

# Call for Proposals

## INFORMS New Journals Initiative

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In January 2010, the INFORMS Board voted in favor of expanding INFORMS' portfolio of scholarly publications by launching new journals. INFORMS intends to establish a regular, transparent process for soliciting and reviewing proposals for new journals. It is likely that in a given year, INFORMS will approve the development of at most one new journal, so the proposals will be competitive. The processes for submitting proposals and INFORMS' review and decision making follow.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Any INFORMS subdivision, or committee established under the bylaws or by the Board, or individual member or group of members, or INFORMS staff member is eligible to submit a New Journal proposal. However, the Board recommends that proposals be developed through an established INFORMS entity, with additional support or guidance from INFORMS staff members and current Board members as appropriate, to ensure that proposals are eligible and complete. Individuals who are not INFORMS members or employees are ineligible to submit applications. To be eligible for funding, proposed new journals should be aimed at supporting INFORMS' mission to promote research, education, and practice of the field, and improving INFORMS' visibility and impact within the broader community. Areas of particular interest for INFORMS include the following:

1. Offering new journals for practitioners, particularly targeting multidisciplinary applications of operations research and practice communities not traditionally associated with INFORMS.
2. Developing innovative journal content and business strategies to anticipate and adapt to technological changes in scientific publishing.
3. Improving the visibility and prominence of INFORMS and of the disciplines it represents among decision makers in business and government.

This list is neither exclusive nor exhaustive, and journals of all types will be given fair consideration, so long as there is a clearly articulated vision of how the journal will promote the overall mission of INFORMS.

**FUNDING LEVELS:** Funding of new journal start-ups will be approved by the INFORMS Board. **New journals are eligible for funding with the expectation that publication will begin within two to three years, and the journal will be self-sustaining within five years. Every full proposal should include a plan for how the journal will become self-sustaining.**

**METHOD OF SUBMISSION:** Because of the rigor required to complete and review the full proposal form, INFORMS encourages submission of a **preliminary proposal** indicating an intent to submit a full proposal, along with a one-page description in support of the concept and how it would promote the mission of INFORMS.

Full proposals must be submitted electronically by completing the New Journal Proposal Form. Only proposals submitted through this mechanism will be considered for funding. Please complete the form, save the document, and then submit the completed document as an attachment directly to the INFORMS Director of Publications, Patricia Shaffer ([patricia.shaffer@informs.org](mailto:patricia.shaffer@informs.org)).

**DEADLINE:** The deadline for submitting a preliminary New Journal proposal is **September 30, 2010**. Meeting this deadline is essential for a full proposal to be completed and considered for funding by the INFORMS Board in 2011. Later proposals will be considered for 2012.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

The following criteria will be explicitly considered when evaluating proposals:

- **Probability of Success:** How likely is it that the journal will achieve substantially all of the objectives if implemented as described?
- **Mission Impact:** Assume this journal is successful. Will it have a significant impact on INFORMS' mission "to lead in the development, dissemination, and implementation of knowledge, basic and applied research and technologies in operations research, the management sciences, and related methods of improving operational processes, decision-making, and management?" This criterion will reflect the scope and significance of mission impact, with particular emphasis on the critical needs listed above.
- **Financial Impact:** Assume the journal is successful. Does it have the potential to generate net revenues (new revenues in excess of new expenses)? This criterion should consider both direct impact (e.g., new fees collected) as well as indirect impact (e.g., membership growth that in turn leads to increased utilization of other INFORMS-branded products and services).

*Note on the evaluation process:* INFORMS is a mission-focused organization; however, like many other organizations, INFORMS is coping with a challenging economic environment. Neither mission impact nor financial impact alone is sufficient – to get maximum consideration, journal proposals should have both elements present.

**REVIEW PROCESS:**

- a) INFORMS will review and evaluate all preliminary proposals for appropriate fit with the strategic needs and priorities of the organization, and will provide an initial response. Full proposals will be evaluated for completeness as well. The reviewing committee will also solicit input from appropriate INFORMS staff members, officers, and committees. This will include a calculation of expenses and financial projections by the INFORMS Finance staff.
- b) The reviewing committee will consider these reviews and recommendations, and provide the proposal authors with a summary evaluation. The proposals will also be reviewed and discussed by the INFORMS Board at their next scheduled Board meeting. A summary report on these deliberations will be provided to the proposal authors. The report will include constructive advice and any suggestions for revisions to the proposal.
- c) Proposal authors will have the opportunity to "revise and resubmit" their proposal.
- d) The INFORMS Board will make final decisions on funding for each new journal project by majority vote.

**PROGRAMMATIC DUE DILIGENCE:**

- a) Each new journal proposal that is approved for funding will be assigned a project liaison from the INFORMS Staff (the Director of Publications) and another from the INFORMS Board (the Vice President of Publications). Proposal leaders shall be expected to provide timely progress reports (at least quarterly) to their liaisons.
- b) Proposals approved for multiple years of funding shall be assured of only the first year of funding, with each subsequent year of funding contingent on satisfactory progress towards the project goals. The Board will vote on continued funding at each Fall Board meeting, when they are also considering new proposals.

- c) Deviations from the project plan, whether in the nature of the activity or the timing of expenditures, must be promptly reported to board and staff liaisons. Material deviations from the original proposal are only permitted with explicit approval from the INFORMS Board.
- d) Any funds approved for new journal start-ups that are not expended in accordance with the project plan during the fiscal year for which they were awarded will be forfeited by the project sponsor and will be returned to INFORMS.

**QUESTIONS:** Please contact the INFORMS Director of Publications ([patricia.shaffer@informs.org](mailto:patricia.shaffer@informs.org)) if you have any questions and to ask for assistance as you develop your budget requests.

# INFORMS New Journal Proposal Form

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Please review the questions below and provide specific answers to each question. The questions will enable us to gather consistent information on all proposed efforts and to evaluate competing proposals. This information will be used to review proposals for suitability and completeness, and ascertain which proposals will provide the greatest potential value to the INFORMS membership, research community, and publishing portfolio. It will help to determine financial soundness and support the efforts of the Board and other INFORMS committees to make recommendations for initiation or funding. Last but far from least, your answers will give us a basis for evaluating journal effectiveness in the future.

Please contact either INFORMS Vice President of Publications Terry Harrison ([vp\\_publications@mail.informs.org](mailto:vp_publications@mail.informs.org)) or Director of Publications Patricia Shaffer ([patricia.shaffer@informs.org](mailto:patricia.shaffer@informs.org)) with any questions or requests for assistance as you develop your proposals and budget requests, and we will direct you to the appropriate individuals. Mary Magrogan, Director of Subdivisions ([mary.magrogan@informs.org](mailto:mary.magrogan@informs.org)), can help establish agreements with INFORMS communities supporting a new journal. Gary Bennett, Director of Marketing ([gary.bennett@informs.org](mailto:gary.bennett@informs.org)), can help with market research and analysis, including surveys and focus groups.

Proposal Title:

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Please provide full contact information for a single individual who will be the main contact person for this proposal:

Name:

Affiliation:

Address:

Phone:

Email:











15. Please describe how, when, and by whom the proposed journal will be evaluated.

16. Please describe how reporting on the proposed journal will be accomplished. How often will reports be submitted, and to whom? Who will be responsible for creating these reports, and who will be responsible for making such reports available to the Board?

17. Please indicate whether any components of the proposed journal may be inconsistent with the INFORMS Constitution, Bylaws, or Policies and Procedures (available on the INFORMS website). Is the activity consistent with INFORMS' tax-exempt status? To the extent that there are any inconsistencies, what action is required to address and resolve them prior to approval? (For further details, contact the INFORMS Executive Director.)

18. Will there be any contracts or agreements signed, and if so, have they been reviewed by the INFORMS Executive Committee and, if needed, by the INFORMS legal counsel?

**Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of INFORMS. Please submit this completed proposal by email to Terry Harrison, with copy to Patricia Shaffer.**