We are pleased to announce a call for proposals for the 2023 UC San Diego Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) Seed Grant Program. The program is open to all faculty members within the UC San Diego materials research community. Seed Grants in 2023 are intended to provide short-term funding to initiate exciting new research directions within the UC San Diego MRSEC. The goal of the 2023 Seed Grant Program is to support collaborative research that is innovative and offers a potential for developing new interdisciplinary research group (IRG) directions for a successful MRSEC re-competition. Successful execution of the proposed research is expected to lead to additional federal grants and the potential for long-term MRSEC funding. Topics that are direct extensions of current IRG research will not be considered during this funding round.

Each Seed Grant will provide $25,000-$75,000 direct costs for a one-year project, with the potential for renewal for a second year or for continuous MRSEC support, subject to review. Each Seed Grant must include at least one faculty-level PI; collaborative proposals are encouraged, and funding decisions will consider the scope of the project. Applicants will be notified of the proposal outcome by 12/15/22, and the target start date for Seed Grants is 1/1/2023. We anticipate funding 1-2 new awards this cycle.

Expectations of Grantees
Grantees are expected to integrate themselves into the MRSEC; this entails attendance at standing IRG meetings (if applicable), the annual meeting, and NSF MRSEC-hosted events. A progress report is expected annually.

Eligibility
Eligible applicants are ladder-rank UC San Diego faculty not currently within a UC San Diego MRSEC IRG. Each applicant may submit only one proposal in response to this call. Collaborative proposals amongst UC San Diego faculty members are encouraged, with the intention to seed a new IRG for the 2026 MRSEC re-competition.

Review Criteria
- Intellectual merit of the proposed research activities, and likelihood to contribute long-term to center activities and gain future external research funding
- Originality and potential to strategically pivot IRG-research to new directions and creative endeavors
- Potential to seed impactful collaborations within the UC San Diego materials research community
- Potential to contribute to the diversity and inclusion goals of the MRSEC

Proposal Submission
Proposals must be submitted through ucsd.infoready4.com by 11:59PM PDT on Monday, 11/7/2022. Late applications will not be considered.

A virtual info and Q&A session will be held for interested applicants on Wed, Oct. 12th 10-11AM PDT. Please register in advance: https://bit.ly/3SurAnH
Proposal Submission Cont.

The following components are required:

1. Cover information (see ucsd.infready4.com for details)
2. Proposal Abstract (250 words maximum)
3. Quad Chart: Summary of project goals, innovation, and collaborative activities. (See "Competition Files" for template)
4. Project Description (3 pages maximum, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, single space, one-inch margins all around). Please include as subheadings and address the following, in the order listed:
   - Goal and objectives of proposed collaborative activities
   - Project description
   - Anticipated impact on IRG research and on the UC San Diego materials science community
   - Contribution of proposed activities toward diversity and inclusion
5. References Cited (no page limit)
6. Budget Information/Justification (1 page maximum): Provide a proposed budget and a brief justification for the following eligible costs, as applicable.
   - Salaries, benefits, and tuition: Seed funding may be used to support students and postdoctoral fellows. Faculty salary compensation is not supported.
   - Materials and Supplies
   - Recharge Facilities
7. Curriculum Vitae (2 pages maximum, NSF-style Biosketch for the PI and faculty collaborators).
8. Current and Pending Support (PI only, no page limit)
9. NSF Collaborators and Other Affiliations (COA) Form (template at https://nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/coa.jsp)

For further questions or to request additional information please contact Prof. Jon Pokorski (email).