

COMPUTATIONAL and ALGORITHMIC REPRESENTATIONS of GEOMETRIC OBJECTS

A program to foster collaborations involving
mathematical scientists, computer scientists, and other
researchers and practitioners in an emerging
interdisciplinary area

Program Solicitation

NSF-02-155

DIRECTORATE FOR COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING
DIVISION OF COMPUTER-COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH
DIRECTORATE FOR MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DIVISION OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE(S): December 3, 2002 by 5:00 P.M. local time.



DARPA



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



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SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Title: COMPUTATIONAL and ALGORITHMIC REPRESENTATIONS of GEOMETRIC OBJECTS

Synopsis of Program: The Division of Computer and Communications Research (C-CR) and the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Defense Sciences Office (DSO) of the Defense Advanced Projects Research Agency (DARPA) plan to support research and development teams focusing on mathematical and computational innovations relevant to representation and computational manipulation of geometrical objects. These awards will be administered by NSF. Areas of specific interest include:

- Computational Topology and Geometry
- Computational and Geometric Cartography, including Spatial Statistics
- Geometric aspects of Graphics and Computer-Aided Design (CAD)

We particularly encourage proposals for efforts involving collaborations of experts in the mathematical and computational sciences with other scientists, engineers, and practitioners representing diverse application areas.

Proposals for incremental improvements of ongoing efforts will not be selected for funding. Rather, we seek proposals that offer new approaches and promising significant breakthroughs.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- Wm Randolph Franklin, Numeric, Symbolic, and Geometric Computation, Program Director, CISE/C-CR, 1145S, telephone: (703) 292-8912, e-mail: wfrankli@nsf.gov.
- Benjamin M Mann, Mathematical Sciences, Program Director, DMS/MPS, 1025N, telephone: (703) 292-4867, e-mail: bmann@nsf.gov.
- Douglas Cochran, Applied & Computational Mathematics, Program Manager, DARPA/DSO, telephone: (703) 696-2287, e-mail: dcochran@darpa.mil.

Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):

- 47.070 --- Computer and Information Science and Engineering
- 47.049 --- Mathematical and Physical Sciences

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- **Organization Limit:** None
- **PI Eligibility Limit:** No individual may be part of more than one proposal submitted to this competition.
- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** None

AWARD INFORMATION

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard or Continuing Grant
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 4 to 8 Incubation Grants; 3 to 6 Team Grants
- **Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$3,250,000 in FY2003: up to \$100,000 total for one to two years for each incubation grant, and \$200,000 - \$300,000 per year for up to three years for each team grant, subject to the availability of funds, site visits, and/or progress reports.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Full Proposals:** Standard Preparation Guidelines
 - Standard GPG Guidelines apply.

B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is not required.
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** Not Applicable.
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Not Applicable.

C. Deadline/Target Dates

- **Letters of Intent (optional):** None
- **Preliminary Proposals (optional):** None
- **Full Proposal Deadline Date(s):** December 3, 2002 by 5:00 P.M. local time.

D. FastLane Requirements

- **FastLane Submission:** Required
- **FastLane Contact(s):**
 - Charmain Woods, Senior Program Assistant, CISE/Computer-Communications Research, 1145S, telephone: (703) 292-8912, e-mail: cwoods@nsf.gov.
 - LaVern Friels, Computer Specialist, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate, Division of Mathematical Sciences, 1025, telephone: 703-292-4854, e-mail: dmsfl@nsf.gov.

PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

- **Merit Review Criteria:** National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review considerations apply. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

- **Award Conditions:** Additional award conditions apply. Please see the program announcement/solicitation for further information.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Standard NSF reporting requirements apply.

I. INTRODUCTION

Computational geometry has been a rich and highly productive field of mathematical and computational research. That success has opened new and promising problem areas, while some existing topics have been seen to require a new approach. This solicitation targets three topics for support: computational geometry and topology, computational cartography, and computer aided design. Awards will be either smaller incubator grants, or larger team grants to interdisciplinary groups of PIs.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

RESEARCH THEMES

This solicitation focuses on three high-risk/high-reward research areas, where special opportunities exist for fundamental studies. Research in these areas is expected to have significant impact across numerous application domains, including engineering design, modeling of physical systems, and several aspects of computational and geometric cartography. The three areas are as follows.

* Computational geometry and topology

Computational topology is an extension of computational geometry, which has proven to be both a rich and highly productive area of mathematical and computational science research, with numerous applications in such fields as computer graphics, robotics, and computer-aided design. To date, most of the activity has been focused on discrete problems and has made extensive use of combinatorial techniques to address these problems. There is a need to extend the current body of work in computational geometry, where objects are typically represented by point sets, polygons, or polyhedra, to include representations of continuous domains, curved surfaces, and higher dimensional objects. Such extensions are expected to bring computational geometry into contact with many areas in classical geometric topology, just as the mainstream computational geometry led to connections with combinatorial geometry.

The foundational research of computational topology has already begun separately within the topology, computational geometry, computer graphics, and other communities of mathematical and computational science. Each of these fields has developed its own approach to investigating problems in shape representation, manipulation, and analysis. So far, algorithms are typically specific to certain data representations and underlying topological questions common to all the approaches have not received adequate attention. In addition to the intrinsic mathematical value of this new vein of research, there is reason to expect that computational topology can lead to well-founded and robust algorithms for computer-aided design, graphics and visualization, and terrain analysis. These algorithms will offer substantial advantages over current algorithms that are largely limited to discrete geometric computations approximating the underlying problems involving smooth or piecewise smooth objects. Additionally, there is a need to introduce spatial statistics into computational representations of geometrical and topological objects, to account for uncertainty in data and computational errors. This has not been extensively explored and exhibits great potential.

* Computer aided design (CAD)

The efficiency and reliability of modern CAD systems, as well as the compatibility of CAD models with downstream applications (e.g., stress analysis and computational fluid dynamics), are severely limited by the persistent lack of robust algorithms for computing surface intersections and trimmed surfaces. The resolution of these problems, which can have tremendous economic impact by reducing product design and verification cycles, is expected to require interdisciplinary expertise from topology, algebraic and differential geometry, numerical analysis, computational algebra, and the engineering application contexts. The issue of guaranteed "topological consistency" must be a central guiding principle in the development of innovative new algorithms and approaches to these fundamental CAD problems. Bringing collaborative teams of mathematicians, computer scientists, and engineers together to explore the development and application of Computational Topology in the context of CAD is a significant opportunity for providing coherence and basis to this, commercially and militarily, important technology.

* Computational cartography

The major fundamental problem in computational and geometric cartography is developing representations that respect the particular properties of terrain elevation. Since elevation usually has no high order continuity, traditional representations involving linear combinations of basis functions are inadequate. In addition, terrain has large complexes of long-range relationships, such as drainage networks. Operations, such as lossy compression, whose design ignores this will generate impossible terrain. Quality metrics must encourage the preservation of derived properties such as visibility instead of simply minimizing elevation errors. New representations and algorithms must be cognizant of the large amounts of data becoming available from LIDAR and other sources. This data, from multiple sources of varying resolutions and reliabilities, and containing differing terrain features (e.g., vegetation, transportation routes, hydrology, drainage), must be conflated, with its mutual inconsistencies resolved.

New algorithms applying these representations to problems such as visibility determination and mobility analysis, among others, are also of great interest. Useful solutions will execute quickly on large data sets and will typically employ compact data structures that are easy to implement and test, consume less bandwidth, and are amenable to parallel implementation.

The characteristics of the data raise several avenues of investigation, including analysis of output versus input accuracy, the computational benefits of employing "just good enough" algorithms, and the manifestation of errors in input data at different levels of a hierarchical representation structure. Robust solutions, tolerant of data errors, although possibly suboptimal, are desirable. Here, analysis of error propagation in spatial networks of differing resolution and accuracy is of great computational benefit.

This research will have a wide impact. A proper terrain model will provide a formal basis for many terrain analysis problems. Terrain visibility determination is a component of the siting of radio transmitters, environmental visual nuisances, and military observers. Siting radio relays will be particularly important on the Moon, which has only line-of-sight radio communication, and Mars, which has a weak ionosphere. Mobility analysis, including the generation of a combined obstacle overlay, is of considerable defense and civilian interest in any region where the roads are inadequate or even nonexistent.

This solicitation aims to replace currently isolated research niches in the above areas, which impinge on each other, with a cohesive research community, to harness their potential in a wide spectrum of applications, and to impact the research community by enlarging the pool of principal investigators.

MODES OF SUPPORT

We particularly encourage proposals for efforts involving collaborations of experts in the mathematical and computational sciences with other scientists, engineers, and practitioners representing diverse application areas. Proposals for incremental improvements of ongoing efforts will not be selected for funding.

This solicitation will support two types of awards:

1. Incubation awards will develop new collaborations of mathematical scientists, computer scientists, and application experts relevant to the objectives of the CARGO program.
2. Team awards will support groups of investigators. An ideal team would include expertise in the mathematical sciences, computer science, computational science, and engineering, and would have connections to industry or government laboratories. An underlying awareness of real-world needs (which may arise from industrial or defense applications) and the ultimate impact of the proposed activity on such needs will be a central criterion in proposal evaluation. Expertise in computational science, algebra, topology, all areas of geometry, spatial statistics, compiler design, and computer graphics could benefit such teams.

Potential participants seeking collaborators are encouraged to see the 'Team Building' information below.

PROPOSAL CONTENTS

Proposals should address the major technical themes outlined above in integrated and mathematically rigorous fashion and in contexts consistent with the goals of this effort. In addition to offering substantial scientific innovation, proposals should also address model problems, demonstrations, validation, and technology transfer relevant to industrial and/or defense applications of these innovations.

Integration of research and education is of increasing importance across all NSF programs. Proposals should present a plan describing how the proposed effort will contribute to this objective.

TEAM BUILDING

There may be individual researchers, or small groups, or potential industrial collaborators who may be able to contribute effectively to parts of this activity but who might wish assistance in forming teams. The following mechanism is designed to accommodate such individuals:

1. Any such individual, or group, should prepare an e-mail message, straight ASCII text (unformatted, NOT TeX or any word processor) that will be intended for potential collaborators in the following format:

To: CARGO@NSF.GOV

Subject: (1 Line, describes area of expertise or competence); example:

Subject: Computational algorithm design,

Subject: Materials Science, experience in casting thin vanilla filmed flubber alloys

Subject: Lg Scale Simulation, Algorithm Design with experience in distributed architectures

Body of Message: Not more than 120 lines, 75 characters per line, to include

Brief CV

References to relevant publications (if appropriate)

Pointers to web pages or other information, if desired.

A somewhat more detailed description of what the sender(s) can contribute to the effort, and what sorts of collaborators they are looking for.

2. Send this message to the email address as given no later than September 15, 2002. We will acknowledge each message. We will truncate messages longer than 120 lines.

3. We will send a set of all the received email messages, unedited, to the addressees who submitted mail messages to CARGO@NSF.GOV; this will be mailed out electronically shortly thereafter. We will be essentially acting as a vehicle for distributing messages to "each other" without interfering in any way. Neither NSF nor DARPA will in any way edit or attempt to verify the accuracy or credentials of any of the mail messages or the senders.

4. Recipients of this information will be free to contact and interact with each other as they wish.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The categories of proposers identified in the [Grant Proposal Guide](#) are eligible to submit proposals under this program announcement/solicitation. No individual may be part of more than one proposal submitted to this competition.

IV. AWARD INFORMATION

It is anticipated that the total amount available will be about \$3,250,000 in FY2003. Estimated program budget, number of awards and average award size/duration are subject to the availability of funds.

Two types of projects are anticipated:

1. Incubation grants: Standard awards of up to \$100K over one or two years to develop collaborations of mathematical scientists, computer scientists, and application experts relevant to the objectives of the CARGO program. It is estimated there will be 4 to 8 incubation grants.
2. Team grants: Continuing awards of up to three years at \$200-\$300K per year to support teams of investigators. It is estimated there will be 3 to 6 team grants. By July 1, 2004, NSF and DARPA will determine, based on site visits and/or progress reports, and subject to availability of funds, whether the NSF "Team Grant" awards made will expire at the end of two years, or continue for three years. Site visits will be conducted by representatives from NSF, DARPA, or both.

V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Full Proposal:

Proposals submitted in response to this program announcement/solicitation should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the NSF *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG). The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF Web Site at:

<http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpg>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program solicitation number (NSF-02-155) in the program announcement/solicitation block on the *Cover Sheet For Proposal to the National Science Foundation*. Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.

B. Budgetary Information

Cost sharing is not required in proposals submitted under this Program Solicitation.

C. Deadline/Target Dates

Proposals must be submitted by the following date(s):

Full Proposals by 5:00 PM local time: December 3, 2002

D. FastLane Requirements

Proposers are required to prepare and submit all proposals for this Program Solicitation through the FastLane system. Detailed instructions for proposal preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>. For FastLane user support, call the FastLane Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail fastlane@nsf.gov. The FastLane Help Desk answers general technical questions related to the use of the FastLane system. Specific questions related to this Program Solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this announcement/solicitation.

Submission of Electronically Signed Cover Sheets. The Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must electronically sign the proposal Cover Sheet to submit the required proposal certifications (see [Chapter II, Section C](#) of the Grant Proposal Guide for a listing of the certifications). The AOR must provide the required electronic certifications within five working days following the electronic submission of the proposal. Proposers are no longer required to provide a paper copy of the signed Proposal Cover Sheet to NSF. Further instructions regarding this process are available on the FastLane website at: <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov>.

VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. NSF Proposal Review Process

Reviews of proposals submitted to NSF are solicited from peers with expertise in the substantive area of the proposed research or education project. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with the oversight of the review process. NSF invites the proposer to suggest, at the time of submission, the names of appropriate or inappropriate reviewers. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts with the proposer. Special efforts are made to recruit reviewers from non-academic institutions, minority-serving institutions, or adjacent disciplines to that principally addressed in the proposal.

The two National Science Board approved merit review criteria are listed below (see the [Grant Proposal Guide](#) Chapter III.A for further information). The criteria include considerations that help define them. These considerations are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. While proposers must address both merit review criteria, reviewers will be asked to address only those considerations that are relevant to the proposal being considered and for which he/she is qualified to make judgements.

What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of the prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

NSF staff will give careful consideration to the following in making funding decisions:

Integration of Research and Education

One of the principal strategies in support of NSF's goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learning perspectives.

Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities

Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens -- women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities -- is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

Additional Review Criteria

In addition to these general review criteria, reviewers will be asked to incorporate the following criteria when reviewing proposals received in response to the CARGO solicitation.

- * The central role of computational and mathematical sciences in formulating and solving the problems, as well as the level and quality of computational and mathematical innovation.
- * The likelihood of the impact of the proposed work on defense and industrial applications.
- * The nature, extent and quality of new or significantly enhanced interactions between mathematical and computer scientists and other scientists and engineers.
- * The effectiveness of the plan for integration of research and education, especially regarding efforts to engage graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in multidisciplinary projects.

B. Review Protocol and Associated Customer Service Standard

All proposals are carefully reviewed by at least three other persons outside NSF who are experts in the particular field represented by the proposal. Proposals will be evaluated through a competitive external merit review process that will be managed jointly by NSF and DARPA. The awards will be made by NSF. Site visits to finalists in the competition may be performed.

Reviewers will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.

A summary rating and accompanying narrative will be completed and submitted by each reviewer. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the identities of reviewers, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Director. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

In most cases, proposers will be contacted by the Program Officer after his or her recommendation to award or decline funding has been approved by the Division Director. This informal notification is not a guarantee of an eventual award.

NSF is striving to be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months. The time interval begins on the closing date of an announcement/solicitation or the date of proposal receipt (whichever is later). The interval ends when the Division Director accepts the Program Officer's recommendation.

In all cases, after programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements for review of business, financial, and policy implications and the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with a NSF Program Officer. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the NSF Grants and Agreements Officer does so at one's own risk.

VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Notification of the Award

Notification of the award is made to *the submitting organization* by a Grants Officer in the Division of Grants and Agreements. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program Division administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator. (See section VI.A. for additional information on the review process.)

B. Award Conditions

An NSF award consists of: (1) the award letter, which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (2) the budget, which indicates the amounts, by categories of expense, on which NSF has based its support (or otherwise communicates any specific approvals or disapprovals of proposed expenditures); (3) the proposal referenced in the award letter; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (NSF-GC-1)* or Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Terms and Conditions;* and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Cooperative agreement awards also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions (CA-1). Electronic mail notification is the preferred way to transmit NSF awards to organizations that have electronic mail capabilities and have requested such notification from the Division of Grants and Agreements.

*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Web site at http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants/grants_gac.htm. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions is contained in the NSF *Grant Policy Manual* (GPM) Chapter II, available electronically on the NSF Web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpm>. The GPM is also for sale through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC 20402. The telephone number at GPO for subscription information is (202) 512-1800. The GPM may be ordered through the GPO Web site at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

Special Award Conditions

- PIs will be expected to attend an annual program meeting, to present their work to each other, and to exchange ideas.
- The third year of the team awards is contingent on the availability of funds, and on progress to date, based on site visits and/or progress reports.

C. Reporting Requirements

For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the PI must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer at least 90 days before the end of the current budget period.

Within 90 days after the expiration of an award, the PI also is required to submit a final project report. Approximately 30 days before expiration, NSF will send a notice to remind the PI of the requirement to file the final project report. Failure to provide final technical reports delays NSF review and processing of pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

NSF has implemented an electronic project reporting system, available through FastLane. This system permits electronic submission and updating of project reports, including information on project participants (individual and organizational), activities and findings, publications, and other specific products and contributions. PIs will not be required to re-enter information previously provided, either with a proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system.

VIII. CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General inquiries regarding COMPUTATIONAL and ALGORITHMIC REPRESENTATIONS of GEOMETRIC OBJECTS - FY2003 should be made to:

- Wm Randolph Franklin, Numeric, Symbolic, and Geometric Computation, Program Director, CISE/C-CR, 1145S, telephone: (703) 292-8912, e-mail: wfrankli@nsf.gov.
- Benjamin M Mann, Mathematical Sciences, Program Director, DMS/MPS, 1025N, telephone: (703) 292-4867, e-mail: bmenn@nsf.gov.
- Douglas Cochran, Applied & Computational Mathematics, Program Manager, DARPA/DSO, telephone: (703) 696-2287, e-mail: dcochran@darpa.mil.

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- Charmain Woods, Senior Program Assistant, CISE/Computer-Communications Research, 1145S, telephone: (703) 292-8912, e-mail: cwoods@nsf.gov.
- LaVern Friels, Computer Specialist, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate, Division of Mathematical Sciences, 1025, telephone: 703-292-4854, e-mail: dmsfl@nsf.gov.

IX. OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The NSF *Guide to Programs* is a compilation of funding for research and education in science, mathematics, and engineering. The NSF *Guide to Programs* is available electronically at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gp>. General descriptions of NSF programs, research areas, and eligibility information for proposal submission are provided in each chapter.

Many NSF programs offer announcements or solicitations concerning specific proposal requirements. To obtain additional information about these requirements, contact the appropriate NSF program offices. Any changes in NSF's fiscal year programs occurring after press time for the *Guide to Programs* will be announced in the NSF [E-Bulletin](#), which is updated daily on the NSF web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/ebulletin>, and in individual program announcements/solicitations. Subscribers can also sign up for NSF's [Custom News Service](#) (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/start.htm>) to be notified of new funding opportunities that become available.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Awardees are wholly responsible for conducting their project activities and preparing the results for publication. Thus, the Foundation does not assume responsibility for such findings or their interpretation.

NSF welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists, engineers and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities and persons with disabilities to compete fully in its programs. In accordance with Federal statutes, regulations and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NSF (unless otherwise specified in the eligibility requirements for a particular program).

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF-supported projects. See the program announcement/solicitation for further information.

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 292-5090 or (800) 281-8749, FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.

The National Science Foundation is committed to making all of the information we publish easy to understand. If you have a suggestion about how to improve the clarity of this document or other NSF-published materials, please contact us at plainlanguage@nsf.gov.

PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; project reports submitted by awardees will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the proposal review process; to applicant institutions/grantees to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies needing information as part of the review process or in order to coordinate programs; and to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See Systems of Records, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 267 (January 5, 1998), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 268 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to an information collection unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3145-0058. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, Division of Administrative Services, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230, or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for National Science Foundation (3145-0058), 725 17th Street, N.W. Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

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