



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost

826 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-0784
Fax: 412-624-4618

TO: Michelle Broido
John T. S. Keeler
N. John Cooper
Ronald L. Larsen
Gerald D. Holder

FROM: George E. Klinzing
Vice Provost for Research

DATE: October 25, 2011

SUBJECT: NSF's *Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program (NSF 11-503)*

The link to the *MRI* solicitation can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11503/nsf11503.htm> Additional program information is available at <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri/>

The MRI program serves to increase access to shared scientific and engineering instruments for research and research training. 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.

Proposal budgets may include requests from NSF in the range \$100,000-\$4 million; proposals that request funds less than \$100,000 will also be accepted for the disciplines of mathematics or social, behavioral and economic sciences. Cost-sharing at the level of 30% of the total project cost is required for Ph.D.-granting institutions of higher education and for non-degree-granting organizations. Cost-sharing at the level of 30% of the total project cost is required for Ph.D.-granting institutions of higher education and for non-degree-granting organizations. Non-Ph.D.-granting institutions of higher education are exempt from the cost-sharing requirement

*The MRI program requires that an organization may, as a performing organization, submit or be included as a significantly funded subawardee in no more than **three MRI** proposals. To promote instrumentation development, the program requires that if an organization submits or is included as a significantly funded subawardee in three MRI proposals, at least **one of the three proposals must be for instrument development**. An unfunded collaboration does not count against the submission limit. Inclusion as a funded subawardee on a development proposal, in excess of 20% of the total budget request from NSF, or on any acquisition proposal, will be counted against an organization's proposal submission limit. However, if a subaward to an organization in a development proposal is 20% or less of the proposal's total budget request from NSF, the subawardee's submission limit will not be affected. For subawards within a linked collaborative proposal, the 20% threshold applies to the budget request from NSF in the proposal containing the subaward(s), not to the combined budget request from NSF for the collaborative project.*

Because of the above limitations, by **November 18, 2011** please send Elaine Riberich** the following information: **a)** details of the equipment requested **b)** if instrument is for acquisition or development **c)** approximate cost **d)** a project description to include a management plan for the research/research training and if shared inter- and/or intra-organizationally/with private sector partners **e)** if PI submission is as a subawardee or partner **f)** explain where the cost sharing will come from.

In case more than three proposals are received, a committee will be convened to determine which ones will be endorsed. For a list of additional *Program s Limiting the Number of Allowed Institutional Submissions* connect to the Office of Research web site at <http://www.pitt.edu/~offres/fundinglmtd.html> under *Funding Resources*. **NSF full proposal deadline is January 26, 2012.**

** Office of Research, University Club, 123 University Place Pittsburgh, PA 15213 - 47413 - emr@pitt.edu

cc: Ivet Bahar
Rama Bazaz
Bopaya Bidanda
Harvey Borovetz
Minking Chyu
Louise Comfort
Richard Cox
Anthony Delitto
Paula Grabowski
William Harbert
Richard Hoff
Satish Iyengar
J. Karl Johnson
Ken Jordan
Hong Koo Kim
Sanford Leuba
Jeremy Levy
Daniel Mosse
Paul Munro
Hrvoje Petek
Mark Redfern
Jean-Francois Richard
Lorraine Robbins
Alan Russell
Susan Sesack
Larry Shuman
William Stanchina
Alan Sved
Susheng Tan
David Tipper
Michael Trakselis
David Turnshek
Radisav D. Vidic
Melanie Vignovich
David Waldeck
Martin B. Weiss
Janyce Wiebe
Xiao L. Wu
Judith Yang
Ivan Yotov