

Luxembourg, 23 July 2010

NSF-FNR CALL 2010

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

The National Research Fund (FNR) is pleased to launch the **eighth joined call for project proposals in the MATERIALS WORLD NETWORK** (a Cooperative Activity in Materials Research between US Investigators and their Counterparts Abroad) with the US National Science Foundation (NSF) www.nsf.gov.

NSF is working with European funding agencies to enhance opportunities for collaborative activities in materials research between the US investigators and their European colleagues. Projects to be selected through this competition must have a clear relevance to materials phenomena, synthesis, characterization, and/or properties. Proposals from Luxembourg public research organizations have to be submitted to the FNR. The proposals will be evaluated by NSF and the FNR. If both recommendations are favourable, the FNR will fund the national part of the project.

The deadline for submitting the proposal to FNR is **10 November 2010 (5 p.m. proposer's local time)** in accordance with the terms of the information dossier attached.

The FNR earmarked a total budget of 1.000.000 EUR in the framework of its INTER programme (International Collaboration) covering the period of three years for this activity.

Besides the regular criteria that need to be met by the projects, some additional call specific criteria will be added. The complete submission file is also available on the FNR website: www.fnr.lu

The earliest start of the projects will be July 2011.

For any enquiries about your proposal please contact,

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Call information

(updated 3 August 2010)

1. Procedure and timetable for the NSF-Europe Cooperative Activity in Materials Research
2. General information
3. Criteria used to select research projects
4. Program description
Separate file: NSF Program Solicitation nsf10588.pdf
Materials World Network: Cooperative Activity in Materials Research between US Investigators and their Counterparts Abroad (MWN)
5. Forms to be used in submitting your research project proposal
Separate file: INTER Proposal-form.doc
Separate file: INTER NSF-FNR Supplement for Lux applications.doc
6. Form to be used in submitting the budget of your research project proposal
Separate file: INTER NSF-FNR Budget Annexe and Gantt.xls
7. Guide for applicants: Budget guidelines for the submission of a project proposal in the INTER programme
Separate file: INTER 2010 Budget Guidelines 230710.pdf
8. Indicative summary to be sent by 1 October, 2010, allowing the FNR to prepare the project assessment procedure
Separate file: INTER NSF-FNR-Call2010-Indicative Summary.doc

The relevant call files are posted on the FNR's website:

<http://www.fnr.lu/en/Grants-Activities/Research-Programmes/INTER-Programme>

1. Procedure and timetable for the Procedure and timetable for the Materials World Network

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

The FNR is addressing the call for research project proposals under the NSF-Europe Cooperative Activity in Materials Research framework to researchers in the Luxembourg Public Research Centres (CRPs)/University. The FNR invites them to submit project proposals to it.

The FNR earmarked a total budget of 1.000.000 EUR over the period of three years for this activity, starting in 2011.

TIME SCHEDULE:

- 23 July 2010:** **Launch of the Materials World Network: Cooperative Activity in Materials Research between US Investigators and their Counterparts Abroad (MWN)** . Information regarding the project proposals on the basis of a form and an information dossier.
- 1 October 2010:** **Receipt of indicative project summaries** by the FNR secretariat, enabling the secretariat to prepare the assessment procedure.
- 10 November 2010 (5pm):** **Closing date for receipt of research project proposals.** Proposal of the Luxembourg part must be submitted to the FNR. Assessment of project proposals by independent experts: on the basis of the proposals received, independent experts will conduct an in-depth evaluation of projects.
- End Q1, 2011:** **Opinion of the FNR Scientific Council.** A rapporteur, assisted by independent experts and appointed by the Scientific Council, will prepare a report on the opinions delivered on each project proposal. On the basis of these opinions and reports the Scientific Council will deliver an opinion on whether or not funding is appropriate and if so, on what terms.
- End Q1, 2011:** **Funding decision of the FNR Administrative Board.** Drawing on the opinion of its Scientific Council, the FNR Administrative Board will provide a decision on the funding to be provided and the terms to be set when projects are carried out.
- In Q2, 2011:** **Recommendation with NSF on the counterpart proposal.**
- Q2, 2011:** **Final decision on joint projects to be funded. Preparation and signature of agreements.**
- Beginning Q3, 2011:** **Earliest possible start of the projects.**

2. General information

- All documents will be treated in a confidential manner: proposals will be sent to external reviewers and reviewed internally by FNR staff and rapporteur. The external reviewers will have signed a confidentiality agreement prior to getting the file(s). Mark 'Confidential' where needed.
- The duration of the project proposed to FNR should match the duration of the other proposers' project parts submitted to the other funding organization(s).
- Information clearly identifying the nature and scope of the project partners.
- Please provide information necessary for the project evaluation, identifying the nature and scope of the project partners.

The proposal to FNR must be accompanied by two additional items:

1. Information clearly identifying the nature and scope of the corresponding counterpart proposal must be provided. For each counterpart proposal include:

- a. Summary Information: name of the counterpart agency or agencies, names and affiliations of principal participants, the counterpart project title and identification code (if any), and date of proposal submission. Also state the requested funds, requested start and termination dates, and provide a technical abstract. (Limit: 3 pages).
- b. Project Description of the counterpart proposal including, for example, state of knowledge of the field, results from previous work, objectives, plan of work, expected outcomes and their significance. If the same project description is submitted to NSF and the counterpart funding organizations(s) and/or the main body of the proposal to NSF already contains a description of the counterpart proposal, then this item is not necessary.
- c. Biographical sketches or curriculum vitae of the senior project personnel, including significant publications related to the proposed project. (Limit: 2 pages per individual).

2. A specific summary of the proposed interaction, including visits between the U.S. and their partners abroad, stating the anticipated scientific benefits of the interaction, must be provided. (Limit: 2 pages).

3. Selection criteria: In addition to the selection criteria mentioned in the Guide for applicants, the project must also meet the following conditions

- International collaboration:
 - The value added by the proposed international collaboration in materials research;
 - Extent to which the collaboration integrates research and education and promotes diversity;
 - Preference will be given to proposals where the efforts on the US and European sides are balanced and students and junior researchers participate in the international collaboration;
- Each project must include the international cooperation with other laboratories: this cooperation will help new skills to be acquired more rapidly in Luxembourg.
- Projects must make efficient use of the skills and equipment available in Luxembourg and in the network of collaborating and cooperating establishments. Shared use of equipment is preferable, wherever possible, to the acquisition of new equipment. Any investment in equipment must be as generally applicable as possible (i.e. able to be used for a number of different applications).
- Moreover, the inclusion of postgraduate and other students who can take part in the work for their diploma or doctoral thesis is highly recommended. One important point will be to provide training within the CRPs/University and the counterpart US organization as well as exchanges of personnel within specific training programs.

For points 4., 5. and 6., see separate files