

NSF-NIST Interaction in Chemistry, Materials Research, Molecular Biosciences, Bioengineering, and Chemical Engineering

PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NSF 03-568

REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):

NSF 97-109



National Science Foundation

Directorate for Engineering
Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems

Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences
Division of Chemistry
Division of Materials Research

Directorate for Biological Sciences
Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences



National Institute of Standards and Technology

Supplement Due Date(s) (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

Proposals Accepted Anytime

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

Replaces *NSF-NIST INTERACTION IN CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING (NSF 97-109)*

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:

NSF-NIST Interaction in Basic and Applied Scientific Research in BIO, ENG & MPS (NSF-NIST)

Synopsis of Program:

This program solicitation is intended to facilitate interactions between faculty and students supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and scientists at the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory (CSTL) and Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory (MSEL), including the NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR). Chemistry, materials research, molecular biology, bioengineering, and chemical engineering are centralized at NIST in these laboratories. Support may be requested for supplements to existing NSF awards to provide the opportunity for faculty and students to participate in research at NIST facilities.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- Lynnette D. Madsen, Program Director, 1065N, telephone: (703)292-4936, email: lmadsen@nsf.gov

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

- 47.041 --- Engineering
- 47.049 --- Mathematical and Physical Sciences
- 47.074 --- Biological Sciences

Award Information

Anticipated Type of Award: Supplement

Estimated Number of Awards: 10 to 20 annually

Anticipated Funding Amount: \$200,000 Annually, pending availability of funds

Eligibility Information

Organization Limit:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Support may be requested only by organizations that have currently active awards in any of the participating NSF Divisions, viz. the Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Systems (BES), the Division of Chemical and Transport Systems (CTS), the Division of Chemistry (CHE), the Division of Materials Research (DMR), and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB).

PI Limit:

Only faculty who are principal investigators on current NSF awards from BES, CHE, CTS, DMR, or MCB are eligible to apply for supplements.

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

None Specified

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI:

None Specified

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Letters of Intent:** Not Applicable
- **Preliminary Proposal Submission:** Not Applicable
- **Full Proposal Preparation Instructions:** This solicitation contains information that supplements the standard NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide, Part I: Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) proposal preparation guidelines. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information

B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is not required under this solicitation.
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** Not allowed
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Other budgetary limitations apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

C. Due Dates

- **Supplement Due Date(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):
Proposals Accepted Anytime

Proposal Review Information Criteria

Merit Review Criteria: National Science Board approved criteria apply.

Award Administration Information

Award Conditions: Standard NSF award conditions apply.

Reporting Requirements: Standard NSF reporting requirements apply.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have shared interests in chemistry, chemical engineering, the molecular biosciences and bioengineering. These research areas are centralized at NIST in the Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory (CSTL). Materials research is centralized in the Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory (MSEL), which includes the NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR). At the NSF, the Divisions of Chemistry (CHE), Materials Research (DMR), Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB), Chemical and Transport Systems (CTS), and Bioengineering and Environmental Systems (BES) support these research areas. This program is designed to promote these shared NSF/NIST interests by supporting collaborative research and education activities between researchers at the CSTL and the MSEL and academic researchers whose areas of research and education are traditionally supported in one or more of the above NSF Divisions. Support may be requested as supplements to existing NSF awards for travel expenses and per diem associated with work at these NIST laboratories for faculty, students and other personnel associated with the NSF/NIST activity.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program provides supplements to NSF supported researchers with active awards in the NSF's Divisions of Chemistry, Materials Research, Molecular and Cellular Biosciences, Chemical and Transport Systems, and Bioengineering and Environmental Systems for collaboration with researchers at NIST's CSTL and MSEL. The latter includes the NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR), which includes the NSF-supported Center for High Resolution Neutron Scattering (CHRNS). Travel and per diem support will be provided for faculty, students, and other personnel to carry out research and/or education activities at the participating NIST laboratories.

The Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory (CSTL) is the United States' reference laboratory for chemical measurements. The CSTL is entrusted with developing, maintaining, advancing, and enabling the chemical measurement system for the U.S, thereby enhancing U.S. industry's productivity and competitiveness, assuring equity in trade, and improving public health, safety, and environmental quality. The CSTL is responsible for measurements, data, and standards in chemical, biochemical, and chemical engineering sciences. CSTL's physical facilities are located at the major NIST sites in Gaithersburg, Maryland and Boulder, Colorado, as well as at the Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology (CARB) in Rockville, Maryland and the Hollings Marine Laboratory (HML) in Charleston, South Carolina.

CSTL is grouped into five Divisions, described briefly below. Each Division name is hyperlinked to the home page of that Division.

- **Analytical Chemistry Division:** provides reference measurement methods and standards to enhance U.S. industry's productivity, assure equity in trade, and facilitate sound decision-making regarding human health, safety, and the environment, by maintaining world-class metrologically based core competencies in analytical mass spectrometry, analytical separation science, atomic and molecular spectroscopy, chemical sensing technology, classical and electroanalytical methods, gas metrology, nuclear analytical methods, and microanalytical technologies
- **Biotechnology Division:** provides the measurement infrastructure necessary to advance the commercialization and application of biotechnology, addressing critical measurement and data needs for the rapidly developing biotechnology industry.
- **Physical and Chemical Properties Division:** provides measurements, standards, data, and models in the areas of thermophysics, thermochemistry, and chemical kinetics, focusing primarily on: thermophysical and thermochemical properties of gases, liquids, and solids, including both pure materials and mixtures; rates and mechanisms of chemical reactions in the gas and liquid phases; fluid-based physical processes and systems, including separations and low-temperature refrigeration and heat transfer.
- **Process Measurements Division:** establishes and disseminates national measurement standards for thermodynamic parameters, engages in measurement science research to improve measurement capabilities for chemical process and related technologies, and is responsible for national measurement standards for temperature, humidity, pressure and vacuum, fluid flow, air speed, liquid density and volume. Its research efforts seek fundamental understanding of, and generate key data pertinent to, chemical process technologies.
- **Surface and Microanalysis Science Division:** serves as the Nation's Reference Laboratory for chemical metrology research, standards, and data to characterize the spatial and temporal distribution of chemical species and improve the accuracy, precision, sensitivity, selectivity, and applicability of surface, microanalysis, and advanced isotope measurement techniques.

The Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory (MSEL) works with industry, standards bodies, universities, and other government laboratories, to provide technical leadership for the nation's materials measurement and standards infrastructure. Expertise in a wide variety of materials, as well as neutron characterization, and x-ray methodology is used to anticipate and respond to industry needs in areas such as microelectronics, automotive, and health care, by providing measurement methods, standard reference materials and materials data. The Laboratory houses the nation's only fully equipped cold neutron research facility, the NIST Center for Neutron Research.

MSEL is organized as briefly described below. Each organization name is hyperlinked to the home page of that Division.

- **Ceramics:** conducts programs pertinent to measurement issues for inorganic, non-metallic materials; current emphasis involves the development of test methodologies for nanoscale materials, the preparation of standard reference materials, and the evaluation and dissemination of standard reference data. The Division also operates synchrotron x-ray beamlines at Brookhaven and Argonne National Laboratories.
- **Materials Reliability:** develops and disseminates measurement methods and standards enhancing the quality and reliability of materials, with emphasis on the development of measurements for materials evaluation in micro- and optoelectronics, and nondestructive techniques (e.g., acoustics and ultrasonics) to evaluate the microstructural properties of materials.

- **Polymers**: conducts research in areas that encompass electronics materials, biomaterials, multiphase materials, processing characterization, and applications of combinatorial methods
- **Metallurgy**: develops measurement and standards infrastructure for US industry and the nation with expertise in electrochemical processing, magnetic materials, materials performance, materials structure and characterization, and metallurgical processing.
- **NIST Center for Neutron Research**: a national center for research using thermal and cold neutrons, offering advanced measurement capabilities for use by all qualified applicants. Many instruments rely on intense beams of cold neutrons emanating from a recently upgraded liquid hydrogen moderator.
- **Center for Theoretical and Computational Materials Science**: investigates important problems in materials theory and modeling with novel computational approaches, develops powerful new tools for materials theory and modeling, and accelerates their integration into industrial research.

Faculty who are principal investigators on current NSF awards supported by one or more of the participating NSF Divisions may request supplements for travel and per diem associated with collaborative work either at the CSTL or MSEL. Support may be requested for faculty, students, and other personnel associated with the joint NSF/NIST activity. No NSF funds will be provided for NIST employees. Prior agreement on the part of the collaborating CSTL or MSEL scientific staff member or members must be obtained and a letter from the appropriate NIST CSTL or MSEL Division Chief or Center Director must be included in the submitted proposal (see Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions below).

III. AWARD INFORMATION

It is estimated that 10-20 supplements will be made annually. The anticipated funding amount for this activity is \$200,000 annually. Estimated program budget, number of supplemental awards and average award size are subject to the availability of funds and the quality of the proposals submitted. Supplement requests must not exceed \$20,000.

IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Organization Limit:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Support may be requested only by organizations that have currently active awards in any of the participating NSF Divisions, viz. the Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Systems (BES), the Division of Chemical and Transport Systems (CTS), the Division of Chemistry (CHE), the Division of Materials Research (DMR), and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB).

PI Limit:

Only faculty who are principal investigators on current NSF awards from BES, CHE, CTS, DMR, or MCB are eligible to apply for supplements.

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

None Specified

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI:

None Specified

Additional Eligibility Info:

Support may be requested only by institutions that have currently active awards in any of the participating NSF Divisions: the Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Systems, the Division of Chemical and Transport Systems, the Division of Chemistry, the Division of Materials Research, and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences.

V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Full Proposal Instructions: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the guidelines specified in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG). The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-PUBS (7827) or by e-mail from nsfpubs@nsf.gov.

Before submitting a supplement request to this program, principal investigators are encouraged to consult the program officer who normally handles the award for which a supplement is being requested.

Requests for supplemental support to existing NSF grants must include a summary of the proposed work, a brief justification, and a budget for the requested funds. These requests are submitted through the FastLane *Award and Reporting* module (<http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov>). Please mention this program solicitation number (NSF 03-XXX) in the summary section of the supplement request to make sure that the handling of your request is not delayed.

In the Special Information and Supplemental Documentation section of the supplemental funding request, a one-page letter signed by the collaborating CSTL or MSEL NIST Division Chief or Center Director must be included. This letter of commitment

should describe briefly the nature of the collaboration and the willingness of the CSTL or MSEL laboratory to support the portion of this research performed at the NIST laboratory.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program solicitation number (NSF 03-568) in the program solicitation block on the NSF 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: Cost sharing is not required under this solicitation.

Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations: Not allowed

Other Budgetary Limitations: Supplements requests should not exceed \$20,000. Support for per diem and travel expenses associated with work at NIST can be requested. These are the only items for which support may be requested. Indirect costs (F&E) are not allowed.

Budget Preparation Instructions: The total amount requested for support of travel and per diem for the Principal Investigator(s) and other employees of the institution requesting support should be entered on Line E of the proposed budget. Travel and per diem support for students should be entered under Participant Support on Line F of the budget. The total amount requested should not exceed \$20,000. In addition, as budget justification, a breakdown of the participant support should show the amount and nature of the expenses for each participant.

C. Due Dates

- **Supplement Due Date(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

Proposals Accepted Anytime

D. FastLane Requirements

Proposers are required to prepare and submit all proposals for this program solicitation through use of the NSF FastLane system. Detailed instructions regarding the technical aspects of 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 funding opportunity.

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. Further instructions regarding this process are available on the FastLane Website at: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.jsp>.

VI. NSF PROPOSAL PROCESSING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

Proposals received by NSF are assigned to the appropriate NSF program where they will be reviewed if they meet NSF proposal preparation requirements. All proposals are carefully reviewed by a scientist, engineer, or educator serving as an NSF Program Officer, and usually by three to ten other persons outside NSF who are experts in the particular fields represented by the proposal. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with the oversight of the review process. Proposers are invited to suggest names of persons they believe are especially well qualified to review the proposal and/or persons they would prefer not review the proposal. These suggestions may serve as one source in the reviewer selection process at the Program Officer's discretion. Submission of such names, however, is optional. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts of interest with the proposal.

A. NSF Merit Review Criteria

All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of the two National Science Board (NSB)-approved merit review criteria: intellectual merit and the broader impacts of the proposed effort. In some instances, however, NSF will employ additional criteria as required to highlight the specific objectives of certain programs and activities.

The two NSB-approved merit review criteria are listed below. 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 the reviewer 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, original, or potentially transformative 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?

Examples illustrating activities likely to demonstrate broader impacts are available electronically on the NSF website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/broaderimpacts.pdf>.

Mentoring activities provided to postdoctoral researchers supported on the project, as described in a one-page supplementary document, will be evaluated under the Broader Impacts criterion.

NSF staff also 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.

B. Review and Selection Process

Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation will be reviewed by For this program proposal supplements will be reviewed by NSF program officers and will not, in gene.

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.

After scientific, technical and programmatic review and consideration of appropriate factors, the NSF Program Officer recommends to the cognizant Division Director whether the proposal should be declined or recommended for 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 deadline or target date, or receipt date, whichever is later. The interval ends when the Division Director accepts the Program Officer's 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 names of the reviewers, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Officer. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

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 their 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 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.B. 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 (GC-1); * or Research Terms and Conditions * and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Cooperative agreements also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Financial and Administrative Terms and Conditions (CA-FATC) and the applicable Programmatic Terms and Conditions. NSF awards are electronically signed by an NSF Grants and Agreements Officer and transmitted electronically to the organization via e-mail.

*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Website at http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/award_conditions.jsp?org=NSF. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from nsfpubs@nsf.gov.

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the NSF *Award & Administration Guide* (AAG) Chapter II, available electronically on the NSF Website at http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=aag.

C. Reporting Requirements

For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the Principal Investigator must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer at least 90 days before the end of the current budget period. (Some programs or awards require more frequent project reports). Within 90 days after expiration of a grant, the PI also is required to submit a final project report, and a project outcomes report for the general public.

Failure to provide the required annual or final project reports, or the project outcomes report will delay NSF review and processing of any future funding increments as well as any pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports

in advance to assure availability of required data.

PIs are required to use NSF's electronic project-reporting system, available through FastLane, for preparation and submission of annual and final project reports. Such reports provide information on activities and findings, project participants (individual and organizational) 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. Submission of the report via FastLane constitutes certification by the PI that the contents of the report are accurate and complete. The project outcomes report must be prepared and submitted using Research.gov. This report serves as a brief summary, prepared specifically for the public, of the nature and outcomes of the project. This report will be posted on the NSF website exactly as it is submitted by the PI.

VIII. AGENCY CONTACTS

General inquiries regarding this program should be made to:

- Lynnette D. Madsen, Program Director, 1065N, telephone: (703)292-4936, email: lmadsen@nsf.gov

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- FastLane Help Desk, telephone: 1-800-673-6188; e-mail: fastlane@nsf.gov.
- Marcia Rawlings, Computer Specialist, 565 S, telephone: (703) 292-7956, fax: (703) 292-9098, email: mrawing@nsf.gov
- Paul G. Spyropoulos, Computer Specialist, 1055 S, telephone: (703) 292-4968, fax: (703) 292-9037, email: pspyropo@nsf.gov
- Sandra E. Woodard, Administrative Officer, 525 N, telephone: (703) 292-8370, fax: (703) 292-9054, email: swoodard@nsf.gov
- Una Alford-Solomon, Program Technology Analyst, 655 S, telephone: (703) 292-8440, fax: (703) 292-9061, email: ualford@nsf.gov

For information about the participating NIST laboratories contact:

- Lloyd J. Whitman, Deputy Director, Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 6200, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-6200 USA. telephone +1-301-975-8002, e-mail: lloyd.whitman@nist.gov

IX. OTHER INFORMATION

The NSF Website provides the most comprehensive source of information on NSF Directorates (including contact information), programs and funding opportunities. Use of this Website by potential proposers is strongly encouraged. In addition, National Science Foundation Update is a free e-mail subscription service designed to keep potential proposers and other interested parties apprised of new NSF funding opportunities and publications, important changes in proposal and award policies and procedures, and upcoming NSF Regional Grants Conferences. Subscribers are informed through e-mail when new publications are issued that match their identified interests. Users can subscribe to this service by clicking the "Get NSF Updates by Email" link on the [NSF web site](#).

Grants.gov provides an additional electronic capability to search for Federal government-wide grant opportunities. NSF funding opportunities may be accessed via this new mechanism. Further information on Grants.gov may be obtained at <http://www.grants.gov>.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent Federal agency created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 USC 1861-75). The Act states the purpose of the NSF is "to promote the progress of science; [and] to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare by supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering."

NSF funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. It does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations and other research organizations throughout the US. The Foundation accounts for about one-fourth of Federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

NSF receives approximately 40,000 proposals each year for research, education and training projects, of which approximately 11,000 are funded. In addition, the Foundation receives several thousand applications for graduate and postdoctoral fellowships. The agency operates no laboratories itself but does support National Research Centers, user facilities, certain oceanographic vessels and Antarctic research stations. The Foundation also supports cooperative research between universities and industry, US participation in international scientific and engineering efforts, and educational activities at every academic level.

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities to work on NSF-supported projects. See Grant Proposal Guide Chapter II, Section D.2 for instructions regarding preparation of these types of proposals.

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 and (800) 281-8749, FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

The National Science Foundation Information Center may be reached at (703) 292-5111.

The National Science Foundation promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States by competitively awarding grants and cooperative agreements for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

To get the latest information about program deadlines, to download copies of NSF publications, and to access abstracts of awards, visit the NSF Website at <http://www.nsf.gov>

- **Location:** 4201 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22230
- **For General Information** (NSF Information Center): (703) 292-5111
- **TDD (for the hearing-impaired):** (703) 292-5090
- **To Order Publications or Forms:**
 - Send an e-mail to: nsfpubs@nsf.gov
 - or telephone: (703) 292-7827
- **To Locate NSF Employees:** (703) 292-5111

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; and 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 proposer 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 or other entities needing information regarding applicants or nominees as part of a joint application review process, or in order to coordinate programs or policy; 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," 69 Federal Register 26410 (May 12, 2004), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 69 Federal Register 26410 (May 12, 2004). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (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 the burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Suzanne H. Plimpton
 Reports Clearance Officer
 Division of Administrative Services
 National Science Foundation
 Arlington, VA 22230

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The National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230, USA
 Tel: (703) 292-5111, FIRS: (800) 877-8339 | TDD: (800) 281-8749

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