

The Expanding World of Nanofabrication – *an update from NanoFabrication Kingston*

July 4, 2023

Good day,

You are receiving this important update as a user of NFK, as a supervisor of a user, or as someone who requested to receive these updates.

MNT Award program

It has recently come to our attention that CMC Microsystems is no longer accepting applications for the MNT Award program. For those who are not familiar with it, the MNT Award program gave academic users of university-based nanofabrication facilities like NFK a chance to receive up to \$4000 toward a fabrication project, making nanofab affordable for the average research group. Numerous NFK users took advantage of this program, and I apologize for the added cost burden the loss of these awards will cause for your research groups. I sincerely hope that CMC Microsystems will secure the funding they need to keep this program going and I urge you to do what you can to support CMC as they lobby for government funding. If nothing changes, it appears that the program will sunset on Nov. 28. All current projects must be wrapped up by then, and I strongly recommend anyone with outstanding MNT reports submit them as soon as possible.

Construction

Construction will continue to impact NFK for the foreseeable future. Primary building access is still via Door 2 from the east parking lot, but Door 5A on the southwest corner of the building is still open to foot traffic. There is a lot of work in the main first-floor hallways, so your interior route to NFK may change at any time. If you follow the signs, though, you will always land safely at NFK's door! Any major temporary changes to access will be communicated to you as you book time at NFK.

Ninja Masks

For fellas with beards, there is now an alternative to wearing a bouffant and beard cover. We now have "ninja masks" that cover your whole head except your eyes. They are lighter and potentially more comfortable while doing a better job of containing facial hair, so I encourage you to try one the next time you're heading into the cleanroom.

Water Chiller

The water chiller that services the **evaporator** and **plasma cleaner** is acting up. Until we settle on a permanent solution, ask about the current temporary solution when you go to use either of these tools.

Humidification

The humidifier at NFK has died a tragic death. While we consider options to replace it, NFK will not have the capacity to control humidity when it's dry out. Obviously that is not a problem this week, but it is

something to consider when booking experiments that are sensitive to dry conditions if the temperature suddenly plummets outside for some reason.

See you at the lab!

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