



# MRSEC

## Materials Research Science and Engineering Center

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A Collaborative Endeavor by The National Science Foundation, The University of Maryland and Colleagues in Industry, Education and Federal Laboratories

### **Call for MRSEC Seed Funding Proposals 2009**

Starting October 2009, the MRSEC has available seed funding of approximately \$150,000 per year for a period of one to two years. This funding will be used to support new research directions with the potential to nucleate a new Interdisciplinary Research Group (IRG) program or a new IRG direction.

We request proposals for seed projects to be submitted on or before September 1, 2009. The proposals should be limited to no more than three pages of text plus a title page, budget, short CV's, and current and pending support statements. Proposals should be submitted electronically with a subject line clearly indicating MRSEC seed proposal to Tanner Thompson at: [tathomps@umd.edu](mailto:tathomps@umd.edu).

Criteria for selection for funding will be the following:

- 1) The proposal should build on a unique, demonstrated research strength.
- 2) The proposal should describe research requiring an interdisciplinary approach, and ideally should include a team of at least two members from different departments.
- 3) The proposal should indicate the potential for growth into an IRG-sized research program. Specifically, the proposal should outline how the research could be a part of an IRG-scale (5-7 investigators) effort including joining researchers from more than one discipline. The proposal should explicitly identify potential future co-investigators and outline the broader scope of research within the potential IRG.
- 4) Though the period of performance for these seed proposals may be for up to two years, the proposed research should lead to well-defined results before the submittal of the MRSEC renewal proposal, expected to be in January 2011.

Co-investigators of the University of Maryland MRSEC are not eligible to receive seed funding. However, inclusion of existing MRSEC co-investigators in the discussion of a future IRG effort is permitted (and desirable).

This round of proposals and their evaluation will be the first step in a process of developing the renewal proposal. Proposers should be willing to participate in the renewal process for the UMD MRSEC, which will begin in 2010. Funding under the seed program should not be considered a guarantee that a research topic will be included in the renewal proposal (nor will declination of a proposal prevent future consideration of the topic in the renewal).

Because NSF funds are limited, it is most likely that only one or two seed proposals will be supported. Evaluation of proposals will be carried out by a committee chaired by the MRSEC seed-funding coordinator, with membership selected in consultation with the MRSEC oversight committee.

### **White Papers on Proposed MRSEC IRGs for 2011 Renewal**

There may be some research efforts that, for various reasons, fall outside the guidelines listed above for consideration for MRSEC seed funding. The MRSEC is also soliciting three-page white papers, which propose the nucleation of future MRSEC IRGs for the 2011 renewal, but are not proposing a seed project. These white papers will be considered along with seed proposals as part of the development process for the MRSEC renewal proposal.