

MEMORANDUM

To: UNC Research Community
From: Robert P. Houser, AVP for Research & Sponsored Programs
Subject: 2018 NSF-MRI Proposal Competition – **SPONSOR REVISED RFP;
DEADLINES EXTENDED**
Date: November 29, 2017 – **REVISED 10/27/17; 11/29/17**

The [NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program](#) ('NSF-MRI'; RFP #18-513) serves to increase access to shared-use/multi-user instrumentation for scientific and engineering research and research training. The NSF proposal submission window for this program is **January 29, 2018 - February 05, 2018**. It is estimated that NSF will grant up to 150 MRI awards in FY 2018.

An NSF-MRI proposal may request up to \$4 million for either acquisition or development of a research instrument. Beginning with the FY 2018 competition, each 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** - proposals requesting funds from NSF greater than or equal to \$100,000¹ and less than \$1,000,000.
- **Track 2** - proposals requesting funds from NSF greater than or equal to \$1,000,000 up to and including \$4,000,000.

Because this is a limited submission program, UNC will hold an internal competition if more than **three** notices of intent for the NSF-MRI program are submitted by the deadline below. The OSP [policy on limited submissions](#) specifies the procedures for selecting limited submissions proposals.

PIs should notify OSP of their intent to submit an NSF-MRI proposal by completing a [Notice of Intent to Submit](#) (NOI) through the OSP website by **December 08, 2017**. If OSP receives more than three notices by the deadline, the timeline for the internal selection shall proceed as follows:

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|--------------|--|
| Dec 08 | Notices of Intent are due to OSP |
| Dec 11 | PIs notified if pre-proposal process is required |
| Dec 18 | pre-proposals for internal selection due |
| Dec 22 | applicants notified of selection decision |
| Jan 29, 2018 | all final proposal documents submitted to OSP for review |
| Feb 05 | NSF-MRI proposal deadline (last date to submit to NSF) |

¹ Proposals requesting funds from NSF less than \$100,000 will be accepted only for the disciplines of mathematics or social, behavioral and economic sciences.