

## **NSF MRI Pre-competition: Spring 2011. Faculty LoI deadline, December 3, 2010**

NSF has released its call for proposals for the upcoming cycle of the Major Research Instrumentation program, with an application deadline of January 27, 2011. USC is limited to three proposals, as specified below:

1. An institution may submit, or be included as a partner, or subawardee at 20% or more of the overall project budget, in no more than three proposals.
2. Cost sharing is required.
3. Proposal budgets can be from \$100,000 to \$4 Million.
4. Proposals must be either for Instrument Development or Instrument Acquisition, with at least one proposal in the development category.

For the coming round, priority for instrument acquisition will be given to shared core laboratories. Core facilities who wish to apply to NSF for such funding should send their pre-proposal through USC's announcement for core instrumentation funding.

(see: [http://www.usc.edu/research/for\\_researchers/funding/usc/instrumentation/](http://www.usc.edu/research/for_researchers/funding/usc/instrumentation/))

Apply under this NSF pre-competition announcement if you wish to be considered as an applicant for an:

- NSF MRI development proposal.
- NSF MRI acquisition proposal, but not as a core laboratory.

### Letter of Intent conditions:

- Priority will be given to proposals that provide a strong scientific mission, include multiple NSF funded users, and are designated as high priority by a school and/or research initiative. For the NSF MRI acquisition program, priority is for shared core equipment.
- All cost-share needs under this announcement must be met by funds outside of the provost office, such as individual gift accounts, external fund raising (e.g., corporate support), departmental accounts or schools. (Provost office cost-share is available for proposals that support acquisition of core laboratory equipment that is shared by a broad group of users, and is made available to the entire university community.)

### Letter of Intent components:

Faculty should submit the LoI by December 3. Faculty should submit the LoI via the Office of Research proposal portal:

[www.usc.edu/research/upload](http://www.usc.edu/research/upload)

LoI's, of 1 to 2 pages length, should address the following:

1. Identify the instrument that is the basis for the application, the cost of acquiring the equipment (including installation and sales tax) and the size of the proposal to NSF.
2. Describe the key research mission(s) of the instrument.
3. List faculty participants who will be primary users of the instrument; provide current funding from NSF for those faculty.
4. Describe sources of cost-sharing:
  - A. Gift and other unrestricted source
  - B. External funding
  - C. Department or center (please specify)
  - D. School (please specify)

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