

The Advanced Instrumentation Laboratory (AIL), University of Alaska Fairbanks, requests proposals to support the development or use of advanced analytical procedures in current or planned research projects. The seed grant proposal should focus on one of the following:

- 1) **Technique development proposals:** The work should lead to the development of new analytical methods/protocols using AIL facilities, or establishing methodologies for analysis that are used elsewhere, but not currently performed within AIL.
- 2) **Preliminary Data:** The work should generate preliminary data to be used for obtaining grant funding for a full study. This type of work may also include “proof of concept” studies where the investigator wants to ensure that AIL can provide the data needed for a more complete and funded study.

Awards under this program will be in the form of support for analytical costs within AIL only. No funds will be transferred to the awardee. Travel, living, and other indirect expenses are not supported.

AIL has approximately \$15,000 to award at this time. While there is no firm limit to the amount of a single award, it is unlikely that amounts greater than \$5000 will be considered.

Analytical work performed under these awards must be completed before the end of FY10 (June 30, 2010). Unused support will be forfeited.

Application process: It is strongly recommended that applicants discuss their proposals with Ken Severin, AIL Director (fnkps@uaf.edu), or a member of the AIL Advisory Committee (www.uaf.edu/ail/people.html), to assess feasibility and scope of the proposed work.

Proposals should be submitted electronically as a single pdf file to fnkps@uaf.edu. Proposals must be received no later than 11 May 2009 for review 18 May 2009. The proposal format is included below.

Reporting Requirements: A complete written report (both printed and electronic) is required within three months of the conclusion of analytical work.

For method development projects the report must include a detailed standard operating procedure (SOP) and “Materials and Methods” section in a format suitable for publication in an analytical methods journal. The report should allow others to easily reproduce the methods developed and/or avoid any problems encountered.

The final report must include a summary of the preliminary results and discussion of future planned work. Please include detailed information about planned sources of future funding.

If the project is not successful the report must include suggestions as to how either the technique or AIL facilities could be changed to enable future success.

Acknowledgement Requirements: When work is conducted at AIL and is published in theses, dissertations, journals, books, conference proceedings, or other printed technical media, the following acknowledgment statement should be included in the manuscript:

[Portions of this work were]/[This work was] performed at the Advanced Instrumentation Laboratory (AIL), University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Please send copy of each published manuscript or citation to AIL (AIL, Box 755780, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5780, email: fnkps@uaf.edu) as soon as possible.

Proposal Format

Type of proposal:

1 - Technique development or 2 - Preliminary data

If type 1 proposal:

Describe who else might use this technique, and why is this technique important to have at AIL? Would this technique lead to future funded work at AIL? (250 words maximum)

If type 2 proposal:

Describe your future plans for acquiring support (time frame, agency, etc.), and how this proposed work is critical for acquiring longer term support? Include how much AIL analytical time might be requested for the full study? (250 words maximum)

Project Description:

Provide a brief overview the project goals, scientific significance, and relevant background material/ previous work. (1000 words maximum)

Procedures/Analytical Protocols to be Used:

Describe methods that will be used in the work. (250 word maximum)

Resources requested:

This should be listed as equipment time and the cost of additional supporting supplies. (100 words maximum). Equipment time is to be budgeted as follows:

ICP-MS: \$27/hour

Electron beam instruments and x-ray instruments: \$15/hour

Training and/or assistance on instruments \$100/hour

Time frame for analysis:

Please include the expected completion date for the work.

Names and contact information of three potential reviewers. *Note: Proposals will be reviewed within AIL; external reviewers may be used to extend the scope of the review committee's knowledge.*

Review Criteria:

Projects will be reviewed for each of the following criteria, please address them in your proposal:

1. Quality of the research and need for the analytical capabilities.
2. Contribution to strengthening the capacity for analytical capabilities.
3. Potential benefits to future AIL users.
- 4 . Potential to bring future revenue to AIL.

Each criterion will be scored as follows:

- [5] **Excellent:** Outstanding in all respects; deserves highest priority for support.
- [4] **Very Good:** High quality in nearly all respects; should be supported if at all possible.
- [3] **Good:** Good quality, worthy of support.
- [2] **Fair:** Lacking in one or more critical aspects; key issues need to be addressed.
- [1] **Poor:** Serious deficiencies.

Each criterion carries equal weight.