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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. NATIONAL COMPUTATION INFRASTRUCTURE (NCI) MERIT ALLOCATION SCHEME – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications are now sought for the Merit Allocation Scheme (MAS) of National Computational Infrastructure (NCI, www.nci.org.au) which provides Australian researchers with access to world-class high-end computing services.

The call seeks applications from researchers in universities and publicly funded research organisations (covered by the NCRIS Capabilities) for computational resources (processor time and related data storage) on the NCI National Facility (http://nf.nci.org.au). Under the MAS, resources are allocated to researchers on merit through a process which assesses applications on their research quality and computational requirements and needs.

During 2009-10, NCI will be enhancing Australia’s peak computational facilities by an order of magnitude, with the installation of a new tier 1 computing facility being acquired through a joint procurement, currently underway, involving the Bureau of Meteorology and the ANU.

In 2009, the facilities that will be available are:

- the current peak system - a SGI Altix 3700 with 1928 processors and with a peak speed of over 12 Tflops,
- a new development system - a SGI Altix XE 1300 with 1248 cores, and a peak speed of around 6 Tflops, to be installed in November 2008,
- the first phase of the next-generation peak facility scheduled for mid-late 2009.

Access under the MAS is provided for by Commonwealth (NCRIS) funding and thus researchers provided with resources under this scheme are not charged by NCI for the services provided. For 2009, the value of these resources is approximately $0.40 per core hour, an amount which can be stated as an in-kind contribution to research granting bodies (e.g., ARC).

All applications are completed online using a form which is available at http://nf.nci.org.au/accounts/

While the application process is online, please submit the application to the Office of Research and Development for review by Friday 31st October 2008.

Please see the attached document for additional background and information about the NCI Merit Allocation Scheme which recently has been reworked in a number of ways to improve its alignment with other competitive granting schemes, and also to enhance the uniformity of the quality of applications.

2. RESEARCH/CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SEAFOOD CRC - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT

The Seafood CRC Education and Training Team are looking for a CRC Participant to undertake a training needs analysis of their CRC industry participants.

The sorts of activities that will be required will be:

1) Reviewing the training needs of Participants using the training needs analysis tool box (developed from the 2008/706 pilot project) where appropriate.
2) Ensuring all training needs are covered from higher education to the VET sector
3) Provide a report to the CRC with a list of participant training needs and recommendations

Organisations interested in pursuing this opportunity should contact the CRC’s Theme Leader for Industry Training - Roy Palmer in the first instance (palmerroy@hotmail.com or 0419 528 733) to gain a detailed understanding of the CRC’s requirements.

Expressions of Interest are due by Monday, 27th October 2008 and should be sent to Emily Downes at emily.downes@seafoodcrc.com.au, phone 08 8201 7652.

Please consult the attached information sheet for further details and instructions on how to apply.
SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

1. 18TH INTERNATIONAL MASS SPECTROMETRY CONFERENCE 2009
The 18th International Mass Spectrometry Conference will take place in the Bremen, Germany at the Bremen Conference Centre (BCC) from Sunday 30th August to Friday 4th September, 2009.

The scientific program will deal with all areas of mass spectrometry from fundamental to applied research in chemistry, physics, biology, medicine, geology and related disciplines.

The general registration starts at November 30, 2008. Please keep in mind that only the payment of the conference dues completes your registration. The deadline for the regular registration is set to March 31, 2009. After this date an increased registration fee has to be paid. The deadline for the late registration is August 15, 2009. After this day only on-site registration is possible.

The abstract submission for lectures and posters will start on November 30, 2008. Please note that the submission of abstracts ends by March 31, 2009.

For more information please see the website at - http://www.imsc-bremen-2009.de/

2. ORD RESEARCH TRAINING SEMINARS
A full list of training seminars provided by the Office of R&D are available at - http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/ (please note this address has changed)

Human Ethics Committee: Reviewer training
Date: Thursday, 30th October 2008
Time: 10am to 12pm
Presenter: Dr Stephan Millett
Target Audience: This session is designed specifically for Reviewers of Ethics applications and staff interested in becoming Ethics application reviewers
Synopsis: This session will cover topics such as:
- legislation and regulations;
- the role of the reviewer;
- how to review applications;
- committee processes

Registration: For venue and online registration please go to the Seminars Booking website - http://seminars.curtin.edu.au/index.cfm?theme=55

Writing Research Grant Applications
This session has passed, however the lecture is available for a short period of time at - http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/notes.cfm

Building Your Research Career
This session has passed, however the lecture is available at - http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/notes.cfm

UPCOMING TRAINING

- SCRIPT Research Project Module – multiple sessions - details soon
- Applying for an ARC Discovery Project – details soon
## HELP, TOOLS and TIPS

### Research and Development Officer
#### CBS and Humanities

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#### Health Sciences

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#### Science and Engineering & Vice Chancellory

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#### Manager, Contracts and Committee Servicing and Curtin Research Fellowships contact

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#### Administration Assistant

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### Training and Development Officer

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### Tools and Tips

#### Links

- **Community of Science (COS)**
  - [www.cos.com](http://www.cos.com) – for funding opportunities

- **Research Project Application Tool (RPAT)**

#### New Research Codes

The codes can be found on the [ABS website](http://www.abs.gov.au). You may also find the University of New England’s [Conversion Tool](http://www.newengland.edu.au) useful.

#### Tip of the Week

**Using the Community of Science (COS) database**

A number of tutorials covering the various elements of the COS database are available via the Office of Research and Development website - [http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/community.cfm](http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/community.cfm)
Call for Applications to the NCI Merit Allocation Scheme

January 2009 – December 2009
Closing Date: November 9, 2008

Background

National Computational Infrastructure (NCI, http://www.nci.org.au), the successor to the successful National Facility Program of APAC (Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing), provides Australian researchers with access to world-class high-end computing services. NCI was established in 2007 under the NCRIS Platforms for Collaboration program through an agreement between the Australian National University (ANU) and the Commonwealth Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

Facilities Available

During 2009-10, NCI will be enhancing Australia’s peak computational facilities by an order of magnitude, with the installation of a new tier 1 computing facility being acquired through a joint procurement, currently underway, involving the Bureau of Meteorology and the ANU.

The facilities (http://nf.nci.org.au) available for 2009 are:
- the current peak system—a SGI Altix 3700 with 1928 processors and with a peak speed of over 12 Tflops,
- a new development system—a SGI Altix XE 1300 with 1248 cores and a peak speed of around 6 Tflops, to be installed in November 2008,
- the first phase of the next-generation peak facility scheduled for mid-late 2009.

Access

Access to the NCI facilities is available in two ways:
- Merit Allocation—in which resources (processor time and related data storage) are allocated to public sector researchers on merit through a process which assesses applications on their research quality and computational requirements,
- Shares—in which organisations subscribe to a share of NCI facilities and manage this allocation internally through their own processes.

Merit Allocation Resources are provided for by Commonwealth (NCRIS) funding. Accordingly, researchers granted access under this scheme are not charged by NCI for the resources provided. For 2009, the value of these resources is approximately $0.40 per core hour, an amount which can be stated as an in-kind contribution to other research granting bodies (e.g., ARC).

Merit Allocation Scheme (MAS)

The Merit Allocation Scheme calls for applications twice yearly—in October (the major round) for the following year, and in May (the minor round) for new projects which cannot wait until the main round at the end of the year.

‘Start-up Grants’ are available immediately to enable researchers to assess the usefulness of the National Facility for their research, and to assist in framing proposals to the Scheme.

This call for applications to the MAS closes on November 9, 2008.

MAS applications are assessed according to the quality of the research to be supported, the appropriateness of the NCI facilities for the project, the justification for the resources requested, and the track record of the research team in the use of high-end computing. Further details about the selection criteria are available at http://nf.nci.org.au/policies/MAC_criteria.php.
Who May Apply?
The Merit Allocation Scheme is available to researchers in publicly funded research organisations. This includes universities, organisations such as CSIRO and ANSTO, and the NCRIS Capability areas. Postgraduate students at universities may not apply in their own right but, instead, should be attached to projects in which their supervisors are Chief Investigators.

How to Apply
Forms for applications to the Merit Allocation Scheme or for Start-Up Grants can be found at http://nf.nci.org.au/accounts/.


Although proposals for 2009 should be made to the Merit Allocation Scheme now, under special circumstances they may be submitted at any time.

Changes to the Application Process
Applicants are asked to observe the improvements that have been made to the application process for 2009.

The application form has been substantially restructured to enhance the alignment of the information collected with the assessment criteria (particularly the research quality criterion) and to improve the uniformity of the quality of applications. The changes also significantly improve the extent and the quality of the data that NCI needs for reporting to the Commonwealth.

In its revised form, the new application pro forma also reflects the structure and content of applications to major granting bodies. An outline of the form is given at http://nf.nci.org.au/accounts/projects_new/MAC.php and is also provided on the webpage prior to loading the form.

The new application process also provides for multiple chief investigators who lead the research that is to be supported by a NCI Merit Allocation grant. Chief investigators will need to include a copy of their recent publication and research funding record on the form. This information together with the significance, impact and innovation of the research will be the major determining factor of the research quality assessment that is so critical to large resource allocations. The Lead Chief Investigator (previously the Principal Investigator) is additionally responsible for the administration and reporting of the grant.

Existing projects will have their current information loaded into the form, although this will require comprehensive editing and updating. The present principal investigator is then required to classify the list of all users attached to the project as either chief investigators (who lead the research and whose track records are required) or other researchers (e.g., graduate students, other staff, research assistants etc.) who are connected users and involved in the research, but whose track records are not required.

The entire application process can be completed on-line and applications can be saved, and returned to, at any stage prior to submission. Existing applicants to the MAS will recognise this as being a major improvement over previous years.

Advice and Support
Assistance in completing the forms may be obtained from staff of the National Facility who are also available to discuss the suitability of the National Facility and its environment to the proposed project. NCI National Facility staff are also available to assist with the installation and optimisation of programs and other software.

Contact Details
NCI National Facility (c/o ANUSF)
Leonard Huxley Building (56)
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Tel: (02) 6125 3437
Fax: (02) 6125 8199
help@nf.nci.org.au
http://nf.nci.org.au
16th October 2008

Training Research Opportunities in the Seafood CRC

We currently have an opportunity available to a CRC participant to conduct a training needs analysis of our CRC industry participants.

The activities that will be required are:

1) A review of the needs of Participants training using the training needs analysis tool box (developed from the 2008/706 pilot project) where appropriate.
2) Ensure all training needs are covered from higher education to the VET sector
3) Provide a report to the CRC with a list of participant training needs and recommendations.

Aims of the Research

The aims of this research are to:

- Determine what training is required in relation to CRC theme business plans
- Determine what participant training needs the CRC has the capacity and skills to develop and provide
- Determine what training needs the CRC needs others to develop and implement
- Determine what training needs are already available in the higher education and vocational education and training “VET” sectors (TAFE’s etc.).

Further Information

As part of the ‘A, B, Sea’ Theme Business Plan, the CRC needs to determine what are the training priorities for its participants in the higher education and the VET sectors.

We need to conduct a training needs analysis to determine what training the CRC can provide to our members, what training the CRC can assist the current RTO’s (registered training organisations) to provide and what training is already out there that the CRC can assist with updating or enhancing the current programs.
A pilot project (2008/706 – Training Needs Analysis) was undertaken with two CRC participants by Lonsec Ltd in close collaboration with the CRC's Industry Training Theme Leader Roy Palmer. Following consultation with industry and training providers, a five-stage process was developed for industry participants to identify and implement targeted staff and business development education and training.

Based on this success it was determined all CRC participants should be provided with assistance in identifying strategic workplace training.

Applications

Only members of the Seafood CRC are eligible to apply.

Organisations interested in pursuing this opportunity should contact Roy Palmer in the first instance (palmerroy@hotmail.com or 0419 528 733) to gain a detailed understanding of the CRC’s requirements.

The application itself need not be extensive (approx 1-2 pages). Details provided should include:

- Detail of the applicant’s experience in the relevant discipline,
- Level of departmental support for maintaining ongoing expertise in the area,
- Willingness to apply staff FTE’s committed to the CRC by the host institution to this project
- The level of commitment by the Project Leader.
- A description of how the work might be conducted.

On receipt of all applications the Seafood CRC may negotiate with individual organisations to conduct the work.

The successful applicants will be requested to work with CRC staff to prepare a costed proposal to undertake the proposed work. As a guide, it is expected the value of this project to be conducted will be approximately $10,000.

Applications are due by Monday the 27th October 2008 and should be sent to Emily Downes at emily.downes@seafoodcrc.com.au, phone 08 8201 7652.