

May 26, 2009

ALBERT BENNETT, DEAN OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
RAFAEL BRAS, DEAN OF ENGINEERING  
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JOHN HEMMINGER, DEAN OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
DEBRA RICHARDSON, DEAN OF INFORMATION & COMPUTER SCIENCES  
ORU AND SRP DIRECTORS

RE: NSF Major Research Instrumentation – Recovery and Reinvestment (MRI-R<sup>2</sup>) Program –  
**Instrumentation Development** or **Instrument Acquisition** – NSF 09-561

NSF's MRI-R<sup>2</sup> program is designed to increase access to scientific and engineering equipment for research and research training. This program seeks to improve the quality and expand the scope of research and research training in science and engineering, and to foster the integration of research and education by providing instrumentation for research-intensive learning environments. **The MRI program encourages the development and acquisition of research instrumentation for shared inter- and/or intra-organizational use and in concert with private sector partners.**

NSF anticipates approximately 400 MRI-R<sup>2</sup> awards, totaling \$200 million in Recovery Act Funds. The minimum award is \$100,000 (except for mathematics, social, behavioral and economic science disciplines). The maximum award is \$6 million for both instrument development and acquisition. Cost sharing is required.

There are a number of restrictions associated with these awards (depending on the type of proposal). For example, instrumentation intended for research with disease-related goals is normally not supported, but instrumentation for bioengineering research is eligible for support. Please refer to the award guidelines (Section II: *Program Description*) for a full listing of these restrictions. Special American Recovery and Reinvestment Act award conditions apply. **NSF will not accept proposals that wholly or substantially duplicate those that were accepted for review under NSF 09-502, the annual Major Research Instrumentation competition.**

UC Irvine may submit, or be included as a partner or subawardee in no more than **three** proposals (if three, then one must be an instrument development proposal). Therefore, I am requesting that preliminary proposals containing the following be sent to my office (via email to [OR@research.uci.edu](mailto:OR@research.uci.edu)) by **June 26, 2009**:

- Project statement that clearly identifies whether the proposal is for acquisition or development
- A summary (no more than 3 pages) that describes:
  - For **instrument acquisition**: the manufacturer and model number of desired equipment along with a detailed plan for maintenance and operation.

- For **instrument development**: details about the design and construction phase of the project.
- Research and research training activities and projects to be conducted with the instrumentation.
- Impact the instrumentation would have on meeting the research and educational goals of the organization or consortium.
- A preliminary budget.
- CV's or NSF style bio-sketches (no more than 2 pages each) of the primary researchers who would be using the equipment on a regular basis.

If several preliminary proposals are submitted by faculty members from any one School, the Dean may be asked to rank them. If necessary, an ad hoc committee of the Council on Research, Computing and Libraries (CORCL) will convene to review the preliminary proposals. The selected PI(s) will be notified in time to meet NSF's **August 10, 2009**, deadline.

For the complete NSF guidelines, including detailed information about the MRI-R<sup>2</sup> Program, please refer to [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf09561](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf09561). Questions about our internal campus review process may be directed to Marie Richman at [richman@uci.edu](mailto:richman@uci.edu) or x4-2898.

Susan V. Bryant  
Vice Chancellor for Research