SUMMARY
The CLEMSON MAJOR RESEARCH INSTRUMENTATION PROGRAM (CU-MRI) provides financial support from the Division of Research to Clemson University researchers for the purchase or replacement of major research equipment or an upgrade of major research equipment that will likely impact funding, scholarship and research productivity, and the probability of increased extramural funding. For the purposes of this program, major research equipment is defined as a unit having a useful life of at least five years and an acquisition cost of more than $50,000.

ELIGIBILITY
Tenured or tenure-track faculty are eligible to submit proposals. An individual can apply as PI or Co-PI on only one proposal of this type each year.

Emeritus, adjunct, and visiting faculty, as well as postdocs, and staff, are not eligible to lead projects but may be included in research teams.

Past recipients of R-Initiative funding who did not comply with the terms of funding are ineligible.

FUNDING AND REQUIREMENTS
Solicitation-specific Guidelines:

- The number of anticipated awards in 2020 will likely range between one and six.
- Project dates must begin on or after July 1, 2020. Six months are allowed for the purchase of equipment. No-cost extensions will not be granted. Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to the Division of Research.
- A 1:1 cash match is required from the proposal teams. Matches may come from individual faculty members, centers, institutes, departments, colleges, or a combination of the sources.
- Funds will be available to successful PIs as individual project accounts and will be maintained and managed by the Division of Research. The PI will work with his/her department/college to transfer the cash match to the individual project accounts at the beginning of the project. Funds will be available once matching funds are transferred after [start date] and must be spent by [end date]. Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to those providing the matching funds and to the Division of Research.
- Priority consideration will be given to requests that demonstrate a multi-user, multi-department/college need.
- A current lack of necessary equipment or capacity will be strongly considered.
- No technical staff expenses should be included in the budget.
- The grant period is six months, to begin on or after July 1, 2020, and the purchase of equipment must be completed within the grant period. No-cost extensions will not be granted.
R-Initiative Requirements:
- Funds may not be used to provide or supplement faculty salary. The requested total budget should be appropriate for the proposed project. Timeline must adhere to the project dates outlined in this call. Unnecessary inflation of requested budget may negatively impact the review.
- A Co-PI can be a non-Clemson employee, but no financial support will be provided outside of Clemson University.
- Funds can be used to pay hourly wages to undergraduate or graduate students. Support for other personnel may be allowable with proper justification.
- Attending, organizing, hosting, and/or participating in conferences as the sole purpose are not considered appropriate projects or products.
- As needed, funds may be used for travel. However, domestic and international travel as part of the proposed work must have sufficient justification and budgetary details.
- Expenditure of these funds must follow State procurement guidelines. State money cannot be used for personal gain (i.e., books, recordings [CDs, DVDs, etc.]) by which the author receives ANY portion of funds directly.
- All income received from sales are considered Clemson University revenue unless assignment of rights to the faculty member is granted by the Vice President for Research (VPR) and the Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF).
- Funds can be used to support scholarly activity related to the development of new teaching or Creative Inquiry techniques or practices but not for the actual teaching of a Creative Inquiry course.
- In the event the PI leaves the University during the life of the project, unspent funds will be returned to the Division of Research, and the project will be closed.
- No-cost extensions will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances. Second no-cost extensions will not be granted.

DELIVERABLES
The primary outcome of the **Clemson Major Research Instrumentation Program (CU-MRI)** is the purchase of equipment. The purchase must be completed, equipment received, and all expenditures posted used for the purposes identified in the proposal by the end of the six-month grant period. Documentation must be emailed to the Division of Research (rifunds@clemson.edu) by the end of the grant period.

Should R-Initiative funding result in publication(s), PIs must acknowledge the impact of R-Initiative funding. For example, “This project was funded in part by Clemson University's R-Initiative Program.”

Awardees of R-Initiative funding are expected to present at the Research Symposium.

APPLICATION PREPARATION
Proposals that are not in compliance with the requirements and proposal instructions will be returned without review.

Format all documents using 12-point Times New Roman Font, one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8½ x 11-inch paper size.
Submit the proposal as a single PDF file with the following ordered sections:

A. **Cover Sheet [1 page]**
   
   The official [R-Initiatives Cover Sheet](#) must be used and include:
   
   - A clear and concise project title (CU-MRI: Project Title),
   - The names of the PI, all co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators, including graduate and undergraduate students, should be listed along with departmental affiliations; additional personnel may be listed on a separate page if not enough space is provided in the cover sheet,
   - Center affiliations, if applicable,
   - Total budget amount,
   - Indication of prior R-Initiative funding, and
   - Anticipated deliverables.

B. **Project Summary [1 page]**
   
   Include a brief summary of the need for equipment and how its purchase will further enhance Clemson University's research funding, scholarship, and productivity.

C. **Project Description [5 pages]**
   
   Inclusive of all figures and charts, include a description of the research, training, and proposal activities that will be possible upon acquisition of the equipment and the impact on the productivity and competitiveness of CU researchers. The description should detail which users will have access to the equipment and if there are any plans for sharing among centers, departments, and colleges. Details about where the equipment will be housed, how it will be maintained and operated over its lifetime, and how the maintenance cost will be covered should also be included. Approval from unit head of the department or facility where the unit will be housed should accompany the proposal. The project description should provide a statement on whether similar equipment is currently available at Clemson. If similar equipment is available, justify the need for the new equipment.

D. **Budget [NSF or NIH Format] and Budget Justification**
   
   The budget should include the vendor quote(s) for the proposed equipment, including shipping and installation/familiarization costs, detailing breakdown of the cash match and funding request from the Research Division toward the purchase. Include commitment emails or letters for the cash match funds, including the source of funds. The budget should not include any salary, materials and supplies, space/lab upgrade, or travel requests. Matching funds must be allowed under federal and state guidelines. Unallowable matching funds are costs on other federal projects, supplies on hand, etc. Fund sources not allowable are Fund 18 and Fund 20. The matching funds must be available during the project period.

E. **Biographical Sketches [2 pages]**
   
   Submit 2-page biosketches in NSF or NIH format for PI, and all Co-PI(s), collaborators and key personnel.

F. **Letters of Support [optional; maximum of three]**

G. **Documentation of Cash Match Commitments and Other Resources**
   
   Provide commitment emails or letters for the cash match funds, including their source(s). Provide a list of any other University cash support available for the proposal. Matching
funds must be allowed under federal and state guidelines. Unallowable matching funds are costs on another federal project, space, equipment, supplies on hand, etc. Fund sources not allowable are Fund 18 and Fund 20. Matching funds must be available during the project period.

If the faculty team is already funded by other college or University-level seed funding initiatives (e.g., TIGER, FRDP, OYA, ADR Research Awards in the College of Education, Brooks Sports Science Institute), a copy of the funded proposal and its budget from the other initiative should be included in this section. Include a clear, specific justification of why additional funding is needed and how it will be used to increase the competitiveness of the proposal.

H. List of Suggested Reviewers (maximum of four) with E-Mail Addresses [optional]
Faculty from any institution may be listed, but at least two must be current Clemson University faculty. Ineligible reviewers include department chairs and collaborators of the project team. Each person listed should be notified that he or she has been included and may be invited to review.

TIMELINE
September 11, 2019 Solicitation announced
April 29, 2020 Proposals due
To Be Decided Decisions announced

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE
Proposals are accepted from December 4, 2019 to April 29, 2020. All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must be received by 4:30 p.m., April 29, 2020 in InfoEd. PIs will contact their OSP Support Centers as they would normally do for an external submission. To ensure that all electronic signatures are received on time, faculty must submit their proposals for routing and electronic signature at least two business days before the deadline, per University policy (https://www.clemson.edu/research/policies/). Only those proposals having completed the InfoEd routing process by the deadline will be reviewed.

REVIEW PROCESS
A review committee of Clemson University faculty will provide inter-disciplinary perspectives to evaluate the proposals and make funding recommendations to the Vice President for Research. External reviewers may be used, if needed. The proposal must be written in a clear and concise manner for a general audience. Avoid the use of jargon.

Evaluation Criteria:
- Sharing of equipment by multiple users, multiple departments, and multiple colleges
- Likely impact of funding on scholarship and productivity
- Probability of increased extramural funding resulting from the purchase of the equipment
- Other factors that demonstrate potential benefit to the University
- The presence and condition of similar equipment in the University
- Space, operation, and maintenance plan for the equipment
- Significant discount secured from a vendor
RESEARCH COMPLIANCE
All applications selected for the award must have received the required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated.

QUESTIONS
Questions about the CLEMSON MAJOR RESEARCH INSTRUMENTATION PROGRAM (CU-MRI) can be directed to Kelly McSwain at kmcsuai@clemson.edu, (864) 656-0260, or Diana Thrasher at dianas@clemson.edu, 864-656-3908 in the Division of Research.