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.

LIMITATION ON SUBMISSIONS

Each college may be the lead on **two** proposals, which can be either single-college or multi-college. A single-college proposal involves faculty from only one college. A multi-college proposal involves faculty from two or more colleges. Multi-college submissions are highly encouraged.

FUNDING AND REQUIREMENTS

- The grant period is six months to begin on or after July 1, 2021. The purchase of the equipment must be completed within the grant period. Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to the Division of Research.
- Priority consideration will be given to requests that demonstrate a multi-user, multi-department, and multi-college need.
- **The cost-share requirement will be removed for the 2021 cycle, but it is still allowable and highly encouraged.** 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 (if any) to the individual project accounts at the beginning of the project. Funds will be available once matching funds (if applicable) are transferred. Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to those providing the matching funds and to the Division of Research.
- A current lack of necessary equipment or capacity will be strongly considered.
- No technical staff expenses should be included in the budget. The PI and project team must assume the operational and maintenance cost of the equipment going forward. Space should be identified and available.
• 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).
• No facilities (F&A) costs are permitted.
• All equipment purchased through CU-MRI becomes the property of Clemson University.
• No-cost extensions will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances. Second no-cost extensions will not be granted.
• Written approval from Center/Facility director to house the equipment as part of the application package.

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 8 ½ x 11-inch paper size.

Submit the proposal as a single PDF file (LAST NAME_2021 CU-MRI_Proposal.pdf) 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 and college 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 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 (if applicable) 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 (if applicable). 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. [OPTIONAL] 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. As noted in D., 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, etc.), 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 12, 2021</td>
<td>Solicitation announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24, 2021</td>
<td>Proposals due</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13, 2021</td>
<td>Decisions announced</td>
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**SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE**

Proposals are accepted until March 24, 2021. All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must be received by **4:30 p.m., March 24, 2021 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
- Amount of cost-share provided by other units and individuals

**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 rifunds@clemson.edu, (864) 656-0260, in the Division of Research.