

**Deans, Assoc. Deans for Research, Directors, and Department Heads:
Please forward this information to the appropriate faculty immediately.**

Institutional Limit on Proposal Submissions

National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI)

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09502/nsf09502.htm>

LIMITED SUBMISSION – THREE (3) PER INSTITUTION Two (2) Instrument Acquisition One (1) Instrument Development

ORED anticipates that the solicitation for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program will be announced in the coming months. To give faculty adequate time to prepare a proposal we provide the following information concerning this solicitation:

NSF limits the number of proposals an organization can submit, as described above. Therefore, if the number of preproposals exceeds that limit (3), an internal review will be conducted to determine which proposals will be submitted from Mississippi State University. Per NSF the limitation for the MRI is described below:

1. To provide a balanced instrumentation award portfolio at diverse organizations, across varied research topics, and that serves to train and support a broadly inclusive science and engineering workforce across the entire nation, the MRI program requires that an organization may submit or be included as a funded subawardee/subcontractor in no more than three MRI proposals. *No more than two proposal submissions may be for instrument acquisition.*
2. To promote instrumentation development, the MRI program continues to require that if an organization submits or is included as a funded subawardee/subcontractor in three MRI proposals, *at least one of the three proposals must be for instrument development.* NSF reserves the right to carefully examine development proposals to ensure that they meet the requirements for this proposal type (Section II), and that submission limits have not been exceeded.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal to the NSF, a preproposal that includes the information listed below must be submitted to the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED), electronically to Sandra Harpole at sharpole@research.msstate.edu and copied to Katie Echols at kechols@research.msstate.edu and Teresa Gammill at tgammill@research.msstate.edu in the ORED office by **5 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2009**. A committee of faculty members will screen applications and select the nominee to represent the University.

All preproposals must include:

1. Title of proposal
2. Indicate if the proposal is *instrument acquisition* or *instrument development*.
3. PI and Co-PIs with title and unit affiliation
4. Partner institutions/industries (if any)
5. If it is an *Instrument Acquisition* proposal, please indicate the unit(s) and personnel who will benefit from the use of the equipment.
6. Indicate if this is a resubmission – If so include copies of panel summary and all reviews
7. One paragraph providing a brief description of the proposed activities.

Synopsis of Program: (Information below based on 2009 solicitation)

The Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) serves to increase access to shared scientific and engineering instruments for research and research training in our Nation's institutions of higher education, museums and science centers, and non-profit organizations. This program especially seeks to improve the quality and expand the scope of research and research training in science and engineering, by providing shared instrumentation that fosters the integration of research and education in research-intensive learning environments. Development and acquisition of research instrumentation for shared inter- and/or intra-organization use is encouraged, as are development efforts that leverage the strengths of private sector partners as appropriate for the goals of the MRI Program.

To accomplish these goals, the MRI program assists with the acquisition or development of shared research instrumentation that is, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs. For the purposes of the MRI Program, proposals must be for *either* acquisition *or* development. Instruments are expected to be operational for regular research use by the end of the award period.

Budget limitations are not yet available for this second solicitation. However, the 2009 solicitation provided the following guidelines: The MRI program now accepts proposals requesting over \$2 million in NSF support (to the maximum request of \$4 million) for the **acquisition** of a **single** instrument. For proposals requesting \$2 million or less, investigators may seek support for instrument development or for acquisition of a single instrument, a large system of instruments, or multiple instruments that share a common or specific research focus.