



OSU Materials Research Seed Grant Program (2012-13)

We are pleased to announce the **2013 OSU Materials Research Seed Grant Program Request for Proposals (RFP)**, which is open to The Ohio State University (OSU) Materials community. This enhanced seed program leverages resources and best practices of the Center for Emergent Materials (CEM), the Center for Electronic & Magnetic Nanoscale Composite Multifunctional Materials (ENCOMM) and the Institute for Materials Research (IMR). The result is a unified RFP with funding tiers designed to achieve the greatest impact for seeding excellence in materials research of varying scopes.

Note that the 2012-2013 academic year is the fifth year of the six year funding cycle for the CEM, and the renewal process for the next six year cycle is now active. As a result, the third Funding Tier, Proto-IRG Grants, has been incorporated into the renewal process for the CEM for this funding cycle only and does not appear in this year's Seed Grant Program RFP. Please visit the CEM website (www.cem.osu.edu) for further details on opportunities to participate in the renewal process.

The two Funding Tiers of the 2013 OSU Materials Research Seed Grant Program are:

1. **Multidisciplinary Team Building Grants**, which provide funds up to \$60,000/year per award in direct costs, and require one PI and one Co-PI, and may have unfunded collaborators, with the goal of forming multidisciplinary materials research teams that can compete effectively for federal block-funding opportunities.
2. **Exploratory Materials Research Grants**, which provide funds up to \$40,000/year per award in direct costs, and require one PI, and may have Co-PIs and/or unfunded collaborators, with the goal of enabling nascent materials research to emerge to the point of being competitive for external funding.

The following pages describe the two tiers of seed funding opportunities and provide details on how to apply. Please visit imr.osu.edu or cem.osu.edu or encomm.osu.edu for additional information and updates related to this year's seed grant RFP.

Description of the Two Funding Tiers

1. Multidisciplinary Team Building Grants

The aim of these grants is to enable and to invigorate interdisciplinary collaborations with high potential to have broad impact and win substantial federal block funding. These grants require one Principal Investigator and one Co-PI. Additional unfunded collaborators may be included. The goal is to form multidisciplinary materials research teams of 2 to 4 faculty members each.

Awards will be up to \$60,000 in direct costs per grant per year. The initial funding period is one year, but successful Multidisciplinary Teams may apply for a maximum of one additional year renewal in the next year's open competition of the OSU Materials Research Seed Grant Program. Tentative start date is August 1, 2013.

Contact Information

Contact Profs. Steven A. Ringel (ringel@ece.osu.edu, 614-688-3924) or Ezekiel Johnston-Halperin (ejh@mps.ohio-state.edu, 614-247-4074) with any questions.

2. Exploratory Materials Research Grants

The aim of these grants is to stimulate nascent materials-allied research to the point where a highly competitive external proposal can be developed. These grants require one Principal Investigator. Additional Co-PI(s) and/or unfunded collaborators may be included. These grants complement the Multidisciplinary Team Building and the Proto-IRG grants.

Awards will be up to \$40,000 in direct costs per grant per year. The initial funding period is one year, but successful PIs may apply for a maximum of one additional year renewal in the next year's open competition of the OSU Materials Research Seed Grant Program. Tentative start date is August 1, 2013.

Contact Information

Contact Profs. Steven A. Ringel (ringel@ece.osu.edu, 614-688-3924) or Ezekiel Johnston-Halperin (ejh@mps.ohio-state.edu, 614-247-4074) with any questions.

How to Apply?

Eligibility

An applicant may serve as Principal Investigator on only **ONE** proposal in response to this RFP (all Funding Tiers). The PI must hold a faculty-level appointment at OSU. **All proposed research must be clearly distinct from ongoing externally or internally funded research.**

Letters of Intent

Applicants planning to submit a proposal in response to this RFP (all Funding Tiers) must first submit a brief Letter of Intent as an email attachment in **one file in PDF format by 2:00 PM on Monday, February 11, 2013** via email to OSU_MRSGP@osu.edu. The Letter of Intent should include: names, titles, and departmental affiliations of PI, Co-PIs (if applicable) and collaborators (if known); contact information for the PI only (mailing address, email, phone and fax numbers); identification of the Funding Tier; tentative project title; short description of the proposed research (100 words maximum); and the names and contact information (including email address) for at least 3 suggested external reviewers. **Any Letter of Intent that does not provide this information or does not meet the deadline will not be considered.**

Presentations and Discussion

The Multidisciplinary Team Building Grants proposals are required to make an informal presentation on their proposed collaborative. The presentations (up to 30 minutes) will be hosted by ENCOMM in special Materials Seed Grant Team Planning Meetings during the winter quarter of 2013 (<http://www.encomm.osu.edu>, contact Amanda Zuurdeeg at

zuurdeeg.3@osu.edu for scheduling assistance), and a panel discussion on “best practices” will be held in mid-December for interested applicants. Teams that have presented their proposed research at an ENCOMM meeting within the 12 months prior to the proposal deadline are deemed to have met this requirement.

While these presentations are required, their content will not be part of the formal review criteria. The purpose of these presentations is to provide a forum for forming and enhancing interdisciplinary collaborative connections amongst OSU materials researchers in an informal setting, and to provide an opportunity to strengthen the proposals.

Proposal Submission

Submit your proposal as an email attachment in **one file in PDF format** by **2:00 PM on Friday, March 11, 2013** to OSU_MRSGP@osu.edu. **Any proposal that does not meet the deadline will not be considered.**

Proposal Preparation Instructions (all Funding Tiers)

1. Cover Page (1 page maximum) including: identification of the Funding Tier; proposal title; names, titles, and departmental affiliations of PI, Co-PIs (if applicable) and collaborators (if any); contact information for the PI only (mailing address, email, phone and fax numbers); date and title of team building presentation (Multidisciplinary Team Building); proposal abstract (200 words maximum)
2. Project Description (4 pages maximum) including:
 - a. Objectives of the proposed research project
 - b. Description and scope of research
 - c. Work plan and methodology
 - d. Expected outcomes
 - e. Research facilities that may be used to conduct the research
 - f. Expertise of the team and synergy among team members to enable research of a scope and complexity requiring the advantages of scale and inter-/multi-disciplinarily provided by a team (required only of Multidisciplinary Team Building proposals)
 - g. A coherent management plan detailing how the project will be executed as a team effort (required only Multidisciplinary Team Building proposals)
 - h. A list of targeted federal block-funding opportunity(ies) with deadline(s) (if known), and a description of how the team will be able to compete effectively for those opportunity(ies) if the proposed research objectives are met (required only of Multidisciplinary Team Building proposals)
 - i. A list of targeted external funding agency(ies), with deadline(s) (if known), and a description and how meeting the objectives of the proposed research would translate into external proposal development (required only of Exploratory Materials Research proposals)
3. References Cited (no page limit)
4. Budget Information (1 page maximum): Provide a detailed budget for the proposed project and a brief explanation of the proposed budget items.
5. Curriculum Vitae (2 pages maximum each) for PI and all co-PIs (if applicable)

6. Current & Pending Support (no page limit) for PI and all co-PIs (if applicable)

Use a minimum 11-point font size, single line-spacing, and 1” margins. **Proposals longer than the stated page limits and/or omitting information requested above will not be reviewed.**

Budget Restrictions

These seed grants are intended to support primarily student and postdoctoral researcher salaries and benefits; tuition; materials and supplies; and equipment user fees. The following expenses are **NOT** allowed (all Funding Tiers): faculty salaries and benefits; computers and equipment purchases; and food and entertainment.

Terms and Conditions

All selected proposals are subject to terms and conditions, including reporting requirements, that will be specified when the awards are made.

Review Process

Each proposal (all Funding Tiers) will be reviewed by external and OSU reviewers. At the time of award notification, PI(s) will receive an anonymous copy of the reviews.

Review Criteria (all Funding Tiers)

- Intellectual merit of proposed research activity, including originality, novelty, and potential for contribution to science, technology and education
- Potential for the proposed research to be funded through existing federal funding mechanisms
- Potential to seed transformative advances involving materials-allied research
- Overlap with existing OSU Materials Seed Grant Program funding

Additional Review Criteria (Multidisciplinary Team Building)

- Evidence of team synergy
- Potential for winning federal block funding
- Presentation at ENCOMM meeting

Additional Review Criterion (Exploratory Materials Research)

- Plan for external proposal development