NEWS
ENGINEERING RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
AUBURN UNIVERSITY
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

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Announcements

Single-Sign-On Available for Research.gov Users

AU faculty and staff with NSF accounts may now access Research.gov via **single-sign-on**. Please refer to the following steps:

1. Navigate to Research.gov.
2. In the top navigation bar, click on **Sign In**.
3. Select **Auburn University** from the **"Organization Credentials"** drop-down menu and click "Sign In Using Organization Credentials."
4. You will be directed to **AU Access** for authentication.
5. After successful authentication, you will be logged into Research.gov.

Note: Your NSF account's primary email must match your AU email, or you will not be able to successfully sign in.

Funding Opportunities

NVIDIA Developer Program: Call for Proposals

The NVIDIA Academic Grant Program
Proposals accepted quarterly
Areas of interest: data science, data processing, AI/Machine learning, communication systems, signal processing

Data Science Projects

NVIDIA is seeking proposals for work related to **data science** that incorporate RAPIDs, cuPY, cuOPT, cuDF, cuGraph, or Modulus. Proposals should correspond to one of the following categories:

- Data Processing
- Operational Research and Route Optimization
- Statistical Methods

- Graph Analytics
- Graph Neural Networks

Selected PIs may receive up to 32,000 A100 40GB hours or equivalent (max. of 8 concurrent GPUs).

Edge AI Projects

NVIDIA is also seeking proposals for work related to **edge AI** that incorporate Cosmos, NVIDIA Isaac™, Jetpack, DeepStream, Metropolis, TAO, FLARE™, Sionna, or Aerial™. Proposals should correspond to one of the following categories:

- Robotics and Autonomous Vehicles
- 5G/6G
- Smart Spaces
- Federated Learning

Selected PIs may be awarded the following:

- Up to four Jetson Orin Nano™ Developer Kits
- Up to four Jetson AGX Orin™ Developer Kits
- Up to four NVIDIA RTX™ 6000 Ada
- Up to 32,000 A100 40GB hours or equivalent (max. of 8 concurrent GPUs)

Read more about these funding opportunities here.

Materials Innovation Platform (MIP): Limited Submission Opportunity

Division of Materials Research (DMR)
Proposals Due: May 15, 2025 (5:00pm CT)
Award Amount: $16,000,000
Areas of interest: alloys, amorphous, composite materials

Materials Innovation Platforms (MIP) is a mid-scale infrastructure program in the Division of Materials Research (DMR) that seeks to accelerate the discovery and development of new materials and novel materials phenomena. MIPs embrace the mission of the Materials Genome Initiative (MGI), which is aimed at "discovering, manufacturing, and deploying advanced materials twice as fast and at a fraction of the cost compared to traditional methods."

This MIP competition is accepting proposals on alloys, amorphous, and composite materials. Given that the last MIP competition emphasized biomaterials and polymer research, proposals on these topics will *not* be considered for this upcoming competition.

This is a **limited submission opportunity.** If you are interested in applying, please contact Laura Cauthen from Proposal Services & Faculty Support to secure a spot.

Transit IDEA Program

Transportation Research Board (TRB), Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Transit IDEA Proposal Deadline: May 15, 2025
Award Amount: $150,000
Areas of Interest: transportation engineering and safety, transit safety

The Innovations Deserving Exploratory Analysis (IDEA) programs focus on early-stage, high-risk, and investigator-driven research in highways, transit, and railroad safety performance.

The **Transit IDEA program** is seeking proposals that address key challenges in public transit. Proposers are encouraged to work with transit agencies in developing proposals—and to include participation from transit agencies in proposals, such as in testing innovative methods. The FTA and the American Public Transportation Association have identified the following high-priority focus areas:

1. Improving transit relevance in the context of mobility management;
2. Satisfying current and anticipated customer needs;
3. Improving transit safety, security, and viability; and
4. Improving transit patron and employee environment for health and safety.

Other relevant areas of investigation include the integration of autonomous operations into transit; cybersecurity in transit operations; and cost-effective concepts for design, construction, maintenance, and restoration of physical infrastructure.

The IDEA program will fund the following projects:

1. **Proof-of-concept projects (Type 1)**, which explore unproven concepts for transportation infrastructure applications
2. **Prototype projects (Type 2)**, which yield non-proprietary or open-source outcomes, ensuring public accessibility

Read more about this funding opportunity here.

Research & Development Updates

Important Reminder: NASA Restrictions on Funding Activity with China

According to Section A3 of NASA's *Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual (GCAM),* proposals submitted to NASA by AU faculty are certifying that the proposer "is not China or a Chinese-owned company" and that they "will not participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally with China or any Chinese-owned company, at the prime recipient level or at any subrecipient level, whether the bilateral involvement is funded or performed under a no-exchange-of-funds basis, except to the extent NASA has notified the grant proposer that NASA has sought a waiver for such activities pursuant to Pub. L. 118-42 Sec. 526."

What This Means

No individual, regardless of citizenship, may participate in a NASA project subject to this Assurance if they are affiliated with the Chinese government or a Chinese-owned or Chinese-run institution, agency, or university. This restriction applies to all projects under the Assurance, regardless of their location (on campus or abroad) or whether they are subject to US export controls.

Additionally, if a NASA project is subject to an Assurance, NASA funds cannot be used for any collaboration with individuals affiliated with a Chinese institution, government agency, or university. Collaboration is prohibited even if funded by another source, or if the collaboration is completely unfunded, if the Assurance is tied to the NASA project.

Lastly, individuals with a Chinese affiliation are not permitted to use NASA-owned materials, information, or equipment, nor may they access data or information developed under a restricted NASA project, until it is made publicly available.

For more information, please see the March 21, 2025, edition of NASA's grant manual here.