

Excerpt from the NSF's Materials Innovation Platform RFP (19-526).

Tools. Describe the experimental and computational capabilities needed for both the in-house research and user program of the proposed MIP. Discuss how the MIP engages and leverages the existing infrastructure and instruments. Provide justification (in terms of critical needs in science and/or uniqueness in the United States) for new instrument development and acquisition, as well as a timeline for development and acquisition. If instruments are located at more than one institution, mechanisms to minimize the negative impact of distance on user service must be clearly described. List the major instruments (existing and new) that will be available to external users. The major new instruments acquired through the MIP funding must devote at least 50% of the instrument operational time to external users.

Describe the proposed user access modes (e.g., independent, collaboration, fee for service, sample request, and/or remote access) by users and for in-house research, the user proposal submission, review and selection process, staffing, instrument time/resource allocation, user training, safety, and user fee structure. MIPs may not charge academic users in the United States for time with experts, technicians, or use of the instruments acquired through the MIP funding. Users may be charged for consumables and for using the existing instruments. Full cost recovery is applied to proprietary research.”