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**Major Research Instrumentation
Request for Proposals**

August 10, 2018

TO: Deans and Research Administrators
(Please notify appropriate faculty)

FROM: F. Fred Choobineh, Director, Nebraska EPSCoR

RE: Request for proposals:
Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program
Deadline: 5 p.m., Friday, February 1, 2019

Nebraska EPSCoR intends to increase access to shared instrumentation for scientific and engineering research and research training at Nebraska higher education institutions through a Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program. The program emphasizes shared-use instrumentation that will enhance the capabilities of state researchers, and is intended to assist with the acquisition of a single research instrument. The program does not fund research projects, including research that uses an instrument acquired with support from the program. Proposals must be for only a single, well-integrated instrument, or a substantial upgrade to an existing instrument or a high performance computing system.

Eligible Projects:

For the purpose of this program, a major research instrument costs \$150,000 or more (not including service agreement). Service contracts for up to five years may be a part of the proposal and funded by the required match since many major research instruments can be expensive to maintain.

Who May Apply:

Any Nebraska college or university faculty member is eligible to apply to this program. There is no limit on the number of proposals submitted from any one institution.

Match Requirement and Duration:

Cost sharing is required. The amount of any one award will be **50 percent** of the total proposal request with a maximum award of \$200,000. *No Indirect Costs are allowed.* Award period can be for up to a maximum of nine months. **No extension to the award period will be granted.**

Proposal Content:

The proposal should provide information on the extent of shared use of the instrumentation for research and/or research training. Plans for using the new or enhanced capability in research or research training should also be discussed. The proposal must be prepared using font size 11 or greater with one inch margins.

1. Budget Form: Attach a completed *Nebraska EPSCoR Budget and Approval Form* available from our web site at <https://epscor.nebraska.edu/programs/forms> as the cover sheet.

2. Body of the Proposal: The main body, including references, may not exceed **five pages** and must include the following sections:

- a) Project summary: The project summary should be less than 500 words and accessible by non-experts in the field.
- b) Description of the instrument.
- c) Description of research activities to be enabled by the purchase of this instrument.
- d) Location of the instrument and its availability to scientists including any access restrictions or user fees.

The following required attachments are not included in the proposal body page limit.

3. Biographical sketch: Include a two-page CV for the PI and any Co-PIs that have been prepared according to NSF instructions and also lists the PI's current grants.

4. Letter of endorsement: Include a letter documenting the institution's commitment to ensuring successful operations and maintenance over the expected lifetime of the instrument. Letter must come from the campus leader at an appropriate level to commit the institution to the maintenance and accessibility of the equipment if any award is made.

5. Table of users: A table must be submitted that includes the name, rank, institution, and planned use of instrument for each potential user.

6. Quote: A quote which includes all equipment and services being requested in the proposal must be submitted with the proposal. The quote should be valid for at least 60 days from the date of the submission of the proposal.

Submission:

The proposal must be submitted to Nebraska EPSCoR by the faculty's institution. No proposal will be accepted directly from the PI or Co-PI. PIs are strongly encouraged to contact their campus Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP), or equivalent, as early as possible to coordinate the OSPs receipt of the PI's proposal to allow time for them to meet the Nebraska EPSCoR deadline.

Each campus Sponsored Program Office or equivalent must submit all MRI proposals as one package. Each institutional proposal package must include a cover letter providing an institutional priority score for each proposal. Each proposal should be ranked between one and five with five indicating the highest priority. When there is more than one proposal in a package, no more than fifty percent of proposals may be assigned a score of 4 or 5. The institutional priority will be a review criterion.

The package with cover letter must be submitted as an electronic file to epscor@nebraska.edu no later than **5 p.m., Friday, February 1, 2019**.

In addition, the proposal package and cover letter must be submitted as hard copies from each campuses' OSP no later than **5 p.m., Friday, February 1, 2019**, in the Nebraska EPSCoR office at W192 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0557. The package must include all original proposal submissions for that institution with appropriate signatures.

Nebraska EPSCoR anticipates funding approximately six proposals if high quality proposals are received.

Please contact the Nebraska EPSCoR Office if you have any proposal format questions (epscor@nebraska.edu or 402-472-8946).