KANSAS NSF EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCoR)

REQUEST FOR WHITE PAPERS:  Major Initiatives
Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-1

Due April 20, 2015

Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the State of Kansas

Background:
In August 2015, the Kansas NSF EPSCoR office anticipates submitting a Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-1 proposal to the National Science Foundation for funding. The goal of NSF EPSCoR is to “strengthen research and education in science and engineering throughout the United States” with special focus on funding projects that have major impact on the research infrastructure within states which traditionally receive lesser amounts of NSF research dollars. Successful Track-1 proposals can receive up to $20 million for five years. A major research initiative that would be part of the Kansas project could receive between $500-800 K per year depending on the scope of the project.

To develop the RII proposal, Kansas NSF EPSCoR is seeking white papers for collaborative projects that will be considered for development into a full proposal to the NSF. This internal solicitation is addressed to faculty and administrators at Kansas State University (KSU), the University of Kansas (KU) and Wichita State University (WSU). Proposals must include researchers from at least two of these Research Universities. Inclusion of researchers at the Regional Universities is also viewed favorably. PIs and researchers of previous major initiatives may also apply; however, the proposed project cannot be merely an extension of the previously funded research.

White Papers that are deemed competitive will be invited to prepare a more detailed proposal (10 pages in length) due May 30. The initiative(s) to go forward in the RII Track-1 proposal will be selected and possibly developed further from these more detailed proposals.

Major Initiative:
White papers will only be considered for projects that interface with the research areas related to NSF’s new initiative, INFEWS (Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems). Visit http://goo.gl/lUwsIS for a better understanding of this area.

A major initiative white paper should propose problem-driven research that requires a comprehensive and integrative approach to a grand challenge issue in scientific areas related to the focus area, INFEWS (Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems).

Preference will be given to meritorious proposals that:
- Link two or more of the three NEXUS research areas
- Consist of senior leadership with participation (and mentoring) of a significant fraction of junior faculty
- Include minorities and women

**White Paper:**

White papers should be prepared electronically as a single PDF on departmental or university letterhead and submitted via email attachment to nsfepscor@ku.edu by **5:00 p.m., Monday, April 20, 2015**. The white paper should contain the following information:

1. Planned title of the proposal;
2. The name and contact information of the Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigators at each participating institution in Kansas;
3. A description of the project (**not to exceed two pages**). It is especially important to describe its potential to make a significant impact at the state and national levels.
4. A list of investigators, their affiliations, and roles (i.e., subgroup leader, researcher, etc.);
5. NSF Bio sketch for the Principal Investigator; and
6. NSF Current and Pending form for the Principal Investigator.

Budgetary information is not required in the white paper.

White papers will be reviewed internally by Kansas NSF EPSCoR and the research leadership at the research universities. Projects considered to fit best within the specified focus area and/or to be the most promising in terms of improving the State’s research infrastructure will be invited to submit full proposals. Further instructions will be provided to those selected to move forward.

**Kansas NSF EPSCoR:**

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**Sources of Additional Information:**

- Kansas NSF EPSCoR Web site: [http://www.nsfepscor.ku.edu](http://www.nsfepscor.ku.edu)