Comments (Version 4)

Overall, the proposal reads more coherent and organized. I hope you agree. Some new locations where you added summary statements, like line 303, remind reviewers of your goals and their significance.

1. Background section. I presume the uncompiled sections (marked by %) reflect your new emphasis and are intended to replace the existing text. For example, are paragraphs at lines 55 and 66 to be removed when the next uncompiled text is inserted?

2. I made small edits throughout. However, rather than track all changes, I focused on key areas of importance using comments. As a final check, I encourage you to reread the proposal to be sure all the text preserves your intent and reads coherently from your viewpoint.

3. Line 106, Objective 4. If I understand your arguments correctly, you propose in Objective 3 to develop unique TMD, graphene-like structures. If successful, you propose in Objective 4 to use these unique structures to design new devices. Thus, Objective 4 depends directly upon the success of Objective 3, making Objective 4 seem somewhat speculative. I don’t have a sense of the timeline for this proposal and whether you can achieve Objective 4 within three years. But if you concur that this may be an issue, perhaps you might acknowledge the speculative nature upfront. You might argue that if Objective 3 is successful as predicted and time permits, you will begin the development of new devices. By acknowledging Objective 4 as contingent on Objective 3 success and a longer-term goal of the proposal, once you have established your system, you will hopefully convey your forward vision for the research. If this makes sense and you agree, I have several thoughts.

- Phrase Objective 4 more confidently and less speculative by replacing “believe” with “predict,” for example.

- Acknowledge that Objective 4 is a long-term goal that will move you toward practical devices.

- If true, perhaps you might also argue that the success of the proposal lies in Objective 3, which will establish the underlying system to understand the physics of TMD graphene-like interactions.

4. I do not see a timeline. Is this within the 15-page limit?