



Brief Summary Report of the Full Proposal evaluation process for the Research & Scholarship Award 2009 Competition

Introduction

NRF has now reached the final outcomes from the RSA2009 proposal evaluation process. A total of 173 proposals were submitted to RSA2009 and evaluated by panels of international reviewers. NRF invited 179 principal investigators (PIs) to submit full proposals. This means six PIs did not submit full proposals and dropped out of the competition.

Full proposal evaluation process

As part of the full submission process, PIs were invited to nominate the [Frascati code](#) most relevant to their proposal in order to assist NRF to form panels of reviewers. On the basis of the Frascati codes NRF assigned the proposals into seven panels for full proposal review, broadly labeled as:

- Panel 1: Computer & Information Science & Engineering
- Panel 2: Physical Sciences, Materials Science & Nanoscience
- Panel 3: Economics & Business
- Panel 4: Civil, Mechanical, Chemical & Environmental Engineering
- Panel 5: Medical and Biological Sciences
- Panel 6: Agricultural, Environmental and Geological Sciences
- Panel 7: Humanities, Education and Social Sciences.

Each proposal was reviewed by at least three international reviewers selected by NRF. The reviewers were selected based on their research experience and expertise, and the content of the proposals. The reviewers were sourced from North America, Europe, Southeast Asia and Australasia. No reviewers from the UAE were used in the review process. All RSA reviewers signed confidentiality and conflict of interest statements.

NRF had planned to bring the reviewers to Dubai to work in panels to finalize the review process. However, for budget reasons this approach was cancelled. Instead, NRF Senior Advisors, Dr Gary Crawley, Dr Kamal Abdali, Dr Dave Falvey and Dr Eoin O'Sullivan assembled in Dubai during 8-11 December 2009 to synthesize reviewer comments and calibrate across panels and, hence, to finalize the proposal evaluation process.

The results for each panel are given in table 1 below

Table 1

PANEL	HIGHLY COMPETITIVE	COMPETITIVE	NOT COMPETITIVE
1	10	7	15
2	9	7	8
3	7	7	12
4	6	7	11
5	10	3	13
6	10	4	6
7	10	3	8

Results from the Full Proposal evaluation process

Following careful consideration of the reviewer remarks and evaluations, the proposals in each panel were separated into three categories:

1. **Highly Competitive:** These proposals were judged to have clearly met the international standards of research excellence set by NRF; and will be prioritized for funding as funds become available
2. **Competitive:** These proposals will be funded if sufficient funds are made available to NRF
3. **Not Competitive:** These proposals were judged to be below the level of excellence required for funding by NRF in their current form.

35.8% of Full proposals were ranked as Highly Competitive. 22% were ranked as Competitive and 42.2% are Not Competitive.

As feedback, each PI has access to verbatim copies of the reviewers' comments on their proposal.

The results as per Frascati Domain are summarized in Table 1:

Table 2

FRASCATI DOMAIN	HIGHLY COMPETITIVE	COMPETITIVE	NOT COMPETITIVE	TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS
1. Natural Sciences	20	9	18	47
2. Engineering and Technology	14	15	21	50
3. Medical and Health Sciences	10	3	13	26
4. Agricultural Sciences	1	1	1	3
5. Social Sciences	16	10	17	43
6. Humanities	1	0	3	4
Total	62	38	73	173

APPENDIX 1: REVIEWERS' AFFILIATION

Total Number Of Reviewers 56

- Auburn University
- British Geological Survey
- Clemson University
- Curtin University of Technology
- Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
- Henryford Health System
- Herriot-Watt University
- Hunter College
- Imperial College
- INSEAD Business School
- Loughborough University
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Michigan State University
- National Science Foundation
- Ninewells Hospital
- Oxford University
- Portland State University
- Queensland University of Technology
- RICE University
- RMIT University
- Hong Kong University of Science & Technology
- The Max Planck Institute
- University of Toledo
- Tilburg University
- Trinity College Dublin
- Università di Ferrara
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Maryland
- University of Adelaide
- University of Cambridge
- University Of Dundee
- University of Florida
- University of Illinois, Chicago
- University of Limerick
- University of Melbourne
- University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
- University of Minnesota
- University of Newcastle Australia
- University of South Carolina
- University of Southampton
- University of Strathclyde
- University of Toronto
- University of Western Australia
- University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- Wayne State University
- Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien