Award Cycle: Annual
Limit on Proposals per PI: An individual may participate as PI on one Equipment Enhancement Fund per cycle.
Next Due Date: October 23, 2017
Earliest Start Date: February 1, 2018
Award Period: Instruments must be purchased and received by June 30, 2018

**Description:** Category 3 grants are designed to add or augment research capacity through the acquisition of equipment for use by multiple investigators in shared facilities or approved university core facilities. This current description of Category 3 grants merges the former classifications of Core Facility and Shared Equipment Enhancement Grants.

The proposed equipment must be located in an approved core facility or in a shared, accessible space, and must have multiple committed users from at least two departments and preferably, from at least two different colleges. Equipment must add new capacity to enable competitiveness for new, clearly identified funding opportunities. RDI expects to make awards in two general funding categories, depending upon competitiveness of the proposals and availability of funds:

**Track 1:** Equipment total costs not exceeding $150,000

**Track 2:** Equipment total costs not exceeding $300,000. Equipment at this scale is required to be located in, and administrated by, an approved core facility and operated by existing professional core facility personnel.

For both Track 1 and Track 2 equipment proposed for placement within a core facility, an additional $30,000 in core facility use credits may be requested to stimulate use; core facility use credits may only be used to cover approved user fees in the core facility. For both tracks investigators should make a compelling case for how the acquisition of this equipment will enhance the capabilities of the core or shared use facility, how this acquisition enhances research capacity across departmental and college boundaries, and how this acquisition increases competitiveness for new extramural funding, for both individual PIs, or groups of PIs.

1. **Expected Outcomes (both Tracks):** EEF awards must be leveraged to acquire external support by amplifying existing capacity.
   - Recipients must prepare at least one proposal for an external grant within one year of purchasing the equipment. This grant must be clearly leveraged by the acquisition of this new equipment. The final report must include the UAccess Research Document Number as well as the proposal title, funder, and list of investigators. If a proposal has not been submitted, the report must contain information on the proposal components prepared to date, and a timeline of the remaining activities required to successfully submit a proposal.
   - Recipients must use RDI services/staff to enhance the competitiveness of their external grant proposals. Options include: Research Development Services, Strategic Business Initiatives, and the Associate Vice President for Global Research Alliances. In addition, PIs will need to liaise with college/departmental staff on planning proposal budgets.

2. **Eligibility:** The PI and Co-PI for EEF proposals must be faculty, continuing-eligible academic professionals, and/or continuing status academic professionals. It is expected that the PI and co-PI are from distinct disciplines (typically in separate colleges).

3. **Other Program Details**
a. **Proposal Related Information:** EEF proposals must be submitted through UA Competition Space by 5:00 pm MST on October 23, 2017. It is strongly suggested that proposals be submitted prior to 4:00 pm MST to ensure successful submission as the submission portal closes precisely at 5:00 pm MST. See below for other proposal and submission requirements. Review is anticipated to be finished in December, and award/decline decisions made soon thereafter.

b. **Award Related Information:** Award notification will be sent to PIs, heads/directors, and deans. Peer reviews may be included with the award notification; alternatively, peer reviews will be submitted to the PI after notification. EEF awards will remain in the current fiscal year (ending before June 30, 2018). No-cost extension requests must be made at least one month before the end of the grant (i.e., May 31) and accompanied by sufficient justification for the extension.

c. **Reporting Requirements:** Within one month of the end of the current fiscal year, PIs must submit an interim financial report documenting the equipment expenditures. Thus, the interim report is due before July 30, 2018. PIs are expected to submit a final report by June 30, 2019. Failure to meet the expectations described here results in ineligibility for receipt of subsequent funding from RDI. This report will describe research or scholarly activities enabled by the purchase of EEF equipment, including a list of proposals submitted to external funders. If a proposal has not been submitted, the status of its development, as well as a critical evaluation on status, must be addressed. Publicity for EEF recipients will be coordinated through RDI Research Communications.

d. **Review Requirements:** EEF awardees are expected to serve as reviewers on at least two RDI grant competitions over a three-year period.

4. **Review and Selection Processes:** A panel of faculty peers will review proposals; this panel will be supplemented by ad hoc reviewers as needed. PIs should write proposals that are understandable to an interdisciplinary audience. The following criteria will be considered:
   - Evidence of the equipment to initiate or expand research or scholarly activity
   - Feasibility of the plan to pursue external funding and likelihood of a competitive proposal
   - Track record of the unit responsible for managing the equipment
   - Qualifications of the PI and team

Selection will be based first on the outcome of the review. Where applicable, alignment of EEF proposals with the Strategic Pillars in Never Settle, with RDI Strategic Planning Sessions, or with the UA’s TRIF plan will be considered. Prior to award, proposers may be requested to present to RDI leadership.

5. **Application and Submission Instructions:** EEF proposals must be submitted through UA Competition Space by 5:00 pm MST on October 23, 2017. If you have not used this system, please see the instructions on the right side of UA Competition Space’s home page. It is strongly suggested that proposals be submitted prior to 4:00 pm MST to ensure successful submission as the submission portal closes precisely at 5:00 pm MST.

   a. **Three-Page Project Narrative**
      - Description of the proposed equipment, including the added capacity to UA’s existing equipment
      - Relationship to other existing core facilities or shared equipment resources
Equipment Enhancement Fund (EEF) – Multiple Tracks

- Description of how the equipment will be operated and maintained
- Identification and justification of at least one extramural funding opportunity. Give the grant/program title, funder name, submission deadline, and funders’ priorities. If possible, include a link to the RFA/RFP/solicitation (or program if the solicitation is not yet available).
- References Cited (included within the three-page limit)
- Format of the Project Narrative: one-inch margins, typeface no smaller than 11 point Times New Roman or 10 point Arial, no more than 6 lines per vertical inch. References and figure captions may be reduced to 8 point font.

b. **TRIF Initiative:** If your proposal aligns with a TRIF initiative, select the most applicable initiative. If your proposal does not align, select “other”. Options include: Improving Health; Water, Environment & Energy Solutions; Space Exploration & Optical Solutions; Defense & Security Systems; Other. You may select up to two categories.

c. **Supplemental Documents**
- PI’s NSF or NIH compliant biographical sketch or a CV of no more than 5 pages
- Co-PI’s NSF or NIH compliant biographical sketch(s) or CV (of no more than 5 pages)
- Table of users with their departmental and college affiliation
- One-page business plan for the long-term sustainability of the equipment; note that awardees placing the equipment within UA core facilities will be expected to work with RDI staff to establish internal and external usage rates
- Letter(s) of support from appropriate unit(s), core facility or shared facility manager, and dean(s)
- Equipment quote valid until at least one-month after proposed start date
- Budget and budget justification using template on UA Competition Space documenting the purchase of the equipment, accessories, and install (if applicable)
- Acknowledgement from the lead unit’s business manager confirming budget approval.

**Note:** While not required, any collaborative support or matching funds from PI’s home department or college will strengthen the application. Dean’s letters are not required unless support is provided. No EEF awards may be used for anything other than equipment; awards may not be used to replace current sources of support for personnel. No EEF funds may be used for other institutions.

**Questions:** resdev@email.arizona.edu