

**RESEARCH EQUIPMENT FUNDING**  
**CHEMICAL & TRANSPORT SYSTEMS DIVISION**  
**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

The National Science Foundation provides support for significant research equipment expenditures through the Major Research Instrumentation Program administered by the Office of Science and Technology Infrastructure. Information on the MRI Program can be obtained via e-mail at [mri@nsf.gov](mailto:mri@nsf.gov) or from the OSTI Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nsf.gov/od/osti/start.htm>.

Research equipment with total cost of less than \$200,000 can be funded by individual or multiple programs within the Chemical & Transport Systems Division (CTS) of the Engineering Directorate or via joint funding with programs in other divisions or directorates. Alternative mechanisms for seeking equipment funding from the CTS Division are described below.

**1. Include the cost of equipment in a regular unsolicited proposal for a research grant.**

These proposals will be merit-reviewed in the same manner as other research proposals. Program Directors will make recommendations for funding or declination based on the merit reviews, budget considerations, program balance, and the quality of other proposals being considered for funding. Justification must be provided for the equipment requested. Equipment that will be used by a number of faculty and students, and on projects other than the proposed research will be considered favorably; especially for more costly items. At least 1/3 institutional cost-sharing is required.

**2. Submit a separate equipment proposal to the CTS Division.**

Unsolicited equipment proposals will be merit-reviewed by mail or panel. The Program Directors in five subprograms (listed below) would prefer to receive such proposals by a target date of January 15 each year. Recommendations for funding or declination will be based on merit reviews, budget considerations, program balance, and the quality of other proposals being considered for funding. The total impact of the equipment requested on related research programs at the grantee institution will be a major consideration in evaluation of "Equipment-Only" proposals. Guidelines for such proposals are given in NSF 98-2, Grant Proposal Guide. At least 1/3 institutional cost-sharing is required.

Programs that accept equipment proposals:

[Thermal Transport & Thermal Processing](#)  
[Combustion & Thermal Plasmas](#)  
[Interfacial, Transport & Thermodynamics](#)  
[Separation & Purification Processes](#)  
[Fluid Dynamics & Hydraulics](#)

**3. Submit a request for a supplement to an existing grant.**

Proposals for equipment funds up to \$25,000 or 20 % of the grant amount, whichever is less, can be submitted in the form of a request for a supplement to an existing grant. Such requests need to clearly delineate the benefits for the current research program and the potential for expanded future utilization. At least 1/3 institutional cost-sharing is required.

**INVESTIGATORS WHO ARE CONSIDERING SUBMITTING PROPOSALS FOR EQUIPMENT FUNDING VIA ANY OF THESE THREE ALTERNATIVES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR(S) BEFORE PREPARING A PROPOSAL. THE CTS TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 703-306-1371.**

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