

Energy Instrumentation Grant REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Issue Date February 17, 2022

Proposal Due April 29, 2022 5:00 p.m. CDT

NCESR has available \$150,000 to be expensed toward the purchase of one or more pieces of equipment to support energy science research at UNL. Researchers are invited to submit proposals for any increment up to this amount; any costs above \$150,000 are the responsibility of the proposal research team.

A. DESCRIPTION. The Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research (NCESR), a collaboration between the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), was established to *conduct energy research that produces new technologies, processes and systems that provide new or significantly enhanced energy sources and improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for Nebraskans.*

B. INSTRUMENTATION GRANTS. NCESR seeks innovative laboratory instrumentation proposals that will facilitate energy science research. All areas of energy science research will be considered. Proposed instrumentation requests must show that the instrumentation obtained will be maintained and made accessible by all faculty, researchers and students at UNL. Proposals demonstrating a higher number of users and potential users will be scored higher in the evaluation process. Evaluation of the proposal will also include the extent to which the equipment is unique or can provide unique capabilities. Instrumentation here refers to either a single piece of equipment or a system comprised of multiple integrated components.

C. Instrumentation TEAM.

1. The instrumentation team includes the Principal Investigator (PI), up to two Co-Investigator(s) and other internal and/or external members as appropriate and listed as participants necessary to successfully perform the proposed work.
2. The PI must be a current UNL faculty member holding a tenured or tenure-track (e.g. Assistant, Associate, or Professor) position.
3. The Co-Investigator(s) must be current UNL faculty. One Co-Investigator is required, however, one additional Co-Investigator is allowed. The Co-Investigator(s) must be willing and able to take on the role of the PI in the unforeseen event the PI can no longer perform that function. The Co-Investigators must hold a tenured, tenure-track *or* non-tenure-track faculty appointment.
4. UNL faculty may serve as the PI for only one (1) proposal; however, any individual may serve as a Co- Investigator on multiple proposals.
5. UNL faculty not designated as the PI and Co-Investigator(s) are to be identified as participants on the research team.
6. Researchers from other universities and/or external partners from the private-sector may also be members of the research team, however, all funds must be expensed at UNL.

D. FUNDING. Funding to support energy sciences instrumentation is provided by the NPPD (www.nppd.com) to UNL and administered by the NCESR (ncesr.unl.edu).

E. PROJECT PERIOD.

1. The intent is for the effective start date to be July 1, 2022.
2. The project period for one Year 1 is intended to be July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

F. BUDGET. The maximum instrumentation budget request is \$150,000.

1. When estimating the total instrumentation budget requested, salary and benefits are not allowed for any faculty, researchers or students. Funding for laboratory or facility improvement will not be considered. Funding will only be allowed for the purchase of instrumentation/equipment. This includes capital equipment and/or components that can be assembled to create appropriate instrumentation. Funding will be allowed for expenses related to capital equipment manufacturer personnel delivering, installing, and calibrating/aligning as needed for proper initial operation and manufacturer's warranties.
2. No matching funds required.
3. Funds will not be provided for operation of the equipment outside of that needed for initial setup and calibration.

G. EXPECTATION TO ENHANCE OBTAINING EXTERNAL FUNDING.

It is important and must be understood that this project (or projects) selected to receive instrumentation funding are expected to actively promote the submission of proposals by equipment users to secure future external funding.

H. SELECTION.

1. Review criteria include the potential for impact on future external funding in energy sciences, uniqueness of capability on campus, and the opportunity for multiple users to benefit.
2. Funding decisions are final.

I. PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS.

The University of Nebraska is using a new platform for internal funding applications. Applications for internal funding must be submitted via the Internal Competitions module in NuRamp (<https://nuramp.nebraska.edu>). Sign in to NuRamp using your institutional credentials. Click on IC Application. Then from the drop down, select Instrumentation Grant – Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research.

1. Proposals are due by the date and time designated on page 1 of this RFP. Requests for extensions or exceptions will not be accepted.
2. The proposal document must include:
 - a. Please complete the online information in NuRamp and prepare the following information per requirements and in the order described – as a **single Word document file** and upload into the online form in NuRamp where requested.
 - i). Title/abstract – page 1.
 - The title/abstract page must not exceed one page.
 - The title/abstract page, must provide:
 - The instrumentation project title (10 word maximum).

- The PI name, position title (e.g., Professor, Associate Professor, etc.), department name and contact information; and the Co-PI name, position title (e.g., Professor, Associate Professor, Research Assistant, Research Associate etc.), department name and contact information for a minimum of one Co-PI or a maximum of two Co-PIs.
 - The name, title, and affiliation of other members of the research team.
 - A brief abstract (300 word maximum).
- ii). Narrative – pages 2 and 3.
- The narrative must not exceed two pages.
 - The narrative must include:
 - A short, non-proprietary description of the instrumentation needs written in a manner that can be understood by a non-scientific audience.
 - The energy science research objectives that could be addressed with this instrumentation.
 - The potential impact in energy sciences that will be enabled by the instrumentation.
 - The location where the instrumentation will be housed and plan for ensuring access by UNL users.
 - Plan for training and scheduling of use on the instrumentation.
 - The total requested amount with a budget.
- iii). Two page Curriculum Vitae of the PI. Does not count towards the proposal page count.
- iv). Standard UNL procurement rules and procedures will apply to use of funds.
- b. Once you have clicked “Submit” you are finished with the submission process for your application. Please disregard the statement about “The next step is Review Management”.**
- c. You will receive an e-mail notification confirming your application has been submitted during the next business day.**

K. NCESR CONTACT.

For questions or more information, contact the Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research:

- Jerry Hudgins, Ph.D., Interim Director
jhudgins2@unl.edu
402-472-3771
- Brenda Coufal, Program Coordinator
brenda.coufal@unl.edu
402-472-3859

