

Memorandum

Date: August 1st, 2006

To: Members of the Subatomic Physics community

From: Samir Boughaba
Team Leader - Physics, Astronomy, Major Resources Support

Subject: Major Resources Support Program

Dear members:

As the Major Resources Support (MRS) program is new, and following several questions from members of the subatomic physics community, we thought that it would be helpful if we shed more light on a specific use of the MRS grants. This is particularly important as the deadline for submitting the Notification of Intent to Apply for a Major Research Support Grant (Form 181) is rapidly approaching.

Up to today, Major Facilities Access (MFA) grants in the subatomic physics community have supported technical teams that provided assistance to various projects. These teams are located in various Canadian research institutions. Support of such technical teams will still be possible through the MRS program. In agreement with the guidelines of the program, however, it is necessary for the teams to provide support to multiple projects at one or more institutions, and not be tied to only a single project. Accessibility of the technical team to members of the community beyond the host institution or a single project is necessary. This requirement is listed in the program description as a factor to be considered in the assessment of the use of the resource by the research community.

With the implementation of the MRS program, it is the intention of NSERC to take into account the specific needs of the various communities it serves. We will interpret the program's guidelines in a way that will allow each community to remain at the forefront of knowledge creation and innovation.

We wish you great success in your research endeavours.

This memorandum is available in French