

INSTITUTE FOR MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURING RESEARCH (IMR)

SPRING 2025 KICKSTART FACILITY GRANT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Ohio State University Institute for Materials and Manufacturing Research invites proposals to its Kickstart Facility Grant Program. IMR Kickstart Facility Grants make shared campus research facilities more accessible to demonstrate materials-related research results with the goal of strengthening near-term research proposals for external support. Preference is given to research conducted in one of IMR's core materials research facilities, including:

- [Center for Design and Manufacturing Excellence \(CDME\)](#)
- [Center for Electron Microscopy and Analysis \(CEMAS\)](#)
- [Nanosystems Laboratory \(NSL\)](#)
- [Nanotech West Laboratory \(NTW\)](#)
- [Semiconductor Epitaxy and Analysis Laboratory \(SEAL\)](#)
- [AFM Core Facility in Scott Laboratory W374B](#)

Each Kickstart Facility Grant provides **\$2,500.00** to offset the cost of user fees and access fees associated with participating facilities.

ELIGIBILITY

With the goal of seeding new, innovative research at Ohio State, **proposers must meet each of the following four requirements:**

1. Non-tenured faculty (regular and research), *with special consideration given to new faculty within 5 years of appointment*; senior research staff with Principal Investigator status at OSU; postdoctoral researchers who wish to perform research independent of their current advisor, as a path towards a future independent academic career.
 - Proposals led by postdoctoral researchers must include a one-page letter of support from their current advisor confirming that the research proposed is independent of their current project.
2. All proposals must include a statement on alignment of the proposed research with one or more of [IMR's Signature Areas and Strategic Themes](#).
3. Member of the Institute for Materials and Manufacturing Research:
 - If not currently a member, contact Joanna Gardner at gardner.306@osu.edu for information.
4. Researchers not currently receiving funding for reasonably related research topics.

KEY DATES

- Request for Proposals Release: Tuesday, April 8, 2025
- Submission Deadline: **Friday, May 9, 2025 at 5:00 PM**
 - Submit your application as an email attachment in PDF format to Joanna Gardner, IMR Proposal Development Specialist, at gardner.306@osu.edu.
- Anticipated Award Announcements: Monday, May 19, 2025
- Anticipated Award Start Date: Monday, June 2, 2025

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Ohio State faculty/PIs/postdoctoral researchers interested in applying for an IMR Kickstart Facility Grant must use the Word template found on IMR's website to create their proposal and include the following information:

Cover Sheet (1 page):

- Project Title.
- Names, titles, and departments of the Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigators.
- Abstract: a brief description of the proposed research plan and goals. Note that this abstract will be shared publicly should the research be funded by IMR, and therefore, proprietary or otherwise sensitive information should not be included here (500-word maximum).

Proposal (2 pages):

- Project Description: a brief summary of the proposed research, including the objective, scope of work, methodology, and research facility(s) to be used to conduct the research (1,000-word maximum, up to 2 images).
- Proposals from independent postdoctoral researchers must explain how the funding will help the researcher pursue a future independent academic career and must include a one-page letter of support from their current advisor confirming that the research proposed is independent of their current project.
- Statement on alignment of proposed research to [IMR Signature Areas and Strategic Themes](#).
- Relation to Planned External Proposal(s): list all external agencies, deadlines and programs targeted by the research team, and how this Kickstart Facility Grant is expected to strengthen the proposal(s).
- Budget Information: details of all proposed expenses and a brief explanation for each item. Kickstart Facility Grants are intended for facility user fees, access fees, and required costs that might be associated with participating facilities and cannot be used to pay for travel, equipment, personnel, or communications expenses.

Performance on Prior Internal Awards, During the Past Five Years (No page limit):

- For those faculty or Principal Investigators who have previously received any research funding from IMR (through an IMR Facility/Kickstart Grant, IMR Industry Challenge Grant, Frontier Center Award, IMR CV-19 Awards, IMR Global Partnership Awards, TNI-OSU Catalyst Award, and/or any OSU Materials Research Seed Grant Program Awards - Exploratory Materials Research Grants, Multidisciplinary Team Building Grants, or Proto-IRG Grants during the past 60 months), we require a synopsis of every funded project, including details on all outcomes and full citations for all publications, presentations, and externally sponsored projects related to that project.

For Proposals led by Postdoctoral Researchers Only (1 page)

- Proposals led by postdoctoral researchers must include a one-page letter of support from their current advisor confirming that the research proposed is independent of their current project.

General:

- All proposals should use a minimum 12-point font size. All Kickstart Facility Grants awarded will have a twelve-month project period and a total budget of \$2,500.00. Applications longer than two pages ("Proposal" section) or omitting information requested above will not be reviewed.

REVIEW CRITERIA

- Ability of proposed research to impact materials research innovation
- Relation of this project to planned external proposals
- Extent to which proposed facility use will enhance planned external proposals
- Ability of IMR funding to impact proposed research
- Additionally, funding decisions will consider the following criteria: If appropriate, based on the competition in a given cycle, *preference is given to proposals planning to use any of the IMR core research facilities* – [Center for Design and Manufacturing Excellence \(CDME\)](#); [Center for Electron Microscopy and Analysis \(CEMAS\)](#); [Nanosystems Laboratory \(NSL\)](#); [Nanotech West Laboratory \(NTW\)](#); [Semiconductor Epitaxy and Analysis Laboratory \(SEAL\)](#); and the [AFM Core Facility in Scott Laboratory W374B](#)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. IMR Kickstart Facility Grants must be fully expended **within twelve (12) months** of award. Any unused funds at the end of the twelve-month award period must be returned to IMR.
2. A brief technical and financial report will be due at the end of the award cycle.
3. Kickstart Facility Grant recipients will be expected to share their research findings at future IMR events, including seminars and workshops.
4. IMR requests that all researchers inform IMR of external proposals and/or awards that fully or in part result from IMR-funded projects.
5. Recipients of IMR funds shall acknowledge IMR support in publications resulting from IMR-funded research projects. The acknowledgement shall read as follows: *This work was supported in part by The Ohio State University Institute for Materials and Manufacturing Research.*
6. Submission of a proposal to this IMR Kickstart Facility Grant competition constitutes an agreement to follow the above terms and conditions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Potential applicants may contact Joanna Gardner, IMR Proposal Development Specialist

(gardner.306@osu.edu), with any administrative or procedural questions.

Contact IMR Executive Director Steven Ringel (ringel.5@osu.edu), with technical questions related to potential research activities.



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

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