

The National Science Foundation is accepting preliminary proposals due September 5, 2007 for Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers (MRSEC). Full proposals are by invitation only, due January 18, 2008.

Only two preliminary proposals may be submitted by any one organization as the lead organization.

I am requesting that preproposals be submitted to me by close of business on **Monday, June 11, 2007**. Preproposals may be submitted by e-mail, campus mail, hand-delivered to 2810 Beardshear, or faxed to 4-7288. A review committee will choose the projects to be forwarded to NSF. Below are the guidelines that should be followed in preparing your preproposal for the internal review:

- 1) Prepare a brief description of the project - no more than two pages.
- 2) Provide a discussion as to who at ISU will be involved, who will be benefited, and how they will benefit.
- 3) Provide an estimate of the budget.
- 4) Total length should not exceed three pages.

The Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers (MRSEC) program supports interdisciplinary materials research and education while addressing fundamental problems in science and engineering. MRSECs require outstanding research quality and intellectual breadth, provide support for research infrastructure and flexibility in responding to new opportunities, and strongly emphasize the integration of research and education. These centers foster active collaboration between universities and other sectors, including industry, and they constitute a national network of university-based centers in materials research. MRSECs address problems of a scope or complexity requiring the advantages of scale and interdisciplinary interaction provided by a center. A MRSEC may be located at a single institution, or may involve two or more institutions in partnership.

Individual MRSEC awards are expected to range in size from about \$1 million per year to a maximum of \$5 million per year.

Further details and guidelines are available at
<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf07563/nsf07563.htm>
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