



**MASSACHUSETTS LIFE SCIENCES CENTER**  
**NEW FACULTY STARTUP MATCHING GRANT SOLICITATION**

**Solicitation No. 2008-MLSC-02**

**Massachusetts Life Sciences Center**  
<http://www.masslifesciences.com/>

<b>Solicitation Issued:</b>	<b>February 11, 2008</b>
<b>Bidders Conference:</b>	<b>March 14, 2008</b>
<b>Answers to Questions Posted:</b>	<b>March 21, 2008</b>
<b>Responses Due:</b>	<b>May 2, 2008</b>

**Massachusetts Life Sciences Center**  
***New Faculty Startup Matching Grant Solicitation***

***Solicitation No. LSC-2008-02***

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is requesting applications for matching grants to increase the number of nationally prominent faculty in areas related to the life sciences at colleges and universities in the Commonwealth.

Academic institutions are eligible to apply for funding.

The MLSC is authorizing up to \$12 million to be awarded through its Matching Grants Program. The funds will be roughly divided equally among the three solicitations, with the MLSC Board reserving its right to shift resources among solicitations. Under the New Faculty Startup Matching Grant Solicitation, the MLSC will provide an award up to \$250,000 per year for each selected new faculty startup grant, for up to 3 years. Each grant must be matched in cash on at least a 1:1 basis by the college or university.

**Applications (electronic and hard copy) must be received at:**

**Massachusetts Life Sciences Center  
c/o John Adams Innovation Institute  
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative  
Solicitation No. MLSC-2008-02  
New Faculty Start-Up Grant Solicitation  
75 North Drive  
Westborough, MA 01581  
Attn: Beth Nicklas  
[mlsc@masstech.org](mailto:mlsc@masstech.org)**

**no later than 3:00PM on Friday, May 2, 2008.**

***Introduction***

The overarching goal of matching grants provided by the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is three-fold: expand life science research, promote economic growth, and improve health outcomes in the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is interested in furthering advances in life sciences that may lead to new medical applications such as medical devices, drugs and drug delivery systems, and new therapies and diagnostics.

The first three matching grant solicitations undertaken by MLSC will be directed primarily toward investigators involved in life sciences research, including bio-engineering sciences and technologies, at colleges and universities in the Commonwealth. The phrase “life sciences” refers to any of the branches of natural science dealing with the structure and behavior of living

organisms. While the matching grant solicitations are open to all areas of life science research, MLSC encourages proposals related to stem cells, RNAi, genomics, proteomics, image analysis, and bioinformatics as well as associated research tools and production technologies.

The principal objective of the New Faculty Startup Matching Grant Solicitation is to provide the additional resources necessary to support the retention and recruitment of nationally prominent faculty at colleges and universities in Massachusetts.

This solicitation addresses the problem faced by colleges and universities in Massachusetts that lack the additional financial resources necessary to attract top faculty. As a result, these institutions are losing significant talent to other states, which are willing to make extraordinary expenditures to recruit researchers. This is expected to lead to a reduction in the relative quality and volume of life science research conducted in Massachusetts over time. Additional resources are needed to offer competitive packages to individuals, including build-out of lab space and initial research funding.

## ***Solicitation Requirements***

### **Who can apply for funding?**

Eligible organizations include Massachusetts universities and colleges.

To be eligible for a New Faculty Startup Grant the applicant institution must identify the specific faculty position they hope to fill *prior* to formal acceptance of the faculty position by the candidate. MLSC funding is intended to enhance the recruitment package offered by eligible institutions to individuals for the designated faculty position, focusing particularly on increasing funds available for build-out of lab space and initial research activities. Actual disbursement will be contingent on the successful recruitment of qualified individuals as discussed below.

To be eligible for startup grant as part of a recruitment package, the proposed new faculty position must:

- Be identified by the institution as a critical hire -- no more than one startup grant will be awarded to a particular institution in a given year;
- Be a full-time faculty position, assistant professor or higher, at a college or university in Massachusetts;
- For associate professor or full professor positions, recruited faculty must have a record of significant publication and sustained financial support in the form of independent research grants (R01 or equivalent) from federal agencies, or have a distinguished research record in industry;
- For assistant professor positions, recruited faculty must have a record of original, innovative, or compelling publication in their field and provide evidence of the ability to secure funding; and
- Be identified by the institution as requiring a startup package that exceeds the institution's customary resources used to recruit junior or senior faculty. Institutions are

advised to provide information regarding customary recruitment packages for the caliber of faculty described above.

### **How much funding is available?**

The MLSC is authorizing up to \$12 million to be awarded through its Matching Grants Program. The funds will be roughly divided equally among the three solicitations, with the MLSC Board reserving its right to shift resources among solicitations. The maximum award is \$250,000 per year for each new faculty start up grant, for up to 3 years. Grant funds will be disbursed quarterly on an advance payment basis.

### **What are the cost sharing requirements?**

The college or university must match the MLSC grant in cash at the ratio of at least 1:1.

### **What are the limitations?**

The limitations that apply to this grant are the following:

#### Institutional Limitations

- No more than two proposals for grant awards may be submitted by a college or university during any submission cycle.
- Each proposal must contain a letter of support from the highest-level administrator responsible for research (e.g., Provost, Vice or Associate Provost for Research, Chief Academic Officer, etc.) confirming that the proposal aligns with the priorities of the academic institution.

#### Cost Limitations

- MLSC funding and the university/college match contribution may not be used for recruiting costs, or the salaries and benefits for the recruited faculty member.
- Allowable costs include:
  1. Direct costs:
    - a. Salaries and benefits (including tuition remission) of research support personnel, including post-doctoral fellows and graduate students
    - b. Research materials, reagents, supplies, and software
    - c. Purchase and care of laboratory animals
    - d. Laboratory build-out and research equipment (limited to 25 percent of the total project costs)
    - e. Travel essential for research and/or workshops sponsored by funding agencies
  2. Indirect costs will be allowable at the NIH-approved rate, or as periodically calculated, consistent with appropriate federal guidelines of generally accepted accounting principles and as charged to other grants.
- Costs incurred prior to the grant award are not eligible for funding

- Legal costs associated with the protection or licensing of intellectual property are not eligible for funding

## **What are the reporting requirements?**

All funding recipients must submit an annual report. The annual report must verify the employment of the new faculty researcher; it should summarize research activities; and document related expenditures. The annual report should identify any invention disclosures and commercialization activities during the reporting period.

Award recipients will also be required to participate in the development of case studies and supply non-confidential information that will be used by the MLSC as part of its ongoing evaluation efforts. In addition, all funding recipients will be required to be available to meet annually with other grant recipients, to meet periodically with MLSC staff or its agents, and to cooperate in any evaluation of this program.

## ***Application, Review and Award Process***

### **How do I apply for funding?**

Applicants are required to complete and submit a formal application for funding (see attached Appendix A - Application Form and Instructions).

**Applications (electronic and hard copy) must be received at:**

**Massachusetts Life Sciences Center  
c/o Massachusetts Technology Collaborative  
Solicitation No. MLSC-2008-02  
New Faculty Start-Up Grant Solicitation  
75 North Drive  
Westborough, MA 01581  
Attn: Beth Nicklas  
[mlsc@masstech.org](mailto:mlsc@masstech.org)**

**no later than 3:00PM on Friday, May 2, 2008.**

In order to be considered, all responses must be prepared in accordance with provisions outlined, including the submission of two originals, containing required signatures, and one electronic copy (in Adobe Acrobat PDF format).

The electronic copy can be submitted via electronic mail to: [mlsc@masstech.org](mailto:mlsc@masstech.org)

### **What criteria will be used to evaluate applications?**

Applications that meet eligibility requirements will be reviewed by an Initial Review Panel comprised of scientific peers from academia based on the following criteria:

- Importance of the faculty position to the long-term strategic plans of the institution to build new, or complementary, capabilities in particular life science disciplines
- Evidence that the academic institution has invested, or plans to invest, in the area of life sciences related to the faculty position
- The likelihood that the faculty position will lead to an increase in extramural funding and student enrollment
- The likelihood that qualified individuals are available to recruit for this position

A second review will be conducted by a Scientific Advisory Board, comprised of renowned scientists from academia and industry, that will review and validate the work of the Initial Review Panel and may take into consideration the following programmatic criteria:

- The likelihood that MLSC funding will provide added value to the college or university
- Equitable and geographic distribution of funds among institutions throughout the Commonwealth
- Achieving a diverse scientific portfolio

### **Who will review the applications?**

Each application will first be reviewed by program staff to determine if the proposal meets all threshold eligibility criteria. For example, if 1:1 cash match by the college or university is not clearly described in the proposal and budget documents, the proposal will be judged not to have met the threshold eligibility criteria. Applicants that do not meet the threshold requirements of this solicitation will be notified accordingly. Those applicants that have met the threshold requirements will advance for consideration by the Initial Review Panel.

The proposal review process is managed by a Scientific Review Officer (SRO) who will recruit, in consultation with members of the Scientific Advisory Board, qualified members of the Initial Review Panel who will review eligible proposals based on the criteria outlined above. The Scientific Review Officer will then compile a summary report for each application and present these results to the MLSC Scientific Advisory Panel that will review and validate the results of the Initial Review Panel and make final recommendations to the MLSC Board of Directors. All awards will be subject to final approval by the MLSC Board of Directors.

### **How will proprietary information be handled?**

Referenced in Appendix C - General Terms & Conditions

### **What is the timetable?**

A summary of the timetable for the submission and approval process is presented below:

<b>February 11, 2008</b>	<b>Grant Application Available</b>
<b>March 14, 2008</b>	<b>Bidders Conference</b>
<b>March 21, 2008</b>	<b>Answers to Questions Posted</b>
<b>May 2, 2008</b>	<b>Application Due</b>

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Applicants will be notified whether their project has been approved or rejected by mail shortly following award decisions.

Once the award is approved, a grant agreement must be executed between the successful applicant and the MLSC. Work on the project can begin as soon as all relevant parties have signed the grant agreement.

### **Who can I contact to answer questions?**

Additional information regarding this solicitation will be posted at MLSC's website:

<http://www.masslifesciences.com>

and on the Commonwealth's Comm-Pass website (<http://www.comm-pass.com>). Applicants are advised to check these sites periodically. Answers to questions submitted to MLSC with general applicability will also be posted.

If you have questions, please contact the MLSC Matching Grants Program Coordinator at:

**Massachusetts Life Sciences Center**  
c/o John Adams Innovation Institute  
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative  
75 North Drive  
Westborough, MA 01581

Attn: Beth Nicklas

Telephone: 508-870-0312 ext.1635  
Fax: 508-898-9226  
Email: [mlsc@masstech.org](mailto:mlsc@masstech.org)

### ***Disclaimer***

This solicitation does not commit MLSC to award a grant, pay costs incurred in preparing an application, or procure or contract for services or supplies. MLSC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, negotiate with all qualified applicants, cancel or modify the solicitation in part or in its entirety or change the application guidelines, when it is in the best interests of the MLSC.