

UNM Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting statements of interest for the **NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program (NSF 23-519)**, which supports the acquisition and development of multi-user scientific and engineering instrumentation critical to advancing research and research training at institutions across the U.S. The program aims to enhance access to cutting-edge instrumentation at U.S. institutions, foster the development of next-generation tools with new capabilities, and train the next generation of instrument users, designers, and builders.

Sponsor: NSF

Opportunity Title: Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program

Number: NSF 23-519

Sponsor Due Date(s): 11/14/2025

Award Range: \$100,000 to \$4 million over up to 5 years

Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM: Two (2) in Track 1, one (1) in Track 2 and one (1) in Track 3

Additional Information:

- MRI proposals may request funding in one of the following categories:
 - Track 1: for requests between \$100,000-\$1.4 million
 - Track 2: for requests between \$1.4 million-\$4 million
 - Track 3: for requests between \$100,000-\$4 million that include the purchase, installation, operation, and maintenance of equipment and instrumentation to reduce consumption of helium.
- An MRI research instrument need not be physically located in a conventional laboratory setting.
- MRI supports distributed and networked instruments, including cyberinstrumentation, which need not be physical or located in traditional labs.
- MRI strongly encourages development of sophisticated, next-generation research instruments with capabilities that may not yet exist—tools that can open new frontiers of science, enable transformative research and training opportunities, and potentially lead to commercial applications.

Solicitation: <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/mri-major-research-instrumentation-program/nsf23-519/solicitation>

Limited Comp. Instructions: We will be conducting a two-step internal competition to ensure we have a review committee in place by the pre-proposal deadline. You must complete both steps if you are interested in participating.

Limited Comp. STEP 1: Required SOI Due Date: **NOON on July 15, 2025** (for planning purposes)

Limited Comp. STEP 2: Pre-proposal Due Date: **NOON on July 24, 2025**

STEP ONE: Please submit your ~100-word **statement of interest** in UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). This is a required step, and no late submissions will be considered. Note that SOIs will NOT be scored; we require them to assist us in forming a review committee.

STEP TWO: Please submit your 3-page pre-proposal, 2 page CVs for key personnel, draft budget, and a statement from your ADR or Center Director explaining how this instrument will support their unit's strategic research plan, via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the SOI application to the pre-proposal application, but you may work on your documents outside the system before that. No late submissions will be considered.

The pre-proposal should address the key topics of the full MRI proposal and will be evaluated based on the strength of responses to the following:

1. Describe the research instrument and the need for it. For **acquisition proposals**, include a technical description of the requested instrumentation and clearly explain how the proposed research drives the request. If applicable, discuss the existence and availability of comparable instrumentation (e.g., at nearby institutions or through collaborations) and provide justification for why the requested instrument is necessary. For **development proposals**, explain how the planned research drives the needed instrument capabilities and make clear why those capabilities are not available through an instrument purchase.
2. Describe the research activities that will be enabled by the instrument. Emphasize how these activities constitute exciting, ground-breaking, and/or transformative research. Include specific research projects and research training uses. Identify current and potential funding sources that support these activities and describe how the instrument may enable future funding support.
3. Describe how the requested instrument contributes to your unit's strategic research plan. Explain how it will enhance the research capabilities of the department(s), center(s), or institution.
4. Describe the broader impacts of the project. Explain the extent to which the instrument will improve the organization's capabilities to conduct leading-edge research, provide research experiences for undergraduate students using advanced instrumentation, and broaden participation in science and engineering research.
5. Describe the anticipated users of the instrument. Include faculty, staff, postdocs, and students, along with their department affiliations and a brief summary of the research or training activities they will conduct using the instrument. Emphasize the extent to which the instrument will be used for multi-user, shared-use research.
6. For **Track 2 proposals only**, describe the potential impact of the instrument on the research community at the regional or national level.
7. Describe the management plan for the instrument. Specify its physical location, the space or facility where it will be housed, and any installation costs or additional equipment needed to make it operational. Outline how and by whom the instrument will be operated and maintained over its expected lifetime.

Priority for selection will be given to pre-proposals that provide evidence that (1) this instrument will be broadly shared, servicing multiple educational and/or scientific users, and (2) it clearly supports a strategic priority for the department/center/college. If multiple applications are submitted by the same unit, the ADR/Center Director will be asked to rank the applications.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.
If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.