

The National Science Foundation's Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) funding program is a limited submission program that serves to increase access to multi-user scientific and engineering instrumentation for research and research training. An MRI award supports the acquisition or development of a multi-user research instrument that is, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs. An MRI research instrument need not be physically located in a conventional laboratory setting, nor does an instrument need to be physical at all. MRI continues to support distributed/networked instruments and cyberinstrumentation that is not appropriate for support through other NSF programs. Consistent with the America COMPETES Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-69), cost sharing of precisely 30% of the total project cost is required.

Tennessee Tech may submit or be included as a significantly funded subawardee in no more than three MRI proposals: no more than **two (2) Track 1 MRI proposals and no more than one (1) Track 2 MRI proposal** (see description of tracks below). Therefore, a pre-proposal is required to be submitted by all interested faculty and an internal review conducted to determine which proposals will be submitted to NSF. Note that inclusion as a significantly funded subawardee on another institution's MRI submission will count against these limits so contact the Office of Research if you plan to be a subawardee.

- **Track 1** MRI proposals are those that request funds from NSF greater than or equal to \$100,000 and less than \$1,000,000.
- **Track 2** MRI proposals are those that request funds from NSF greater than or equal to \$1,000,000 up to and including \$4,000,000.

Proposal submissions within the two tracks may be either for acquisition or development of a research instrument. The pre-proposal **must** follow the guidelines provided in the attached **MRI Pre-Proposal Guidance** document (MRI_PreProposal_Guidance.docx) and be submitted to the Office of Research on or before **noon, Friday, November 12**. The pre-proposal should be submitted as a **single PDF document** via the research@tntech.edu email account. The MRI program solicitation (nsf18513.pdf) and MRI FAQs (nsf15012.pdf) are also attached to this email for your reference.

If you have previously submitted an MRI to NSF for the same instrument requested in the preproposal, please provide a copy of the panel reviews received along with your preproposal.

The dates for Tennessee Tech's NSF MRI internal review process are provided below:

- **Noon, Friday, November 12, 2021:** Receipt of the **pre-proposal packages** in the Office of Research (as a single PDF emailed to research@tntech.edu)
- November 15-19, 2021: Internal Review
- November 22, 2021: Notification to selected faculty to prepare full proposals
- January 12, 2022: Receipt of final and complete proposal documents in the Office of Research
- January 1 – January 19, 2022: NSF Submission Window for MRI submission

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch.