

The University of Nebraska
Nebraska Research Initiative (NRI)
Request for Proposals – Major Research Instrumentation FY2011
Executive Vice President and Provost

This Request for Proposals is a solicitation to the campus chief research officers of proposals for funding of the purchase of multi-user major research instrumentation costing \$500,000 or more to upgrade exiting campus core research facilities, whether or not those facilities receive ongoing NRI support for operation.

Eligibility for funding requires that the instrumentation will provide services for the progress of research for several investigators. Equipment usable by only a single group of investigators in a particular discipline will receive lower priority. Special consideration will be given to proposals that will provide for researchers on more than one NU campus.

NRI is an investment by the State of Nebraska designed to build the research capacity within the University of Nebraska consistent with the interests of existing and potential growth areas of business and industry, agriculture, social services, and health care, and to encourage economic growth through specifically targeted research programs.

ELIGIBILITY

While all full-time faculty members within the University of Nebraska are eligible to apply, proposals should originate among formal or informal groups of investigators who perceive a common need for the instrumentation. Proposals will be screened at the campus level in the offices of the Chief Research Officer. Proposals selected by the campus will be forwarded, in campus priority order, to the Executive Vice President and Provost for consideration of funding.

Intercampus proposals are strongly encouraged and will be given a high priority. New research functions that are fundamental to the widest possible scope of investigators are most likely to be funded. Such collaborative proposals should be included in the selection process used by the primary campus having a plurality of investigators on the specific proposal. These proposals must also have the formal recommendation and sign off of all campuses which may have an interest in the research core under consideration. (To facilitate submissions, sign offs from other than the primary campus may be submitted separately by the other campus(es) directly to the Office of the Provost.)

FUNDING DURATION AND LIMIT

Funding will be provided on a one-time basis. Ideally, funds should be encumbered before the end of the 2011 fiscal year. Because this is a call for major instrumentation proposals, only instruments valued at \$500,000 or more may be requested.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Cover/Title Page: NRI Proposal Grant Approval Form (see attached):

This form identifies the core facilities director, and the main contact person and address for the proposal. It also requires signatures of the appropriate administrators, verifying submission approval.

2. Abstract:

An abstract of the proposal (not more than 250 words) must be provided on a separate sheet.

3. Waiver of Access to Reviewers' Assessment:

The core facilities director is required to sign the attached form, waiving all access to the assessment of reviewers. A proposal without a completed waiver form will be returned. After funding decisions are made, anonymous reviewer comments will be forwarded to the contact person on each proposal.

4. Project Description:

Maximum of 3 pages including diagrams, illustrations and references; single-spaced; font size 12; one-inch margins. The text should be written using general terminology, to the extent possible. Some reviewers will be specialists in the target area, but others will not be. The proposal should include sufficient detail to convince peers of its technical merit. However, it should also be written in such a manner that non-specialists in the field can evaluate its comparative importance with proposals in other areas. The description should cover the following topics:

Purpose and capabilities of the requested instrumentation

Relate your request to growth of research and development in the university and the state, and show also how it may relate to the strategic plan for research in your institution. Provide general background and objectives, establishing the basis for the proposed purchase and putting the subject area in a national context.

Plan for sustained support

Describe a specific plan to maintain the instrument in the absence of further NRI funds. Show evidence that there is a federal or other significant national research funding source that has an interest in supporting the type of research that will be supported.

Description of the specific research projects that would be facilitated by the purchase

(This portion of the proposal does not count against the three page maximum length.)

Provide a one paragraph description, by investigator name, of the projects that *will* make use of the instrumentation if the grant is awarded. Also provide information about the funding sources available to pursue the project(s). A list of interested investigators is not sufficient. To be considered as justification for the instrument purchase, each interested person must provide the information in this paragraph.

6. Anticipated Budget:

Provide specific description of the requested instrumentation, including source, catalog number if appropriate, and anticipated cost. Matches are encouraged but should only be from external sources. Matches from university funds, including departmental or college sources or existing NRI sources, may not be included.

7. Appendices – No appendices are allowed.

Criteria for Evaluation of NRI Proposals

Following is the list of criteria by which the research proposals will be evaluated:

1. Potential to enhance research capabilities for the University
2. Strength of plan for sustained support, especially the quality and quantity of the research that will benefit from the presence of this instrumentation.
3. Potential benefits of the research that will be supported by purchase to the enhancement of economic development efforts of the state
4. Consistency with University, campus and college research priorities
5. Justification of budget expenditures including personnel, equipment and facilities

Submission Date

Proposals should be submitted by the chief campus research officer to the Provost's Office no later than **May 15, 2011**.

Please note that UNL proposals must be submitted to the Office of Research & Economic Development by 4:00 p.m., Monday, May 2, 2011. Proposals should be submitted as a single .pdf file. If you have any questions, please contact Peg Filliez (pfilliez1@unl.edu or 402-472-2851).

University of Nebraska - Nebraska Research Initiative (NRI) Major Instrumentation Proposal: Campus Approval Form

Title of Proposal:

Core Research Director (and Principal Investigator):

Other Investigator(s), Department, and Campus:

Primary Contact Person and Address:

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Administrative Approval:

Department Head: _____ Date: _____

Dean: _____ Date: _____

Campus Approval: _____ Date: _____

WAIVER

The undersigned Investigator(s) hereby waive(s) all right of access to the identity of persons who may conduct outside peer evaluation of the Core Facility proposal for:

Proposal Title

_____.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Investigator

Investigator

Investigator

Investigator

Please note: ALL PERSONS LISTED AS INVESTIGATORS ON THE COVER PAGE OF THE PROPOSAL MUST SIGN THE WAIVER.