

**Memo Subject: Changes to the EMSL User Proposal Process**  
**Sent via email to all participants on Open proposals**  
**October 27, 2006**

In an effort to evolve as a world-class national scientific user facility and better focus our scientific direction, we have implemented changes to the user policy and proposal processes at the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL). The changes, which will affect the majority of you, are briefly outlined below.

- Science Theme calls for proposals have been implemented that are centered around four growing research areas: atmospheric aerosol chemistry, biological interactions and interfaces, geochemistry/biogeochemistry and subsurface science, and science of interfacial phenomena.
- Facility-specific calls for proposals (e.g., the High-Field Magnetic Resonance Facility) have been replaced by a Capabilities-based call for proposals for resources not fully subscribed by Science Theme calls for proposals.
- The length of time that a proposal is valid and the number of times it can be extended have been revised and vary based on the call. Details on proposal call dates and the length of proposal durations and extensions are located at [http://www.emsl.pnl.gov/using-emsl/proposal\\_types.shtml](http://www.emsl.pnl.gov/using-emsl/proposal_types.shtml).
- All existing proposals that were not submitted as a Science Theme, Computational Grand Challenge, EMSL Grand Challenge, or Facility-Specific proposal will be impacted. See <http://www.emsl.pnl.gov/using-emsl/impact.shtml> for more details.
- A mechanism for rapid access to EMSL has been implemented in limited cases where quick turnaround of data is needed (e.g., to further support a thesis or publication).
- An external peer-review process has been implemented for all user proposals submitted, with the exception of Rapid Access or proprietary proposals.

Complete details about these changes and definitions of the various user proposals are found on the EMSL website at [http://www.emsl.pnl.gov/using-emsl/proposal\\_process.shtml](http://www.emsl.pnl.gov/using-emsl/proposal_process.shtml).

Thank you for using EMSL during the past 9 years. We look forward to continuing to support you and your cutting-edge research. If you have questions related to EMSL's user program and how these changes may impact your research, please contact Nancy Foster-Mills ([emsl@pnl.gov](mailto:emsl@pnl.gov)), EMSL User Administration Manager, or your EMSL technical or administrative contact.