Limited Submission Funding Opportunity

NSF Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE)


PROGRAM SOLICITATION #: NSF 14-587

PIRE is an NSF-wide program that supports fundamental, international research and education in physical, living, human, and engineered systems. PIRE awards enable research at the leading edge of science and engineering by facilitating partnerships with others nationally and internationally, by educating and preparing a diverse, world-class STEM workforce, and by fostering institutional capacity for international collaboration. This agenda is designed to encourage high-risk/high-reward activities and the pursuit of potentially transformative ideas.

This fifth round of the PIRE competition will be open to all areas of science and engineering research which are supported by the NSF (including Education research). Interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged. PIRE projects may vary in size and exhibit diverse forms of organization, collaboration, and operation suited to their individual needs.

Program Objectives:

- Support excellence in science and engineering research and education through international collaboration.
- Promote opportunities where international collaboration can provide unique advantages of scope, scale, flexibility, expertise, facilities, or access to phenomena, enabling advances that could not occur otherwise.
- Engage and share resources and research infrastructure within and across institutions to build strong international partnerships.
- Create and promote opportunities for students and early career researchers to participate in substantive international research experiences.

Award information: Anticipated Funding Amount: $10,000,000 to $15,000,000 annually, for all awards, pending the availability of funds; the average award size is expected to be approximately $4 million over 5 years.

NSF is working jointly with counterpart national and international funding organizations to enhance opportunities for collaborative activities in S&E research and education between U.S. investigators and their colleagues abroad. Funding for international collaborators on PIRE projects may be available from other agencies as identified in the full solicitation.

LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION
A single organization may submit one preliminary proposal as the lead institution. There is no limit on the number of proposals in which an institution can participate as a partner.
**KEY DATES**

- Internal Letter of Intent Due: August 13, 2014 (by midnight)
- Internal Proposal Due (by Invitation): September 2, 2014 (by midnight)
- Notification: September 23, 2014
- Sponsor Pre-Proposal Due (Required): October 21, 2014 (by 5pm)
- Sponsor Full Proposal Due (by Invitation): May 15, 2015 (by 5 pm)

**SUBMITTING A MANDATORY LETTER OF INTENT**

Faculty members interested in applying are required to submit a letter of intent (LOI). An LOI is required but not binding.

1. Click [here](https://vault.it.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e5559388_1-t_TAAfD5v) to access the LOI form.
2. Name the LOI as follows: “LastName-FirstInitial-LOI-NSF-PIRE-2014”, replacing “LastName” with your last name and “First Initial” with your first initial.
3. Submit the complete LOI form by clicking on the link: [https://vault.it.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e5559388_1-t_TAAfD5v](https://vault.it.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e5559388_1-t_TAAfD5v)

**SUBMITTING AN INTERNAL PROPOSAL**

If interest exceeds the number of submissions the university is allowed, invitations to submit internal proposals will be sent to all faculty who submitted an LOI. Proposals should be prepared with 1/2 inch margins, all around, 11 point font size and are required to contain the following components:

1. **Cover page** with descriptive title and names of the PI(s), key research personnel, and a list of partner institutions. The title of the proposed project should begin with the prefix, “PIRE:”.

2. **Project Summary**: (1 page maximum) Describe the concept of the proposed PIRE project, including why the international partnership is critical to the project success. Separately address the intellectual merit and broader impacts of the project. The summary should be informative to those working in the same or related field(s), and understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader.

3. **Project Description** (3 page maximum): The Project Description should take the form of a concept paper that clearly outlines the research challenges being addressed or breakthroughs being sought in the proposed PIRE project. The proposed approaches must be innovative and must show clear benefit from international collaboration (for example, expertise, facilities, resources, access to phenomena) and active engagement of US students and junior researchers. Include the following elements:

   - **Research Summary**: Summarize the main ideas and essence of the proposed research. Describe the issue/topic the proposed research is trying to address, the overall goal, approaches, expected outcomes, and the synergy that each participant brings to the project.
• **Education Summary**: Describe the goals of the proposed education activities, and how the integration of research and education will advance the proposed PIRE project in a way that other funding mechanisms cannot. A justification for education programs and activities should be included and described in the context of current knowledge of teaching and learning.

• If the proposal is to be considered for Additional Funding Opportunity(ies) as described in the solicitation explicitly name the funding partner agency(ies).

4. **NSF style biosketches** for the leadership team and other senior personnel (2 pages max, for each bio).

5. A **recommendation letter from your department Chair**.

In addition to NSF Merit Review Criteria, the following additional solicitation specific review criteria will be used by the NU Limited Submissions Advisory Committee in reviewing the Internal Proposal:

• **Value Added through International Partnership and perceived strength of proposed partnership and partner resources**: To what extent is the international partnership essential to the proposed project? How does each participating institution contribute to advancement of the PIRE project? Is the whole greater than the sum of its parts? Do all partners have or propose the funding and resources necessary to carry out the proposed project?

• **Internationally-Engaged Educational Activities**: How do the proposed educational activities of the PIRE project promote educational excellence via international collaboration and development of a globally-engaged U.S. science and engineering workforce?

• **Institutional Engagement**: How clearly presented are the roles and contributions of each participating organization? How well defined are anticipated benefits that each of the project's partners will gain in the proposed partnership?

Prepare your proposal as a SINGLE PDF FILE. It should be named "LastName-FirstInitial-NSF-PIRE-2014," replacing "LastName" with your last name and "FirstInitial" with your first initial.

**UPLOADING THE INTERNAL PROPOSAL TO VAULT**

1. Click on the ticket provided in the email inviting you to submit the internal proposal.
2. Click the Upload button.
3. Click the Browse button and navigate to your file on your hard drive or network.
4. Click the OK button in Vault. *Note*: You will get a tiny confirmation message upon upload. If you do not see it, you may contact Karen Lapidos Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu for a confirmation.

Vault access will expire after the deadline, as such late submission is not possible. Also, the Vault system does not allow you to overwrite an upload. If you need to upload a revised proposal BEFORE the deadline, contact Karen Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu.
COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES
The Office of Research Development offers assistance in identifying and facilitating collaborations, putting together interdisciplinary teams, programmatic and administrative development of large, cross-school proposals, and leveraging institutional resources for outreach and education. Contact Fruma Yehiely (yehiely@northwestern.edu), Director of ORD, for more information.

CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Fruma Yehiely, Director of ORD, 847-491-1074, yehiely@northwestern.edu
Limited Submissions web site: http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/