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Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: NSF- MRI: Major Research Instrumentation Program (NSF 13-517)

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The Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) serves to increase access to shared scientific and engineering instruments for research and research training in our Nation's institutions of higher education, and not-for-profit museums, science centers and scientific/engineering research organizations. This program especially seeks to improve the quality and expand the scope of research and research training in science and engineering, by supporting proposals for shared instrumentation that fosters the integration of research and education in research-intensive learning environments. Each MRI proposal may request support for the acquisition (Track 1) or development (Track 2) of a single research instrument for shared inter- and/or intra-organizational use; development efforts that leverage the strengths of private sector partners to build instrument development capacity at MRI submission-eligible organizations are encouraged.

This program invites applications for instrument acquisition proposals, which have a project period of up to three years and instrument development proposals, which have a project period of up to five years. The anticipated earliest start date is August 1, 2014. Proposals may request funds in the range \$100,000-\$4 million. Proposals that request funds from NSF less than \$100,000 may also be accepted from any MRI-eligible organization for the disciplines of mathematics or social, behavioral and economic sciences. NSF anticipates awarding 175 grants. Cost-sharing of precisely 30% of the total project cost, *not* 30% of the NSF request, is required. More details can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13517/nsf13517.htm>. The due date for full proposals to the agency is January 23, 2014.

**This is a limited competition. The MRI program requires that an MRI-eligible organization may, as a performing organization, submit or be included as a significantly funded subawardee in no more than three MRI proposals. At least one of the three proposals must be for (Track 2) instrument development. However, one acquisition submission has already been approved through an earlier process at UNM. At this time we are requesting preproposal submissions for one (1) acquisition and one (1) development proposal. If you have questions concerning this limit please contact Johann van Reenen, Associate Vice President for Research at 277-6128.**

**Please submit your 3-page preproposal addressing the review criteria below (plus budget overview, cost share budget and abbreviated CV; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 to [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu) with the subject line indicating: NSF MRI (designate "Acquisition" or "Development") - your name. No late submissions will be considered.**

**Priority for selection will be given to preproposals that provide evidence that (1) this instrument will be broadly shared, servicing multiple educational scientific users, and (2) that there is a plan for the mandatory cost sharing. Arrangements for meeting cost sharing requirements must be made in advance**

of submission of the pre-proposal. The OVPR has limited funding available for cost sharing and investigators are encouraged to identify external and college/departmental in-kind contributions. Additionally, the level of external/in-kind cost share contributions will be used as criteria for evaluation during review by the Limited Competitions Committee. The scoring will be weighted as follows: proposal narrative (70%), draft budget overview (15%), and abbreviated PI CV (15%).

**Pre-proposals should address these major points and review criteria to be used by the limited competitions committee:**

**Instrument acquisition proposals:** Provide a technical description of the requested instrumentation that clearly explains why the requested equipment is needed. Describe how the instrument will serve to attract researchers and make a substantial improvement in the institution's capabilities to conduct leading-edge research. Describe how the instrument will improve the quality of student education, research and research training. Provide business and management plans with information on space, technical staffing for operations and maintenance, training of users, access for external users, and the sources of funding and plans for long-term operations and maintenance.

**Instrument development proposals:** Provide rationale for the new instrument, a description of the design concept, and development strategy and methods. Describe the expected capabilities of the instrument upon completion, and its likely availability for shared use at the end of the award period. Justify the necessity and adequacy of the new instrumentation for the proposed research projects, with reference to instruments that are currently available. Describe how the instrument will serve to attract researchers and make a substantial improvement in the institution's capabilities to conduct leading-edge research. Describe how the instrument will improve the quality of student education, research and research training. Provide management plans for the design, construction and commissioning phases of the project, including discussion of required personnel and anticipated costs in each phase of the project, risk mitigation, and knowledge transfer upon completion.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Susan De Los Santos ([sdelossa@unm.edu](mailto:sdelossa@unm.edu) or 277-0272) or Monica Fishel ([mlfishel@unm.edu](mailto:mlfishel@unm.edu) or 277-8114).

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford at 272-6950 for more information.