



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230**

Office of Budget, Finance, and Awards Management
Program Director Position
Employment Opportunity – Dear Colleague Letter

August 10, 2006

Dear Colleague:

The Office of Budget, Finance, and Award Management (BFA) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces an opportunity for an individual, with demonstrated experience in project management applied to the construction or operation of a large scientific facility, to assist BFA's Deputy Director for Large Facility Projects (LFP) in strengthening NSF's capabilities in project management.

NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Agency's overall mission: to support innovative and merit-reviewed activities in basic research and education that contribute to the nation's scientific and technical strength, security, and welfare. For Program Directors to discharge this responsibility effectively requires not only technical knowledge in appropriate disciplines; it also requires access to specialized resources such as project management expertise that Program Directors can call on to supplement their own expertise. The incumbent will work closely with BFA staff, NSF Program Directors and other program staff responsible for the management and oversight of large facility projects, and the Office of Polar Programs. LFP is responsible for advising NSF staff and NSF Awardees in the planning, construction, and operational phases of large facility projects. Duties will include:

- Providing assistance to teams of NSF staff developing plans and strategies to conduct effective oversight, assess and minimize project risks, and develop risk-adjusted budgets appropriate to the work scope, drawing on the incumbent's experience dealing with these issues in a management setting;
- Assisting with the planning of NSF-organized external reviews of large facility projects in planning, construction, and operation. Providing an assessment, independent of the sponsoring NSF Directorate or Office, of the project management-related aspects of the project under review;
- Visiting NSF-funded large facilities, and providing trip reports on project management related issues, including project status reporting and tracking using Earned Value Management;
- Participating in developing new or improved procedures that enhance NSF's capabilities to provide cost-effective management in the planning, construction, and operation stages of major research facilities.

This position is a term appointment under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) for one year with a possibility of renewal for a second year. (Depending on circumstances, this position could also be filled through a temporary appointment as a Federal Employee or through an inter-agency detail.) Periodically rotating individuals with project management experience into NSF is intended to bring fresh insights that will synergistically strengthen NSF's administrative partnership with the research community in fostering the planning, construction, and operation of large research facilities. It will also help to ensure that NSF's oversight practices are in line with the best available procedures and practices utilized by large research laboratories for strategic planning, budgeting, risk management, and other facility related issues.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. in a field of science or engineering, or equivalent training, as well as broad knowledge in a capital-intensive field of research supported by NSF and five years or more of experience in a position entailing significant management responsibility for either construction or operation of a major research facility.

IPA assignees are usually detailed to the Foundation. Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Assignees remain on the home institution's payroll in an active pay status while assigned to NSF. Salary and benefits continue to be administered by the home institution. IPA assignees are not Federal employees, but are subject to provisions of law governing the ethics and conduct of Federal employees.

For additional information on NSF's IPA assignments, please see the NSF website at http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/ipa.jsp.

The desired starting date for the position is negotiable, and could be during 2007. Applicants should send a letter of interest and vitae, no later than September 30, 2006 to:

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STAFF THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION.**