

NSF EPSCoR

THE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH

Request for Proposals for Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-2

Proposals due: **October 2, 2013**
Submit proposals to: jim.gershey@la.gov

LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI EPSCoR



Issued: May 13, 2013

I. OVERVIEW

The NSF EPSCoR Office released the latest program solicitation (NSF 13-509) for the EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: Track-2 (RII Track-2) on October 31, 2012*. Because Louisiana and Mississippi are currently participants in an existing Track-2 project, these jurisdictions (i.e., states) were not eligible to submit a proposal under the terms of this solicitation for the January 30, 2013 deadline, but **will** be able to submit a proposal for the January 29, 2014 deadline.

The primary drivers for RII Track-2 investments are 1) consortium-based science and engineering research and 2) development of a diverse workforce. It is expected that these drivers will be sustained beyond the project period. The project description must include a strong rationale for the establishment of the consortium and place the project in a regional, national, or thematic context. Applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully study the RII Track-2 Program Description in Section II of solicitation NSF 13-509.

This solicitation seeks collaborative proposals from teams that **must** include investigators from both states. It is the responsibility of the proposers to assemble a consortium that can collaboratively undertake a project that show that the consortium is well-positioned to produce project results that cannot be obtained by any single partner working independently.

The proposal must clearly address the Track-2 program description as outlined in Section II of solicitation NSF 13-509 **in relation to the following theme**, which is based on regional research strengths and interests in Louisiana and Mississippi:

Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making within the context of manufacturing. The proposed research should tie to next generation component design that may include material synthesis, non-destructive evaluation and testing with emphasis on physics-based models and associated computational aspects.

II. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding for Track-2 projects is \$1.5 to 2 million per year per consortium for three years. NSF anticipates funding four awards, depending upon the quality of proposals and availability of funds. Because the Louisiana project will be administered by the Board of Regents, approximately \$35,000 per year will be reserved for that purpose in Louisiana's budget.

The NSF solicitation states that "budgets should include sufficient funding for participation in evaluation activities." The Louisiana Board of Regents is willing to contract with an external entity to provide external evaluation services on behalf of the two-state consortium; in order to provide these services, an annual amount of approximately \$30,000 from the overall funding request will need to be allocated to Louisiana's budget. It is the responsibility of each state to provide an internal evaluator to assist the external evaluator in the evaluation process. Approximately \$15,000 per year will be reserved in Louisiana's budget for hiring an internal evaluator.

III. PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

Proposals must be developed using the "Proposal Preparation Instructions" contained in section V.A. of the NSF Track-2 program solicitation NSF 13-509. The page number limits for each section are clearly outlined in the program solicitation. For formatting questions, please refer to the latest version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG), NSF 13-1, which was issued on October 4, 2012.

* This Request for Proposals has been issued based on the requirements outlined in NSF Program Solicitation NSF 13-509; should there be any revisions to the solicitation, each state's respective EPSCoR office will make an announcement of the changes. NSF 13-509 is available at: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=503336&ods_key=nsf13509

IV. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

A full proposal budget is not required; however, sufficient budgetary information is needed for reviewers to evaluate. Allocations for the Louisiana and Mississippi components must be provided separately, each with a breakdown indicating how funding is distributed among participating institutions. Louisiana proposers are advised that, because the award will be administered through the Board of Regents, the Board's indirect cost rate applies.

V. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The proposal, formatted as a single pdf document, should be emailed by the lead PI to Mr. Jim Gershey, Executive Director of Special Programs, Louisiana Board of Regents, at jim.gershey@la.gov no later than the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on **Wednesday, October 2, 2013**. An email acknowledging receipt of the proposal will be sent to the PI. Failure to receive an acknowledgement by noon on October 3, 2013 indicates that the proposal has not been received. As this is an internal competition, under no circumstances should the proposal be submitted to NSF.

VI. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS

All proposals will be reviewed by a panel of outside consultants to select the most meritorious proposal for further development and subsequent submission to NSF.

VII. PREPARATION OF FINAL PROPOSAL & SUBMISSION TO NSF

Based on the results of the proposal assessment process, a collaborative proposal will be finalized and submitted to NSF, each state submitting the same proposal text. Proposers of the successful proposal will be expected to work closely with EPSCoR staff in both states as the proposal is finalized and submitted, according to the timeline provided below in Section IX. Each state's proposal will list its NSF EPSCoR Project Director (or other individual as designated by the State EPSCoR Committee) as Principal Investigator, with up to four in-state Co-PIs. Each state is required to submit its own budget and justification separately.

VIII. QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS RFP

Specific questions concerning this RFP and the requirements set forth herein should be directed **in writing** to Jim Gershey, by sending an email to jim.gershey@la.gov. Questions will be accepted and answered **through Friday, September 20, 2013**. A running compilation of all questions asked about this RFP and all answers provided in response to those questions will be periodically posted on the BoR website at <http://laregents.org>. In order to ensure that all parties receive the same information, questions cannot be answered verbally.

IX. TIMELINE

RFP issued.....	May 13, 2013
Last day to ask questions.....	September 20, 2013
Proposals due.....	October 2, 2013
Proposal evaluation.....	October, 2013
Results of proposal evaluation announced.....	mid- to late October, 2013
Proposal finalized.....	November, 2013 through January, 2014
Submission to NSF.....	January 29, 2014