



Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) Fall 2012 Call for Seed Proposals

Key Dates: MRSEC Symposium: September 21, 2012

Seed Proposals Due: October 15, 2012

Goals

The University of Wisconsin Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) is launching seed projects to enhance the ongoing materials research and education missions of the Center and to support exploration of transformative new directions. Present research activities in the MRSEC encompass the development of novel compound semiconductors, the dynamics of charge transfer in organic-inorganic electronic materials, and the creation of liquid-crystalline materials and their interfaces. The three Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRGs) of the MRSEC are: IRG1: New Semiconductors from an Unstable World: Manipulating Strain, Stability, Dimensionality and Flexibility, led by Izabela Szlufarska and Thomas Kuech, IRG2: Molecular and Electronic Dynamics at Organic-Inorganic Interfaces, led by Robert Hamers and Paul Evans, and IRG 3: Functional Liquid Crystalline Assemblies, Materials and Interfaces, led by Nicholas Abbott and Douglas Weibel. The Interdisciplinary Education Group (IEG) is led by Anne Lynn Gillian-Daniel.

Design of Seed Projects

The MRSEC is soliciting proposals for seed projects to launch new materials research and education directions, or projects that will enhance and expand existing research programs. Awards will have a duration of one year, with the potential for renewal for a second year subject to review by the MRSEC Executive Committee. Projects will support one or two graduate student research assistants or postdoctoral associates and supplies. Seed projects must be clearly multidisciplinary, and must include at least two investigators. Key goals of the seed program are (i) to support projects that have the potential to develop into larger interdisciplinary research groups involving 5 or 6 investigators with a comparable number of students and (ii) to promote exemplary research in MRSEC-related areas.

Proposals

Proposals must include a description of the project (2 pages), a future-work and strategy section explaining how the proposed seed project could grow into a larger multidisciplinary materials research effort (1 page), a budget and budget justification, and 1-page NSF-format biosketches for each participant. Proposals must be submitted by Monday, October 15, 2012 to Sheri Severson (severson@engr.wisc.edu). Awards will be announced by December 1, 2012. It is anticipated that two or three new seed projects will be started this year.

More Information

Further information about the MRSEC is available at www.mrsec.wisc.edu. Interested investigators are invited to attend the MRSEC research and education symposium on the afternoon of Friday, September 21, 2012 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Engineering. Contact Sheri Severson (severson@engr.wisc.edu) for more information on this event.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact MRSEC participants and IRG leaders to discuss the relevance of potential projects to the MRSEC. Please feel free to contact MRSEC director Nicholas Abbott (abbott@engr.wisc.edu) or associate director Paul Evans (evans@engr.wisc.edu) with questions.