SUMMARY
The Clemson Major Research Instrumentation (CU-MRI) Program provides financial support from the Division of Research to Clemson University researchers for the purchase or replacement of major research equipment or an upgrade of major research equipment that will likely impact funding, scholarship and research productivity, and the probability of increased extramural funding. For the purposes of this program, major research equipment is defined as a unit having a useful life of at least five years and an acquisition cost of more than $50,000.

ELIGIBILITY
Tenured or tenure-track faculty (regardless of academic rank), research faculty, and full-time staff are eligible to participate as PIs, co-PIs, or key personnel. Emeritus, adjunct, and visiting faculty as well as postdocs are not eligible to lead projects but may be included on the research teams.

FUNDING AND REQUIREMENTS
- The number of awards in 2019 will likely range between one (1) and six (6).
- Funding requests require at least 1:1 cash match from the proposal teams. Match funds may come from individual faculty member(s), centers, institutes, departments, colleges, or combinations of these groups.
- Priority consideration will be given to requests that demonstrate a multi-user, multi-department/college need.
- A current lack of necessary equipment or capacity will be strongly considered.
- Upon selection for award, cash match funds will be transferred to an account managed by the Division of Research. Residual funds after the payment of all the cost related to the equipment purchase will be returned back to the parties providing the cost-share and the Division of Research.
- Expenditure of these funds must follow State procurement guidelines.
- No technical staff request expenses should be included in the budget.
- No facilities and administrative (F&A) costs are permitted.
- The grant period is six (6) months, to begin on or after July 1, 2019, and the purchase of equipment must be completed within the grant period.

DELIVERABLES
The primary outcome of the Clemson Major Research Instrumentation Program (CU-MRI) is the purchase of equipment. The purchase must be completed, equipment received, and all expenditures posted within the grant period.

APPLICATION PREPARATION
Format all documents using 12 pt. Times New Roman Font, one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8 ½ x 11inch paper size.

Submit the proposal as a single PDF file with the following ordered sections (do not include appendices):
A. Cover Sheet [1 page]  
The cover page must include a clear and concise project title (CU-MRI: Project Title).  
The names and appointments of the PI, all co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators should be listed along with departmental affiliations. List center affiliations where applicable.

B. Project Summary [1 page]  
Include a brief summary of the need for equipment and how its purchase will further enhance Clemson University's research funding, scholarship, and productivity.

C. Project Description [5 pages]  
Inclusive of all figures and charts, include a description of the research, training, and proposal activities that will be possible upon acquisition of the equipment and the impact on the productivity and competitiveness of CU researchers. The description should include details about which users will have access to the equipment and if there are any plans for sharing among centers, departments, and colleges. Details about where the equipment will be housed, how it will be maintained and operated over its lifetime, and how the maintenance cost will be covered should also be included. Approval from unit head of the department or facility where the unit will be housed should accompany the proposal. The project description should provide a statement regarding whether similar equipment is currently available at Clemson. If similar equipment is available, justify the need for the new equipment.

D. Budget  
The budget should include the vendor quote(s) for the proposed equipment, including shipping and installation/familiarization costs, detailing breakdown of the cash match and funding request from the Research Division toward the purchase. Include commitment emails or letters for the cash match funds, including the source of funds. The budget should not include any salary, materials and supplies, space/lab upgrade, or travel requests. Matching funds must be allowed under federal and state guidelines. Unallowable matching funds are costs on other federal projects, supplies on hand, etc. Fund sources not allowable are Fund 18 and Fund 20. The matching funds must be available during the project period.

E. Biosketches [2-page NSF or NIH format]  
Submit a two-page biosketch in NSF or NIH format for each senior key personnel.

F. Letters of Support [optional; up to maximum of three]

G. List of Suggested Reviewers (max. 4) with E-Mail Addresses [optional]  
Faculty from any institution may be listed, but at least two must be current Clemson University faculty. Ineligible reviewers include department chairs and collaborators of the project team. Each person listed should be notified that he or she has been included and may be invited to review.

Proposals that are not in compliance with the requirements and the instructions may be returned without review.
TIMELINE
December 3, 2018     Solicitation announced
March 27, 2019      Proposals due
May 1, 2019         Decisions announced

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE
Proposals are accepted from December 3, 2018 – March 27, 2019. All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must be received by 4:30pm, March 27, 2019 in InfoEd. PIs will contact their OSP Support Centers as they would normally do for an external submission. To ensure that all electronic signatures are received on time, faculty are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals for routing and electronic signature at least two business days before the deadline. Only those proposals having completed the InfoEd routing process by the deadline will be reviewed.

REVIEW PROCESS
A review committee will be formed to review the proposals and make funding recommendations to the Vice President for Research.

Evaluation Criteria:
- Sharing of equipment by multiple users, multiple departments, and multiple colleges
- Likely impact of funding on scholarship and productivity
- Probability of increased extramural funding resulting from the purchase of the equipment
- Other factors that demonstrate potential benefit to the University
- The presence and condition of similar equipment in the University
- Space, operation, and maintenance plan for the equipment
- Significant discount secured from a vendor

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE
All applications selected for the award must have received the required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated.

QUESTIONS
Questions about Clemson Major Research Instrumentation Program can be directed to Diana Thrasher at dianas@clemson.edu or 864-656-3908 in the Division of Research.