LastName" with the nominee's last name and "FirstInitial" with the nominee's first initial. Please follow the instructions below to upload the file to Depot:

UPLOAD INSTRUCTIONS

1. Click on the Depot ticket below to access the "NSF MRI Internal Proposals FY12" Depot folder.
https://depot.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/xy-10325750_1-t_cYynffft
2. Click the Upload button.
3. Click the Browse button and navigate to your file on your hard drive or network.
4. Click the Open button in the file selection dialog.
5. Click the OK button in Depot. (Note: If you do not see a confirmation message upon upload, you may contact Rachael Basnett for a verbal or written confirmation. If you attempt to upload a second time you will receive an error message.)

Please note that uploads to Depot are time stamped.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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- Rachael Joy Yurs, ORD Research Administrator, rachael@northwestern.edu, 847-467-0373