



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)  
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF, National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Institutes: Accelerating Research, Transforming Society, and Growing the American Workforce (NSF 23-610)

Date: 8/11/2023

Dear UNM Researchers,

Building upon the nationwide network of AI Research Institutes, this **National AI Research Institutes program** solicitation will fund Institutes comprised of scientists, engineers, and educators united by a common focus on advancing the research frontiers in AI. The program seeks to build a broader nationwide network to pursue transformational advances in a range of economic sectors, and science and engineering fields. AI Research Institutes will have as their primary focus the advancement of multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder research on larger-scale, longer-time-horizon challenges in AI research than are supported in typical research grants. They will accelerate the development of transformational technologies by grounding that research in critical application sectors that can serve as motivation for foundational research advances and provide opportunities for the effective fielding of AI-powered innovation.

In this round, the program invites proposals for Institutes that have a principal focus in one of the following themes aimed at transformational advances in a range of economic sectors, and science and engineering fields:

- Group 1 - Awards anticipated in FY 2024:
  - **Theme 1: AI for Astronomical Sciences**
- Group 2 - Awards anticipated in FY 2025:
  - **Theme 2: AI for Discovery in Materials Research**
  - **Theme 3: Strengthening AI**

Institute awards will be made for between \$16,000,000 and \$20,000,000 for four to five years (\$4,000,000 per year on average). Proposals outside this range may be returned without review. Estimated program budget, number of awards, and average award size/duration are subject to the availability of funds. More details can be found in the program solicitation:

<https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/national-artificial-intelligence-research>. Required preliminary proposals for the themes listed in group 1 are due **October 31, 2023** with full proposals due **February 16, 2024**. Required preliminary proposals for the themes listed in group two are due **January 12, 2024** with full proposals due **May 17, 2024**.

This is a limited competition. **Each institution is limited to TWO (2) preliminary proposals as lead.** This limit is solicitation-wide and applies across the groups and themes. An organization may submit up to two full proposals that correspond to preliminary proposals reviewed under this solicitation. If you are interested in applying to this program, please submit a statement of interest with a tentative project title and a brief description (200 words) by **NOON on August, 24, 2023** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). No late submissions will be considered. Based on the number of responses received, the Limited Competitions Management Team may announce a call for pre-proposals.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu).

*If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at [HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu) for more information.*