**MONet Soil Function Call: Large Scope Technical Review Criteria**

The Large Scope Soil Function Call is intended to support open science collaborations between the Molecular Observation Network (MONet) and federal- or state-funded research projects (**external to EMSL**) that have ongoing active field research sites. This open science network is designed to support complementary ecological, vegetation, and/or atmospheric data that spatially and temporally overlap with the MONet soil sample data. These data should be shared in publicly available and accessible open repositories.

Requirements:

* The principal investigator (PI) of the MONet proposal should also be the PI or co-PI on a single and current federal- or state-funded external research project. If the submitting investigator is not a PI/co-PI on the research project, then a letter of support from the lead PI or organization should be obtained to demonstrate project commitment and alignment.
* The submitter’s letter should indicate that the project has the personnel and funds to conduct the soil sampling campaign, post-collection analysis, and publication of the data. The letter should demonstrate that the project is committed to open and collaborative research.
* The scientific goals of the submitted Soil Function proposal should align with and support the approved scientific program and research goals of the external project, as documented in a public-facing executive summary of the project.
* The external project should have been successfully reviewed for scientific merit by the funding agency, as documented, with evidence of funding status.
* The external project should provide a curated and consistent suite of data types spanning their research sites that complement the MONet Soil Function data types to the broad scientific community **as open data without embargo in a publicly accessible data repository.**
* The external project should provide metadata collected at the soil collection site at the time of sampling.
* Metadata for sample and data processing should be accessible to the broad scientific community in a publicly available data repository. The protocols used for data processing and analysis also should be provided.
* Shared data should be collected using standardized procedures.
* The submitting PI should demonstrate that the external project is funded for the duration of the soil core collection activities and post-collection analyses.
* **Data published in manuscripts will not be accepted as a substitute for data published in a publicly accessible, open, nonembargoed, curated, standardized data repository.**
* Static data that are already in the public domain (e.g., SSURGO data) cannot be used as a substitute for the requirement of providing temporally overlapping open data.

Additional considerations:

* Preference will be given to projects that can leverage soil ecological research networks (e.g., CZNs, Ameriflux, and National Ecological Observatory Network) for sample collection.