

Call for Proposals: Virginia Tech College of Engineering Major Grants Initiative (MGI): SCHEV Equipment Program

Deadline: **Friday, February 13, 2026 at 11:59 PM**

Submit proposals as a single PDF through the designated [submission portal](#).

Purpose

The College of Engineering is excited to announce the **SCHEV Equipment Program** as part of the broader **Major Grants Initiative (MGI)**. Cutting-edge research often requires specialized equipment to enable innovative experiments, generate high-impact data, and build momentum toward larger-scale research programs. The Equipment Initiative recognizes that access to state-of-the-art equipment is often a critical prerequisite for competitive large-scale proposals, serving as both a catalyst for high-impact research and a compelling asset in external funding applications. This program encourages faculty to strategically connect equipment purchases to future large-scale funding efforts, enhancing Virginia Tech's research capabilities and accelerating pathways to major funding opportunities.

Objective: To acquire equipment that strategically fills gaps in infrastructure, positioning research teams for center-scale funding opportunities within the next two years.

Eligibility and Expectations:

- Each team will be eligible for up to \$75,000 from CoE. Cost-sharing with department heads to increase the total award (beyond \$75,000) is permitted
- Open to established or emerging teams with at least three CoE faculty members from two different disciplines. The primary Faculty Champion must be a CoE faculty member
- All funded equipment will be published on our website and made available for use by all CoE faculty
- Proposals must clearly articulate how the equipment strengthens capabilities
- Proposals must list stakeholders at VT who will use the equipment

Submission Requirements

Submit a single PDF file that includes:

- One-page description of the equipment, including:
 - Detailed description of the stakeholders who will use the equipment and how their work will benefit from access to it
 - How the equipment is integral to the team's planned center-level proposal strategy

- Special considerations for storing or operating the equipment, and how these needs will be accommodated
- Describe the training and experience the primary Faculty Champion has to manage and maintain the equipment
- An official quote
- A brief endorsement letter or email from the primary Faculty Champion's Department Head. If cost sharing is proposed, it must be stated in this endorsement

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by a panel convened by the Dean's Office. Selection criteria will include:

- The credibility of the pathway toward large-scale external funding
- Demonstrated need for the equipment and how it fills a critical infrastructure gap
- Breadth of impact and interdisciplinary reach, including anticipated use by CoE and other VT stakeholders
- Feasibility and readiness, including storage, installation, and operational considerations
- Qualifications of the faculty champion to manage, maintain, and leverage the equipment effectively

Timeline

- Proposals due: February 13, 2026
- Award notifications: March 2, 2026
- Requisitions must be entered in HokieMart by March 31, 2026
- Equipment must arrive on campus and be received in Hokie Mart by June 1, 2026

Contacts

Harpreet S. Dhillon (hdhillon@vt.edu)

W. Martin Johnson Professor of Engineering

Associate Dean for Research and Innovation

Nicole Akers (snakers@vt.edu)

Assistant Director of Research and Innovation