

NEP/NNEP Programme Proposal Writing Workshop

Emmanuel Iwuoha

SensorLab, UWC

Initial considerations

- The importance of evidence
- Convincing knowledge/expertise
- Benefits (human resources/equity/national priorities/personal)
- Adequacy of proposal writing time
- Management

Knowledge of the objectives of NEP/NNEP programme

- Clear understanding of the NEP/NNEP programme
- Additional and specific links of equipment to national research priorities e.g. National nanotechnology strategy

Demonstrable knowledge of/expertise on the equipment

- Thorough knowledge of the equipment
- Knowledge of techniques and procedures
- Knowledge of community of users or potential users
- Extensive research is essential when delving into an unfamiliar instruments
- Don't reproduce instrument manuals in proposal

Justification for requiring the equipment

- Experiments/projects for the equipment
 - Evidence of on going projects (e.g. MSc/PhD projects)
 - Envisaged new projects

Institutional Commitment

- Internal motivation for equipment
- Link to institutional operational plan and research priorities
- Commitment to large equipment management plan
 - Running costs, maintenance costs, personnel costs and other overhead costs

Human resource capacity

- Demonstrate HR benefits
 - HR capacity building at Historically Disadvantaged Institutions(HDIs)
 - women
 - blacks
 - people with disabilities

Management Plan

- Requires thorough thinking
- Feasibility
- Convincing
- Institutional commitment

Developing a management plan

- Use NRF guidelines
- Maintenance
 - Warranty/service plan with manufacturer/vendor
 - Running cost (experience/experts/manufacturer may provide good advise)
- Technician/scientist (institutional commitment necessary)
- Training: plan with vendor.

Gantt chart

- Equipment commissioning Gantt chart
- Steps and specific timelines for the acquisition and commissioning the instrument
- Importance of Gantt chart

The importance of evidence

Convincing evidence of:

- Knowledge, skills and expertise
- Reasonable **Risk**
- Adequate project management
- Ability to produce required deliverables: HR, improved competitiveness, networking, research outputs, etc

Conclusion: Adequacy of proposal writing time

- Don't be in a hurry
- Give enough time to contact all institutional, regional and national stake holders
- Give enough time for writing and re-writing your applications for at least 4 times before submission
- Perhaps planning a year ahead of time is important.