



CALL FOR PRE-PROPOSALS: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION MRI

Pre-Proposal Information

UMaine NOI Deadline: 08/02/2019 **UMaine**

Pre-proposal Deadline: 08/30/2019

Submission Limits: UMaine may a total of three proposals – two proposals to the track one program and one proposal to the track two program. Tracks are described in the synopsis

Submission: In the event that more than two PIs submit a notice of intent for the MRI program, an internal competition will be required and prospective applicants will be asked to submit a pre-proposal via the [infoready grant portal](#). The application will include the following:

- NSF biosketch
- NSF current and pending
- Letter of support from department chair, including plans for matching funding
- Project description (3 page maximum) that must address the following topics:
 - Intellectual merit
 - Broader impacts
 - Multi-purpose use
 - Feasibility
 - Undergraduate research experiences.
- Short answers on the following topics:
 - Budget estimate.
 - Brief budget justification.
 - Description of how the equipment aligns with UMaine research priorities, including the alignment with [CORE](#).

Review: In accordance with UMaine's Limited Competitions policy, the Office of Research Development will oversee the University's selection process, which will include an expert panel review of submitted pre-proposals.

Notification: Pre-proposal applicants will be notified of the review panel's decision by early December. It is expected that the selected applicant(s) will subsequently submit a full proposal to the NSF.

MRI Program Information

Synopsis: The Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program serves to increase access to multi-user scientific and engineering instrumentation for research and research training in our Nation's institutions of higher education and not-for-profit scientific/engineering research organizations. An MRI award supports the acquisition or development of a multi-user research instrument that is, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs. MRI provides support to acquire critical research instrumentation without which advances in fundamental science and engineering research may not otherwise occur. MRI also provides support to develop next-generation research instruments that open new opportunities to advance the frontiers in science and engineering research. Additionally, an MRI award is expected to enhance research training of students who will become the next generation of instrument users, designers and builders. An MRI proposal may request up to \$4 million for either acquisition or development of a research instrument. Beginning with the FY 2018 competition, each performing organization may submit in revised "Tracks" as defined below, with no more than two submissions in Track 1 and no more than one submission in Track 2.

Track 1: Track 1 MRI proposals are those that request funds from NSF greater than or equal to \$100,000 and less than \$1,000,000.

Track 2: Track 2 MRI proposals are those that request funds from NSF greater than or equal to \$1,000,000 up to and including \$4,000,000.

NSF Full Proposal Deadline: 01/21/20

Solicitation Site: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5260