

Call for Suggestions

Major Research Instrument Acquisition

The Central Analytical Facility

University of Alabama

Deadline — September 19, 2014

The Central Analytical Facility (CAF) at the University of Alabama is a shared user facility providing access to state of the art instrumentation. Our mission is service in support of the teaching, research and service missions of the University. We educate students on the productive, hands-on use of the instruments. We provide cutting edge analytical capability for use by the research groups. We assist outside users from sister institutions, government labs or industry. We aspire to be the center of excellence in multi-scale materials characterization for the Southeast.

The CAF has a five year plan of instrument acquisition to meet the current and future needs of the research community at the University. We will aggressively seek new capabilities to keep UA at the cutting edge.

The CAF User Advisory Committee will assist the CAF Director is preparing the five-year plan. This committee has the following members.

Dave Nikles	CAF Director and Chemistry
Rich Martens	CAF Manager
Alberto Perez-Huerta	Geological Sciences
Greg Szulczewski	Chemistry
Mark Weaver	Metallurgy
Greg Thompson	Metallurgy

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This is an open call for to all members of the faculty of The University of Alabama. We need suggestions on the future needs and a means of prioritizing future instrument acquisitions. Consider the research and graduate education needs of your department or center. Think about recent faculty hires and future faculty hires. Think about the evolving research needs in your field.

Prepare a brief document (two-page maximum) that makes a suggestion for future major research instrument acquisition. E-mail a pdf file with your suggestion to David E. Nikles, Director of the CAF dnikles@mint.ua.edu. **The deadline is 12:00 noon on Friday, September 19, 2014.**

The suggestions will be evaluated by the Users Advisory Committee, who will determine whether to include it in the Five Year Plan. Criteria for inclusion include

- Does this acquisition provide cutting edge research instrumentation to meet the emerging needs of existing faculty and the future needs of new hires?
- Does this acquisition have the potential to enhance the research mission of the University by increasing the number of high quality publications and the value of grants and contracts?
- Does this new acquisition provide a unique, cutting edge capability that places UA at the forefront in certain fields?
- Does this capability impact a number of different departments and centers on campus?
- What is the regional impact of the acquisition? Is it unique to the State Alabama or to the southeast region?

The Five Year Plan is an important document. It is a statement of the major research instrumentation needs for the University of Alabama. It is important that every stakeholder provide input into this document.

We understand there is a short lead time before suggestions are due. This is motivated by the NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program. The CAF has been very successful in winning MRI awards to obtain instruments. Half of the major instruments in the CAF were acquired through MRI grants. We anticipate a January 2015 deadline for the next round of MRI proposals. The University is limited in the number of proposals that can be submitted. The administration must decide sometime in the October, which groups may submit proposals. Accordingly, we must identify instrumentations needs for the CAF in time to prepare a competitive MRI proposal.

However, the Five Year Plan is a long-term plan and the director will accept any suggestions for acquisition of major research instrumentation at any time. The Five Year Plan is subject to change at any time, should circumstances warrant.