

NNF and NCMN Facilities Seed Grant Program for New External Users

The Nebraska Center for Materials and Nanoscience (NCMN) operates the Nebraska Nanoscale Facility (NNF), which is designed to serve as a hub of cutting-edge nanotechnology and materials science for the University of Nebraska and external academic and industrial users. To achieve the stated goals and further the mission, the NCMN and NNF have established a means to channel the nanotechnology resources, infrastructure and expertise to the wider scientific community. The Facilities Seed Grant Program aims to provide resources to external users like industries, manufacturers, tech companies, start-up companies, students from community colleges, undergraduate institutions and regional universities for facilitating development of new nanotechnology enabled products, R&D work, proof-of-concept development that involves characterization of nanomaterials, fabrication of devices and testing that require access to advanced instrumentation facilities. The seed grant program also will enable the parties to generate preliminary data necessary to pursue other funding opportunities.

Program Eligibility

Proposals for this program should be: (1) limited in scope and (2) involve either hands-on exploratory research, or high-risk, high-reward R&D activity with the potential to facilitate innovative technologies. The NCMN and NNF encourage applications from **external users** like **community college science and engineering students and educators**, academic users who are at **colleges or smaller research universities** and may have limited access to facilities and/or research funding, and **industrial/company users** who have start-up projects with highly innovative potential. The potential applicant/primary investigator/user must be a first-time user of the NCMN and NNF Facilities.

Examples of the proposed facility seed grant program research and development activities include:

- Preliminary data collection, prototyping, or proof-of-concept studies with prospects of leading to future outside funding or investment.
- Activity that expands the scope of the applicant's existing research programs.
- Specialized characterization or fabrication not currently funded within the scope of the applicant's existing programs.

Projects can be supported based upon the quality of the proposal, a proven need for funding assistance, the impact that the work will have on the future of the project, and the extent to which the project aligns with the NNF/NCMN mission. Support can be provided for facility instrumentation and staff fees only. Grants will provide facility access valued at a maximum of \$1,000 in user fees for a maximum six-month period from the selection date.

A brief proposal including a cover page and one-page description of the proposed measurements and goals can be emailed/submitted to: Dr. Jacob John, jjohn7@unl.edu, **(O)**: 402-472-6147, **(M)**: 214-707-0026, Coordinator, Nebraska Nanoscale Facility, University of Nebraska, NANO Room N214A, 855 North 16th St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0298.