

Insights from an NSF MRI Reviewer

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- Reviewers tended to consider requests over \$1.5M as too high. However, if they felt the proposal was strong, they would still select it for funding and let the program manager negotiate the award. However, different divisions have different policy on this.
- It is critical that the proposal describe compelling new research projects that will be enabled by the equipment.
- While a broad research agenda covering many topic areas is important, there should also be coherence and a critical mass around at least one topic area.
- Proposers should provide evidence that there is strong funding in place for the research projects that will use the equipment.
- The panel responded well to proposals that benefit large groups of faculty. While by no means essential, those that benefit faculty from a number of institutions regionally rated highly.
- Sufficient infrastructure and resources to install and maintain the equipment are critical. If support equipment is needed (i.e. for sample preparation, or further sample processing after the new equipment is used), the panel needs to be assured that it is, or will be, in place.
- A good plan to manage the equipment, schedule time for users, etc. is essential.
- Broader impact includes not only diversity and education. Impact on industry or on society, etc. are also important features.