Research Equipment Acquisition for Competitive Transformation (REACT)

FY 26-27 Request for Proposals (Second Round)

DEADLINE DATES:

RFP ISSUE DATE: (**November 4, 2026)**

Last day for questions and answers about this RFP: **(November 25, 2026)**

Proposals due: (**December 16, 2026, 4:30 PM Central Time)**

LOUISIANA ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCoR)

Supported by:
The National Science Foundation and the Louisiana Board of Regents

1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

(225) 342-4253

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Overview
The Louisiana Materials Design Alliance (LAMDA), an NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 project, solicits proposals for LAMDA Supplemental Funding: **R**esearch **E**quipment **A**cquisition for **C**ompetitive **T**ransformation (REACT) to support STEM research projects designed to build and strengthen the fundamental research capacity and competitiveness of Louisiana's universities. This is a one-time supplemental funding program directed toward researchers who are at the threshold of becoming competitive on a consistent basis in the Federal and other external R&D marketplaces, or those seeking to maintain competitive status, and who—with some assistance from the supplemental funding to implement their plans to overcome whatever barriers they have identified which have stood in their way—clearly have a strong potential for enhancing their competitive status within a limited time span.

Eligibility Guidelines
The PI must hold a tenured, tenure-track, or research faculty position, with or without a history of external research funding, at a Louisiana public institution of higher education, or at any Louisiana higher education institution that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Further, to maximize the jurisdictional impact, this program is targeted towards the institutions in Louisiana's research ecosystem with the highest barriers and the greatest need. Therefore, individuals at Carnegie Research 1 institutions are not eligible for funding.

Regardless of faculty status and history of external funding, the applicant must identify barriers to competitiveness that would be addressed by this one-year funding for the proposed equipment. One and only one individual must be listed on the cover sheet as principal investigator. There is a limit of one application per PI.

Award Information
Proposals must address potential for achieving competitiveness for external research funding, including current status and identification of one or more barriers to achieving competitiveness and include a detailed plan for overcoming identified barriers to competitiveness through the supplemental funding. Proposals must also address the impact of addressing the barrier on institutional, system, and statewide levels. PI may provide critiques of proposals submitted to federal funding agencies if they contain information that would help reviewers assess either (1) the potential competitive status of the applicant, in general; or (2) the potential competitive status of the same (or a very similar) proposal, in particular. Reviewers will be instructed to give additional consideration to those applicants and proposals for which such critiques indicate a high likelihood of success, contingent upon the applicant's overcoming certain barriers (e.g., collecting preliminary data). If provided, these critiques must be added to the proposal file as an Appendix. Priority may be given to those proposals in STEM disciplines aligned with the State Science & Technology (S&T) plan, *FIRST Louisiana.*

Awards are intended to partially fund purchases of small research equipment. Awards will be funded at a maximum of $20,000, and institutions must provide a minimum 20% cost match in cash. An institutional letter of commitment regarding the cash match is required.

The proposal must contain: (1) a description of the equipment and quote from the vendor, (2) who would use the equipment, in what capacity, and a plan for shared use; (3) a plan for the technical operation and maintenance of the equipment both during the award period and after the award ends; and (4) a justification of the need for the equipment.

Note: A proposal requesting funds for repair or maintenance of an existing instrument is not considered under this funding. Funds are to be used for the purchase of new equipment only. Consumable components are considered supplies and are not an allowable expense.

Awards will be limited to the duration set forth in the Award Schedule below. No cost extensions will not be allowed. Funds must be expended by the end of the performance period or result in a return of funding to the sponsoring agency.

Award Schedule

Request for Proposals Released	November 4, 2026
Last Day for Q&A	November 25, 2026
Proposals Due	December 16, 2026
Award Notification	December 31, 2026
Performance Period	January 1, 2027 – June 30, 2027

Proposal Format

Proposals must use 1-inch margins, 11-point font or larger (Arial or Helvetica) and single line spacing. The following outline is to be followed:

- Cover page (Please use the one provided with this RFP)
- NSF demographic survey (please use the form provided with this RFP) Note: this information is voluntary.
- Project Description (4 pages max)
  The project description should address: (1) A justification of the need for the equipment and existing barriers; (2) Potential impact to improvement of research infrastructure and competitiveness for securing external funding; (3) Who would use the equipment, in what capacity, and plan for shared use; (4) A plan for housing the equipment; and (5) A description of the equipment and quote from the vendor. The actual quote from the vendor can be made an appendix to the proposal and is not included in the 4-page project description.
- References (not included in the page count).
- Budget (Please use the form provided). A one-page budget justification/explanation must also be included.
- Letter of Commitment for cash cost share.
- Biosketch (2-page limit; use NSF format: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/

Selection Criteria

- Scientific merit, and potential for overcoming identified barriers using REACT funding (40%)
- Existing capabilities to implement the project and shared usage for capacity building (25%)
- Potential to achieve national competitiveness for external funding (25%)
- Alignment with Louisiana Science and Technology Plan (10%)
  State Science & Technology (S&T) plan

Proposal Submission

All online submissions must be uploaded as a single PDF document through the LOGAN system. Paper originals or copies will not be accepted. The submission system will automatically close at 4:30 p.m. Central on the deadline date.

After the PI submits the completed proposal to his/her campus' OSP, Institutional Advancement, or Grants Office via LOGAN, confirmation of receipt of the electronic proposal will be e-mailed to the applicant and to the campus. If the confirmation email is not received within 12 hours, the application was not accepted into LOGAN. Please contact the LA EPSCoR office by phone at (225) 342-4253 or by email at rsi@laregents.edu.

NOTE: The PI is responsible for ensuring that the proposal is complete and correct upon submission to the Board, and no changes may be made to any proposal after the submission deadline. Disqualification of a proposal and/or any reviewer misunderstandings that occur because proposal contents (including all required forms) are incomplete, out of order, or contain incorrect information are solely the responsibility of the applicant.

The proposal must be submitted to the Board of Regents electronically by the authorized institutional representative (i.e., office of sponsored programs or office of sponsored research) of the PI's institution. Electronic submission by the authorized representative will signify institutional approval of the proposal and acceptance of the requirements outlined in this RFP.

Reporting and Evaluation

At the conclusion of the project, the principal investigator shall submit the final project report and must respond to the request within 30 days.

Questions about RFP

Specific questions concerning this RFP and the requirements set forth herein should be directed in writing to Ms. Jessica Patton, Federal Programs Administrator, by sending an email message to jessica.patton@laregents.edu. Questions will be accepted and answered through November 25, 2026. A running compilation of all questions asked about this RFP and all answers provided in response to those questions will be periodically posted on the BoR website at http://web.laregents.org.

2026-27 LAMDA Supplemental Funding
Research Equipment Acquisition for
Competitive Transformation (REACT)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) NAME:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
PI INSTITUTION:	PI'S DEPARTMENT:
PI Status: Tenured Faculty ☐ Tenure-track Faculty ☐ Research Faculty ☐	Equipment cost: Amount Requested: Cost share:
TITLE OF PROJECT:	
RELEVANT *FIRST LOUISIANA 2030* PRIORITY AREAS (Check all that apply): ☐ Advanced Manufacturing ☐ Agriculture & Forestry ☐ Biomedical ☐ Cybersecurity ☐ Coastal Restoration ☐ Energy ☐ Resilience & Disaster Recovery ☐ Structural Integrity Assurance	
PROJECT SUMMARY (250 WORDS MAX):	

Budget Form

ORGANIZATION						
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR						
A. SENIOR PERSONNEL: List personnel separately. Indicate number & type of months for each. A.5-6 show total number Other in brackets.	CAL.	ACAD.	SUMR.	Funds Requested	Institutional Match	Total Costs
1						
2						
3						
4						
5 [ ] Other Senior Personnel						
6 [ ] Total Senior Personnel						
B. OTHER PERSONNEL (show #s)						
1 [ ] Post Doctoral Assoc.						
2 [ ] Other Professionals						
3 [ ] Graduate Students						
4 [ ] Undergraduate Students						
5 [ ] Secretarial/Clerical						
6 [ ] Other						
Total Salaries & Wages (A+B)						
C. FRINGE BENEFITS (if charged as direct costs)						
Total Salaries, Wages, & Fringe (A+B+C)						
D. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT (List item & dollar amount for each item exceeding $5000 – attach quotes)						
Total Permanent Equipment						
E. TRAVEL						
1 Domestic (Incl. Canada & U. S. possessions.)						
2 Foreign						
F. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS						
1 Stipends						
2 Travel						
3 Subsistence						
4 Other						
Total Participant Costs						
G. OTHER DIRECT COSTS						
1 Materials and Supplies						
2 Publication Costs/Pages Charges						
3 Consultant Services						
4 Computer (ADPE) Services						
5 Subcontracts						
6 Other						
Total Other Direct Costs						
H. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (A thru G)						
I. INDIRECT COSTS (Specify rates.)						

Personal Information

This information is used for reporting purposes to NSF only. All information remains confidential. Provision of this information is voluntary.

PERSONAL INFORMATION	**PI**	**GRADUATE STUDENT**
Gender:		
Racial Background: (mark one or more boxes as applicable)	☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Decline to answer	☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Decline to answer
Do you have a disability that limits your activities?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Decline to answer	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Decline to answer