

EMSL Project Research Review Criteria, Relative Weight, and Scoring Descriptions

Score	Science Merit	EMSL and BER Relevance	Resource Requests	Reviewer Calibration Summary
	50%	25%	25%	
5 Outstanding	Highly innovative research; will launch a new direction or have exceptional impact on existing problems in the research field. No flaws in the research plan; includes an approach or a plan for predictive understanding.	Outstanding fit to the focused topics outlined in most recent EMSL Call for the Science Area under review and the BER mission.	State-of-the-art resources are requested and are essential to perform this research, and the amount of the request highly aligns with the scope of the call.	Personally advocate for this proposal; stands above the rest and ranks within the top 5% of proposals reviewed.
4 Excellent	Well-conceived, original; strong potential for important contribution to the research field. Minor flaw(s) in the research plan; includes an approach or a plan for predictive understanding.	Strong fit to the focused topics outlined in the most recent EMSL call for the Science Area under review and the BER mission.	State-of-the-art resources are requested or use of EMSL resources would significantly enhance the results, and the amount of the request is well aligned with the scope of the call.	Highly recommend this proposal; ranks within the top 25% of proposals reviewed.
3 Good	Not groundbreaking but likely to produce useful results. Some weaknesses identified in the research plan or approach, or lacks a plan for predictive understanding.	Does not have a strong fit to the focused topics outlined in the most recent EMSL call but will advance one or more of the broader goals for the Science Area under review and the BER mission.	Resources requested are not state-of-the-art, well integrated, or not justified in the research plan, and the amount of the request is marginally aligned with the scope of the call.	Recommend this proposal, if resources available or identified concerns are revised; ranks within the top 50% of proposals reviewed.

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2 Fundamentally Sound	Routine study in a well-worked area of research; incremental results. Major flaw(s) identified in the research plan or approach would limit success.	Does not address the focused topics outlined in the most recent EMSL call and will have minimal impact to the broader goals of the Science Area under review and the BER mission.	EMSL capabilities marginally enhance results; similar results could be achieved with broadly available instrumentation and expertise, and the amount of the request is not well aligned with the scope of the call.	Does not advance EMSL goals or have a strong argument for the use of EMSL resources. Ranks below 50% of proposals reviewed.
1 Questionable Impact	Serious doubts regarding feasibility or potential impact. Several major flaw(s) identified in the research plan would significantly limit success.	Is not responsive to the most recent EMSL call or does not address the goals of the Science Area under review and the BER mission.	There is no evident need for, or unique impact from, the use of EMSL's suite of resources, and the amount of the request is unreasonable based on the scope of the call.	Decline to provide a recommendation for award.