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Subject: NSF: Theory Institute in Atomic, Molecular and Optical (AMO) Physics (NSF 14-570)

Date: October 27, 2014

The Theory Institute in Atomic, Molecular and Optical (AMO) Physics will be a center to advance theoretical AMO physics and lead in motivating and explaining new experimental work in AMO and other areas of science. The goal of this institute is to foster cutting edge research, serve as a focus for theoretical AMO science, and to enhance the visibility of the field. It will bring together diverse groups both inside and outside of the AMO community to promote connections leading to frontier science, while fostering a vibrant environment at all levels from student to senior investigator. Funding for the institute is designed to foster major breakthroughs at the intellectual frontier of AMO physics by providing resources beyond those available to individual investigators or small groups, in an environment in which the collective efforts of the larger group can be shown to be seminal to promoting significant progress in the science and the education of students. Although interdisciplinary aspects may be included, the bulk of the effort must fall within theoretical atomic, molecular, and optical physics within the purview of the Division of Physics. The successful institute will demonstrate: (1) the potential to advance AMO science; (2) creative, substantive activities aimed at enhancing education, diversity, and public outreach; (3) potential for broader impacts, e.g., impacts on other field(s) and benefits to society; and (4) a synergy or value-added rationale that justifies a center- or institute-like approach.

NSF expects to make 1 award, depending upon the availability of funds and the quality of proposals received. The center award is expected to be at the level of \$500K-\$1M/year. Awards will be made for five years. More details can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2014/nsf14570/nsf14570.htm>. The deadline for the full proposal to the agency is December 08, 2014.

This is a limited competition; Only one (1) proposal may be submitted per institution. Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus budget and CV; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Monday, November 10, 2014 to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: NSF-AMO-14-570 - your name. No late submissions will be considered. The preproposal should focus on Provide a clear rationale for and description of the proposed center and its potential impact. Describe the institutional setting of the center, its proposed scope and organization, activities in research and education and their integration, specific efforts to promote diversity, outreach activities to the scientific community and the general public, any collaborative activities with industry or other sectors, links with related major research centers on or off campus, and management plan. The narrative should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** and an **abbreviated PI CV**. The scoring will be weighted as follows: proposal narrative (70%), draft budget overview (15%), and abbreviated PI CV (15%).

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

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