



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
2415 EISENHOWER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

NSF 23-124

Dear Colleague Letter: Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST Centers) Interest in Engineering Research

June 29, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) encourages the submission of new CREST Center proposals with a focus on engineering research. The CREST program supports the creation of research centers that will lead to strong societal impacts. Projects supported under the CREST program are 5-year research awards that increase research capacity and infrastructure at minority-serving institutions (MSIs) as defined in [NSF 23-595](#). Successful completed projects under this DCL could further compete for an Engineering Research Center (ERC) as a lead institution.

The CREST Centers are large-scale, interdisciplinary research centers that establish collaborative partnerships with other Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), National laboratories, private sector research laboratories, and non-profit organizations in pursuit of the CREST Center's vision and goals. The collaborations should augment, aid, and/or enhance research thrusts or tasks to achieve the research, capacity-building, and broadening participation goals.

This DCL calls for CREST Center proposals that may include, but are not limited to, the following research areas in engineering:

1. Microelectronic and semiconductor technology
2. Wireless communication
3. Clean energy technology

This DCL is a collaborative effort between the Directorate for STEM Education's Division of Equity for Excellence in STEM (EDU/EES) and the Directorate for Engineering's Division of Engineering Education and Centers (ENG/EEC) responding to the White House initiatives to position the Nation at the cutting edge of global science and engineering leadership by

harnessing cross-cutting, interdisciplinary research at MSIs. Proposals responding to this DCL must be submitted to the CREST program. They will be subsequently managed by a cross-disciplinary team of NSF Program Directors across EDU/EES and ENG/EEC.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS DCL

Preliminary proposals are required and should follow CREST solicitation requirements ([NSF 23-595](#)). In advance of submitting a preliminary proposal in response to this DCL, proposers are strongly encouraged to discuss their project ideas with cognizant program directors.

Preliminary proposals submission due date (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):
Friday, December 1, 2023

Invited Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time): Wednesday,
December 06, 2024

Inquiries should be submitted to CREST-CER@nsf.gov

Sincerely,

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Cognizant Program Directors

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