The University’s internal deadline for the limited submission competition for the National Science Foundation has issued a funding opportunity announcement for Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NSF 15-598) is 8/31/15. If you are interested, please read on for details.


- **Purpose:** The planned outcome of this solicitation is to establish the final three awards for the NSF-supported Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) - Network Coordination Office (NCO), Computational Modeling and Simulation Center (SimCenter), and Post-Disaster, Rapid Response Research (RAPID) Facility. The NCO, SimCenter, and RAPID Facility components for NHERI were originally competed under program solicitation NSF 14-605, Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) 2015-2019, but no awards for these components were made under that solicitation. Because the NCO, SimCenter, and RAPID Facility are integral awards for an integrated NHERI facility, this solicitation includes information about all four components of NHERI listed in NSF 14-605: NCO, Cyberinfrastructure (CI), SimCenter, and Experimental Facility (EF). The RAPID Facility is considered part of the EF cohort. Under this solicitation, proposals will only be accepted for the NCO, SimCenter, and RAPID Facility. All other proposals will be returned without review.

NHERI is the next generation of National Science Foundation (NSF) support for a natural hazards engineering research large facility, replacing the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES). NEES was established by NSF as a distributed, multi-user, national research infrastructure for earthquake engineering through a facility construction phase during 2000 - 2004, followed by operations of this infrastructure to support research, innovation, and education activities from October 2004 through September 2014.

NHERI will be a distributed, multi-user, national facility that will provide the natural hazards engineering community with access to research infrastructure (earthquake and wind engineering experimental facilities, cyberinfrastructure, computational modeling and simulation tools, and research data), coupled with education and community outreach activities. NHERI will enable research and educational advances that can contribute knowledge and innovation for the nation's civil infrastructure and communities to prevent natural hazard events from becoming societal disasters.

NHERI will consist of the following components, established through separate awards:

- NCO - one award to be made under this solicitation;
- SimCenter - one award to be made under this solicitation;
- Experimental Facility: RAPID Facility - one award to be made under this solicitation;
- CI - one award made under NSF 14-605; and
- Experimental Facilities for earthquake engineering and wind engineering research - six or seven awards made under NSF 14-605.

Under this solicitation, one cooperative agreement for the NCO, one cooperative agreement for the SimCenter, and one cooperative agreement for the RAPID Facility are anticipated to commence in early calendar 2016, with a five-
year award duration. These three Awardees will not conduct research. The primary research enabled by NHERI will be conducted by investigators supported through separate NSF awards. The NCO, SimCenter, and RAPID Facility Awardees, along with the other NHERI Awardees and the natural hazards engineering community, will work together, through Governance and Awardee activities, to establish a shared vision for NHERI, set natural hazards engineering research and education agendas and priorities, and make NHERI a value-added and productive research infrastructure.

- **Eligibility:**
  - **Who May Serve as PI:** The PI must be a full-time employee of the lead institution by the start date of the NSF cooperative agreement award.
  
  - **Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or Co-PI:** One. An individual may appear as Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI in no more than one full proposal. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that no individual is listed as PI or co-PI in more than one proposal. If an individual is included as PI or co-PI in two or more proposals submitted by the full proposal deadline, then the first proposal submitted, based on the FastLane system time stamp, will be deemed the one allowable submission. All subsequent proposals that include the individual as PI or co-PI will be returned without review.

  Furthermore, a PI or co-PI may serve as PI or co-PI on only one award made under NSF 14-605 and this solicitation, i.e., a PI or co-PI named on an award made under NSF 14-605 may not serve as a PI or co-PI on an award made under this solicitation. A proposal submitted to this solicitation with a PI or co-PI named on the NSF proposal cover sheet who receives an award under NSF 14-605 will be returned without review. NSF will not allow substitutions of PIs and co-PIs on proposals and/or subsequent awards to circumvent this requirement.

- **Funds Available & Anticipated Number of Awards:** The anticipated funding amount of $19,100,000 is the estimated total for up to five years for up to three awards (three Awardees). The table below shows the anticipated annual base budget support for each Awardee, contingent upon the annual budgets of NSF, the annual performance of the Awardee, and the extent of utilization of Awardee resources by NSF-supported research and education awards. For the RAPID Facility Awardee, a one-time budget increase of up to $1,200,000 in year two will be available for new equipment acquisition and commissioning, contingent upon the outcome of the year one merit review and NSF approval.

  Additional support, either through an increase in the base budget or as a supplement, may be provided as follows, contingent upon annual appropriations for NSF and NSF approval:

  - For all Awardees, as appropriate, to support annual Council work plan activities.
  - For the RAPID Facility, to repair damaged equipment, based on the Special Award Conditions listed in Section VII.B, Award Conditions.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Anticipated Annual Support</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year One</td>
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<tr>
<td>Network Coordination Office award base budget</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computational Modeling and Simulation Center</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>award base budget</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-Disaster, Rapid Response Research Facility award base budget</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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Funding is anticipated at Up to three awards as follows:

- One award for the Network Coordination Office (NCO).
- One award for the Computational Modeling and Simulation Center (SimCenter).
- One award for the Post-Disaster, Rapid Response Research (RAPID) Facility.

- Application Details: Since the University of Miami may only submit two proposals, this opportunity is a limited submission competition. An expert panel will internally review our candidates to determine which application will be submitted for competition by the NSF deadline on 10/16/15.

Note: An academic institution may submit up to two proposals as the lead institution, but may not submit more than one proposal as the lead institution in any one of the following three proposal categories:

1. Network Coordination Office (NCO),
2. Computational Modeling and Simulation Center (SimCenter), and

To apply, please send the following materials to Karen Lamper at \texttt{klamper@miami.edu} by \textbf{8/31/15}:

- Title of Proposal
- Indicate which topic area you plan to submit
- Your biosketch; including current and pending grant support.
- A brief summary of your project (no more than two pages).

Please be cognizant that requested information above is required for the reviewers to make an informed decision/ranking regarding your research proposal for consideration as an internal award applicant. Failure to address each numbered sub-heading above can impact the ranking of your proposal.

Note: Biostatistical considerations in the design and analysis of proposed investigations are critical to the procurement of funding and quality of research. The Biostatistics Collaboration and Consulting Core (BCCC), as part of the Research Design and Biostatistics Component of the Miami CTSI, is available to provide support for grant proposal development. This support may be funded by service credits awarded by the Research Design and Biostatistics Component of the Miami CTSI. For more information, please contact Maria Jimenez-Rodriguez at \texttt{mjrodriguez@biostat.med.miami.edu}.

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