

# National Science Foundation

## Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program Summary

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<http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri/>

<sup>1</sup>The MRI program is coordinated by the Office of Integrative Activities (OIA) in collaboration with Directorates and Offices across NSF.



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A vertical graphic with a blue and green background. At the top left is the NSF logo. To its right, the text reads 'NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION MAJOR RESEARCH INSTRUMENTATION'. Below this, a section titled 'MRI GOALS' lists six bullet points: 'Catalyzing new knowledge and discoveries', 'Empowering the Nation's scientists and engineers', 'Providing state-of-the-art research instrumentation', 'Enabling research-intensive learning environments', 'Building capacity for a diverse workforce', and 'Developing next generation instrumentation'. To the right of the text is a vertical column of small images showing various research instruments and scientists. At the bottom left of the graphic, the text reads 'MRI@NSF.GOV' and 'www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri'.

# MRI: Overall Goals

- Supporting the **acquisition** of major state-of-the-art instrumentation, thereby improving access to, and increased use of, modern research and research training instrumentation shared by the Nation's scientists, engineers, and graduate and undergraduate students;
- Fostering the **development** of the next generation of major instrumentation, resulting in new instruments that are more widely used, and/or open up new areas of research and research training;
- Enabling academic departments, disciplinary and cross-disciplinary units, and multi-organization collaborations to **integrate research with education**;
- Supporting the acquisition and development of research instrumentation that makes use of, advances, and/or expands the Nation's **cyberinfrastructure** and **high performance computing capability**;
- Promoting substantive and meaningful **partnerships for instrument development** between the academic and private sectors

*The MRI program does not support sustaining infrastructure*



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# MRI Proposals: The Basics

- **Submission limit:**

- 3 per organization: *If three proposals are submitted, at least one of the proposals must be for instrument development.*

- **Cost-sharing** at the level of 30% of the **total project cost** is required for Ph.D.-granting institutions and non-degree-granting organizations.

- Cost-sharing is not required for non-Ph.D. granting institutions***

- At the time of submission, PI's are asked to identify an NSF division(s) to review proposal – NSF reserves the right to place proposals in appropriate divisions for review (***OIA should not be selected***)

- Restrictions on organization submission eligibility (see solicitation)



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# MRI: Eligible Organizations

- **Ph.D. granting institutions of higher education:** accredited colleges and universities that have awarded more than 20 Ph.D.s or D.Sci.s in all NSF-supported fields during the combined previous two academic years. Additionally, any organization that has awarded a Ph.D. or D.Sci. in NSF-supported fields during the combined previous two academic years is considered to be a Ph.D.-granting institution if the only degrees it awards in NSF-supported fields are Ph.D.s or D.Sci.s.
- **Non-Ph.D. granting institutions of higher education:** accredited colleges and universities (including two-year community colleges) that award Associate's degrees, Bachelor's degrees, and/or Master's degrees in NSF-supported fields, but have awarded 20 or fewer Ph.D./D.Sci. degrees in all NSF-supported fields during the combined previous two academic years.
- **Non-degree granting organizations:** Organizations that do not award Associate's degrees, Bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees, and/or Ph.D.s or D.Sci.s. Non-degree-granting organizations also include institutions of higher education that award all of their degrees outside of NSF-supported fields.



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# MRI-FY08<sup>1</sup>

Major Research Instrumentation – FY08

**2008 Award  
Snapshot - Overall**

**Number Reviewed: 810**

**Dollars Requested : \$515.8 million**

**Number of Awards: 224 (39 DEV, 185 ACQ)**

**MRI Amount Awarded: \$93.2 million**

**NSF Amount Awarded: \$101.0 million**

**Overall Success Rate: 27.7%**

**Mean Award: \$451,000**

**Median Award: \$330,000**

**Number of Institutions that Participated: 449**

**Number of Institutions Awarded: 184**

<sup>1</sup>Last MRI competition not affected by one-time funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



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# MRI-FY08<sup>1</sup>

Major Research Instrumentation – FY08

## *2008 Award Snapshot – By Institution Type*

	Ph.D.	non-Ph.D.	Non-degree	MSI
# reviewed	472	304	34	74
Mean request	\$765 K	\$430 K	\$704 K	\$555 K
Median request	\$568 K	\$323 K	\$559 K	\$397 K
# awards	129	84	11	24
NSF \$ awarded	\$73.7 M	\$22.4 M	\$4.8 M	\$9.8 M
MRI \$ awarded	\$67.8 M	\$21.2 M	\$3.9 M	\$9.3 M
Success rate	27.3%	27.6%	32.4%	32.0%
Mean award	\$571 K	\$267 K	\$440 K	\$407 K
Median award	\$465 K	\$211 K	\$474 K	\$309 K



<sup>1</sup>Last MRI competition not affected by one-time funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

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# MRI-FY08<sup>1</sup>

Major Research Instrumentation – FY08

**2008 Award  
Snapshot – EPSCoR**

**Number of Proposals Reviewed: 181**

**Dollars Requested : \$116.5 M**

**Number of EPSCoR-eligible Awards: 50**

**Amount Awarded to EPSCoR-eligible Awards: \$20.2 M**

**EPSCoR Amount Awarded to MRI Awards: \$2.0 M**

**EPSCoR-eligible Success Rate: 27.6%**

**Eligible proposals co-funded by EPSCoR: 17**

**Mean award: \$404,000**

**Median award: \$295,000**



<sup>1</sup>Last MRI competition not affected by one-time funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

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*Thank You!*



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