

**NSF MRI Pre-proposal Guidelines**  
**Tennessee Tech Limited Submission Competition**

**REQUIRED COMPONENTS and SECTION HEADINGS**

**1. Cover Sheet**

- a. Name of PI
- b. Name of Submitting Department, Center (if applicable) and College
- c. Project Title: The project title must be concise and convey the primary purpose of the proposal, e.g., "MRI: Acquisition of \_\_\_\_\_," or "MRI: Development of \_\_\_\_\_." Consortium project titles must also be identified in the title: "MRI Consortium: Acquisition of \_\_\_\_\_," or "MRI Consortium: Development of \_\_\_\_\_."
- d. Track I or Track II
- e. Acquisition or Development
- f. Instrument Type & Proposed Location
- g. Personnel (PI, co-PIs, Senior Personnel, Collaborators)

**2. Background/Justification/Need (1/2 page maximum)**

**3. Intellectual Merit & Broader Impact (1/2 page maximum)**

**4. Project Description (Must not exceed 4 pages)**

- a. Research Activities to be Enabled: Describe the research program(s) and training activities that will be enabled and that drive the request. Include any funding sources that may support those activities and projects. If applicable, include information related to Prior NSF MRI support or other Prior NSF Support.
- b. Description of the Research Instrumentation and Needs: An acquisition proposal should include a technical description of the requested instrumentation, including manufacturer and model number where appropriate. This section should clearly explain how the planned research drives the instrumentation request.  
A development proposal must clearly explain how the planned research drives the needed instrument capabilities and make clear that those capabilities are not available through an instrument purchase. The proposal must succinctly present the design concept, the development strategy and project execution in sufficient detail to allow for the evaluation of the project's feasibility.
- c. Impact on Research and Training Infrastructure: A brief description of how the instrument will improve the institution's capabilities to conduct leading-edge research and the quality of research training infrastructure.
- d. Management Plan: A brief description of how the instrument will be managed and maintained over its lifetime. Sufficient detail should be given to enable reviewers to evaluate whether the appropriate technical expertise and infrastructure to allow effective usage of the instrument will be available, and whether effective multi-user accessibility will be available.
- e. Abridged budget and budget justification: Must include anticipated source of cost share (30% of total project cost)

**5. References: Bibliographic References**

**6. Biosketches** | (PI, Co-PI, Senior Personnel) – follow NSF format

**7. Current & Pending Support** | (PI, Co-PI, Senior Personnel) – follow NSF format

**8. If applicable**, if you have previously submitted an MRI to NSF for the same instrument requested in the preproposal, please provide a copy of the panel reviews received.

Please combine all documents into a single pdf file before sending. Send Pre-Proposal pdf file to: [research@tntech.edu](mailto:research@tntech.edu) by **noon** on Friday, November 13, 2020.