Internal Selection Procedures

for

NSF 10-552 Instrumentation for Materials Research – Major Instrumentation Projects (IMR - MIP)

Summary: The National Science Foundation (NSF) released the IMR-MIP solicitation NSF 10-552, which replaces NSF 09-547.

The IMR-MIP program provides support for the design and construction of major instruments costing more than $4 million but less than $20 million. Such instruments may include, but are not limited to, key instrumentation for coherent light sources, neutron beam lines, synchrotron beam lines, high field magnets, and detectors. While all types of instrumentation are encouraged, in FY2010, there will be an emphasis on coherent light sources for R&D proposals. The program supports three types of awards: Research and Development (R&D) awards, Conceptual and Engineering Design (CED) awards, and Construction (CNST) awards. An R&D award will support the research and development of major instrumentation and address technical issues that are on the critical path of the engineering design of a major instrument. A CED award will enable the proposer to do the necessary engineering design of the instrument. A CNST proposal may only be submitted after a satisfactory engineering design of the instrument has been completed and has been approved by both the facility at which the instrument will be situated and by NSF. The program does not provide operating funds for projects it supports through this solicitation. Operational costs must be supported either by the facility or the institution at which the instrument is located.

Proposal Limitations: The University can only submit one IMR-MIP proposal in a given year, whether for Research and Development (R&D), Conceptual and Engineering Design (CED), or for Construction (CNST). Therefore, the following procedures for an internal Notice of Intent (NOI) describe the process to select the single proposal that will be submitted on behalf of the University.

PI/Co-PI Limitations: A PI or Co-PI may submit at most one MIR-MIP proposal in a given year, whether for R&D, CED, or for CNST.

Selection Process: Should more than one NOI be received from across the University, they will be reviewed by a committee formed by the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and in consultation with the Provost. The OVPR will notify each applicant whether or not their proposal has been selected to represent the University and move forward.

Proposal Schedule: Internal NOI due to OSP on 2 June 2010, 5:00 p.m. CDT

Notification of NOIs selected to move forward by 10 June 2010 5:00 p.m. CDT

Full Proposal due to NSF on 21 June 2010, 5:00 p.m. CDT
NOI Format and Content:

Proposal pages should have at least 1” margins all around, and use no smaller than an 11-point font for the text. Tables and figures are exempt from the 11-point requirement, but must be clearly legible.

**Number of copies:** Original and 5 copies

**NOI Contents:**

1. **Cover Page:**
   b. Project title (which should identify the scientific discipline(s) for which the instrumentation is requested, should convey the primary purpose of the proposal, e.g., “IMR-MIP: Research and Development (R&D) of _____” or “IMR-MIP: Conceptual and Engineering Design (CED) of _____” or “IMR-MIP: Construction (CNST) of _____”.
   c. Please include the statement “Mid-scale instrument with design and construction costs greater than $4 million but less than $20 million” to confirm that the proposed project meets the definition for this solicitation.1
   d. Names, departments/centers, campus address and email address for each PI, Co-I, and key personnel proposed.
   e. List of other partnering institutions and entities.

2. **Project Summary:** (Limit: 2 pages double-spaced) Provide a succinct summary of the project including objectives and key features. Include a description of the Intellectual Merit of the proposal within a subsection entitled “Intellectual Merit,” and a description of the Broader Impacts for the proposed project in a subsection entitled “Broader Impacts.”

3. **Project Description**2: (Limit: 6 pages, double-spaced) Please include in this section the following information, each in its own subsection with the following headings:
   a. Introduction
   b. Vision and Goals
   c. Capabilities of the Project
   d. Education, Outreach and Knowledge Transfer
   e. Mentoring Plan for Postdoctoral Researchers
   f. Broadening Participation
   g. Management Structure

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1 See page 5, paragraph 1 for definition
2 See pages 8-9 of NSF 10-552 for description of the content of these subsections
4. One to two-page tentative budget and budget justification showing estimated costs and justification (the OSP Contract Administrator is available to assist you if requested)

5. Cost share is not a requirement of the solicitation, however if you have cost-share as part of the project, include a signed letter from the fiscally responsible organization acknowledging the amount and type that will be provided. If cost-sharing is being accomplished through multiple sources, please have a signed letter from each fiscally responsible organization.

6. One to two-page bio for each PI, Co-I and key personnel proposed.

*Questions about the internal NOI preparation or process should be directed to your OSP Contract Administrator.*