



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

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF: Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers  
(MRSEC) 21-625

Date: April 04, 2022

Dear UNM Researchers,

The NSF has announced a funding opportunity for Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers (MRSEC) (NSF-21-625). The MRSEC program provides sustained support of interdisciplinary materials research and education of the highest quality while addressing fundamental problems in science and engineering. Each MRSEC addresses research of a scope and complexity requiring the scale, synergy, and multidisciplinary provided by a campus-based research center and promotes active collaboration between universities and other sectors, including industry and international organizations. The Centers contribute to the development of a national network of university-based centers in materials research, education, and facilities. A MRSEC may be located at a single institution, or may involve multiple institutions in partnership, and is composed of either 2 or 3 Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRGs), each addressing a fundamental materials science topic aligned with the [Division of Materials Research, DMR](#).

Proposals addressing fundamental materials research problems in the following areas are of particular interest: **Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology & Synthetic Biology**, and **Advanced Manufacturing**, as well as **Structural Materials under Extreme Conditions** and **Materials for Clean, Sustainable Energy**. An MRSEC proposal *must* contain either 2 or 3 IRGs.

The NSF deadline for mandatory preproposals to the agency is **June 20, 2022**. Full proposals are by invitation only and are due November 22, 2022. Full proposals may request budgets of \$3 million/year (up to \$15M) for a 2-IRG MRSEC or to a maximum of \$4.5 million/year (up to \$25M) for a 3-IRG MRSEC for up to 6 years. Cost sharing is prohibited. See the following link for further details: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21625/nsf21625.pdf>

This is a limited competition. **Each institution is limited to ONE pre-application as lead**. Please submit a brief statement of interest with your proposed title, proposed IRG research areas, PI's name, department, proposed team including the names of team leads for the IRGs and their departments, and a short (200 word maximum) description of your proposed project idea via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#) by **NOON, Monday, April 25, 2022**. Based on the number of responses received, the Limited Competition Management Team may announce a call for preproposals. Late submissions will not be considered. 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 Corey Ford ([CFord@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CFord@salud.unm.edu)) or Cassandra Misenaar ([CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu)) for more information.*