



science
& technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



National
Research
Foundation

COMMUNIQUÉ

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW FUNDING INSTRUMENT FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

The National Research Foundation (NRF) will be implementing a new Strategic Research Equipment Programme (SREP) that will focus on bridging the gap between the National Equipment Programme (NEP) investments and the investment areas proposed in the South African Research Infrastructure Roadmap (SARIR). The SREP will include the acquisition or development of instrumentation that is not only able to advance the frontiers of science, but that will also address the development of scarce skills, attract industry involvement, drive scientific and technological productivity and advance national research priorities.

The value of the grant will be from R15 to R35 million and the DST-NRF will make **only one grant award per annum**. The application must be submitted by a consortium with a clearly identified lead institution that will house the research infrastructure. Additional resources will need to be committed by the lead institution and consortium members to provide the necessary space, services, utilities, technicians, maintenance and additional support facilities such as information technology.

Eligibility criteria

- The lead institution must be either a South African public university or a South African public research entity such as a science council, national research facility, research laboratory, university medical research facility or museum.
- An institution may only participate in one consortium per annum either as a lead or consortium member.

- Once awarded a SREP grant, the lead institution will be excluded from submitting another application, as a lead institution, for a three-year period.

The NRF will only consider applications from a consortium that adheres to the following minimum criteria:

- Demonstrated ability of the lead institution to manage a facility with specialised research infrastructure in accordance with internationally benchmarked standards;
- Availability of existing facilities and infrastructure at the lead institution to support the requested research infrastructure in terms of sustainable management and human capacity development;
- Includes a minimum of two historically disadvantaged institutions;
- Demonstrated ability of the lead institution and consortium members to train postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows;
- Demonstrated ability of the applicant and consortium members to attract research grants and contract income to sustain the proposed research; and
- Written commitment from the DVC: Research (or equivalent) of the lead institution and consortia member institutions confirming their financial support towards the ongoing operations and maintenance of the infrastructure.

Call for applications

The first call for applications for the SREP is expected to be opened in February 2016.

NRF contact persons for further details

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