

Research in Biogeosciences 2005 (BioGeo)

Program Solicitation

NSF 05-511

Replaces Document 04-535



National Science Foundation

Directorate for Geosciences

Division of Atmospheric Sciences

Division of Earth Sciences

Division of Ocean Sciences

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

February 10, 2005

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:

Research in Biogeosciences 2005 (BioGeo)

Synopsis of Program:

Within the oceans and on land, microbes exert their impact through active interactions with earth materials (including minerals, rocks, hydrates, soils and dust). Proposers should seek: to increase our understanding of microbial processes at the interface with such materials; to elucidate the geologic record of microbial activity at that interface at any time scale including the co-evolution of the geosphere and biosphere through such interactions; to better understand the impact of microbes on biogeochemical processes operating at that interface; or to develop new methods and research techniques for the study of geomicrobial processes.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- Rachael Craig, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8233, fax: (703) 292-9025, email: rcraig@nsf.gov
- Enriqueta C. Barrera, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8551, fax: (703) 292-9025, email: ebarrera@nsf.gov
- L. Douglas James, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8549, email: ldjames@nsf.gov
- H. Richard Lane, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8551, email: hlane@nsf.gov
- Fredric Lipschultz, Associate Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Ocean Sciences, 725 N, telephone: (703) 292-8582, fax: (703) 292-9085, email: flipschu@nsf.gov

- Barbara Ransom, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Ocean Sciences, 725 N, telephone: (703) 292-8581, fax: (703) 292-9085, email: bransom@nsf.gov
- Anne-Marie Schmoltner, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Atmospheric Sciences, 775 S, telephone: (703) 292-8522, fax: (703) 292-9022, email: aschmolt@nsf.gov

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

- 47.050 --- Geosciences

Eligibility Information

- **Organization Limit:** None Specified.
- **PI Eligibility Limit:** None Specified.
- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** None Specified.

Award Information

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard Grant
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 10 averaging \$100,000 per year for up to five years each are anticipated.
- **Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$5,000,000 (total for all awards) pending the availability of funds and depending on the quality of proposals received.

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Full Proposal Preparation Instructions:** This solicitation contains information that supplements the standard 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.
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** Not Applicable.
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Other budgetary limitations apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

C. Due Dates

- **Full Proposal Deadline Date(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):
February 10, 2005

Proposal Review Information

- **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.

Summary of Program Requirements

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I. INTRODUCTION

Microbial communities exist within a broad spectrum of environmental conditions including those found at the Earth's surface, deep in the crust, in freshwater environments, within the oceans and the atmosphere. These communities are involved in a broad array of geological and biological processes involving the evolution of the Earth, ecology, geochemical cycling, biomineralization, mineral ore formation, lithification and energy production. Geoscientists and bioscientists alike have discovered that microorganisms influence the Earth's environment through an astonishing array of chemical processes. Indeed, at lower temperatures and with geological time, thermodynamic processes may be less important than kinetic processes mediated by microbes. The presence of certain trace gases in the atmosphere, the acidification of mine-waste waters, and metal distributions in soils and sediments are all products of these micro-scale chemical reactors. Microbes form the foundation for all ecosystems known, both terrestrial and marine. Despite their importance and omnipresence, more than 99% of microbes on Earth remain uncharacterized, many from unique or incompletely explored environments. This demonstrates the need for collaboration among biologists and geoscientists in the examination of microbial communities and their roles in Earth processes and history.

Geomicrobial processes (the dynamic interaction of microbes with earth materials) lie at the heart of the Biogeoscience program solicitation for FY 2005 and recent community reports provide guidance for research directions in this field. "[Basic Research Opportunities in the Earth Sciences](#)" (2001, National Research Council) points to the crucial role microbes play at the interface of biological and geological processes both in its "Critical Zone" and "Geobiology" themes. Fundamental questions relevant to the origin and evolution of life in deep-sea ecosystems derive from the emerging understanding that "microbes are the biogeochemical engines that power the ecology of vent systems" ([Ridge 2000 Science Plan: Planetary Renewal and Life in the Deep Ocean](#)). Geobiology is further defined and additional relevant background material is

presented at the [Biogeosciences.org](https://www.biogeosciences.org) website.

The Directorate for Geosciences invites the scientific community to submit proposals to conduct innovative research into fundamental geomicrobial processes, which constitute the foundation of the biogeosciences. For the purposes of this program solicitation microbes include: viruses, bacteria, archaea, fungi, oomycetes and protists.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The science directions suitable for consideration in this program solicitation are outlined below in the form of questions about microbial processes and interactions that result in the formation and alteration of *earth materials* (i.e. minerals, rocks, hydrates, soils, dust). This program solicitation invites proposals for fundamental research on any of the following questions:

- [Present processes] What novel strategies to derive energy and nutrients, or to adjust metabolism are employed by microorganisms (as individuals, populations, symbionts or consortia) in interactions with *earth materials*?
- [Present record] What are the signatures of present-day microbial presence and process on or in *earth materials*?
- [Past processes] By what strategies (e.g. ecological succession, consortia) do microbes and microbial communities adjust during the alteration of *earth materials* and what are the biogeochemical requirements (i.e. necessary feedbacks) in the environment for such adjustments?
- [Past record] On what basis (e.g. molecular, paleobiological) do we identify microbes, microbial associations and microbial metabolisms that have existed in the geologic past?
- [Forcing factors] What environmental forcings, responses and feedbacks are related to changes in microbes, geomicrobial associations and geomicrobiological processes over geological time?
- [Changes in forcing factors] Have geomicrobiological processes changed over geological time?
- [Systemic changes] What has been the progression of geologically important microbes with time?
- [Mediated interactions] How do fluid (atmospheric/hydrologic/oceanic) processes influence or how are they influenced by the interactions of microbes with *earth materials* (changing, e.g., gross rock properties, condensation nuclei or density gradients)?
- [Methods] What new research techniques address geomicrobiologic questions such as those posed above?

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The categories of proposers identified in the [Grant Proposal Guide](#) are eligible to submit proposals under this program announcement/solicitation.

IV. AWARD INFORMATION

Approximately \$5 million is available for proposals selected for funding (total for all awards and facilities) pending the availability of funds and depending on the quality of proposals received. Approximately 10 awards, averaging \$100,000 per year for up to five years each are anticipated. Estimated award amount, number of awards and average award size/duration are subject to the availability of funds. These estimates are offered as guides to interested researchers and are not intended

to direct the details of budgets or timelines. Since facilities costs, such as ship time, are part of the total available funding, they will be a consideration along with other budget items in all final funding decisions.

Projects suitable for this program solicitation include small-scale pilot studies, single- or multiple-investigator projects or large interdisciplinary research projects. Projects can be proposed for up to five years duration. Proposals for workshops that explore new directions in Biogeosciences or that define significant new research opportunities are also encouraged. Potential workshop organizers are encouraged to discuss the topic with the Biogeosciences program officer. Proposals related to this topic may also be submitted separately to the CAREER program.

V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Full Proposal Instructions:

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 Website 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.

The following instructions supplement the GPG guidelines.

Proposals that are submitted to this program solicitation and are either previously or subsequently submitted in a substantially similar form to another NSF Program or special announcement, will be returned without completion of the review.

Protocols for safety and security - Proposals that work directly with microbes retrieved from extreme environments are expected to address appropriate safety and security issues (isolation, ultraclean facilities, decontamination and access) in the research and management plans. Investigators are expected to follow appropriate guidelines established for the Microbial Observatories announcement (http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?ods_key=nsf03571).

Facilities requests - Proposals may require the scheduling of special facilities such as aircraft or ship time. These proposals must include a completed facilities request such as NSF-UNOLS Request Form (NSF Form 831). The UNOLS form may be obtained from the NSF Division of Ocean Sciences Ship Operations Program, National Science Foundation by calling (703) 292-8581, or directly from the UNOLS World Wide Web site at <http://www.unols.org>. For science projects that plan to use NCAR lower atmospheric observing facilities and/or large amounts of computing resources (900 General Accounting Units or greater), a facilities request should be sent to the manager of the facility or facilities. Procedures for requesting a facility are established by the providing institution. For Lower Atmospheric Facilities requests, contact the program manager (jhuning@nsf.gov) at NSF. Contact the Division Director for the [Scientific Computing Division](#) at NCAR for questions on computing proposals (alloc@ucar.edu).

For studies requesting facilities access, please note that costs of facilities to be paid by NSF in direct support of the research award will be factored into the total cost of the proposed work (see also Award Information section).

Conflicts of Interest

In addition to the formal submission of the proposal, the principal investigator must send a compilation of conflicts of interest information in a spreadsheet format (**preferably in MS-Excel format**) by e-mail directly to the cognizant program officer. The spreadsheet must be submitted no later than one week after the proposal-submission deadline.

The top of the list should include the proposal number of the proposal submitted. Include the full names of all people for whom there would be a conflict of interest related to reviewing this proposal because of their association with one or more of

the senior personnel on the project. Conflicts to be identified are: (1) Ph.D. thesis advisors or advisees, (2) postdoctoral advisors or advisees, (3) collaborators or co-authors for the past 48 months, and (4) any other individuals or institutions with which the investigator has financial ties (please specify type). For further clarification of conflicts of interests, please refer to the [NSF Grant Policy Manual, Section 510](#). Five columns are suggested for the spreadsheet: the senior personnel (last name) whose relationship makes the person in that row conflicted, outside person for whom there is a conflict (last name, first name), institution of outside person, the relationship that causes the conflict of interest. Please use the following definitions to provide the corresponding information.

- *Principal Investigators*--Individuals who would assume responsibility for an award resulting from this competition, would manage the award, and are listed on the cover sheet of the proposal.
- *Senior Personnel*--All Principal Investigators, as well as any named other personnel who will receive salary support, as well as non-salaried senior investigators who will play lead roles in the conduct of the project.
- *Project Participants*--Every person involved with the research project, including students.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program announcement/solicitation number (05-511) in the program announcement/solicitation block on the proposal Cover Sheet. 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 in proposals submitted under this Program Solicitation.

Other Budgetary Limitations:

Major Equipment - major equipment purchases (cumulative value exceeding \$50,000) will not be supported under this program solicitation.

C. Due Dates

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

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

February 10, 2005

D. FastLane Requirements

Proposers are required to prepare and submit all proposals for this announcement/solicitation through the FastLane system. Detailed instructions for proposal preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: <https://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 announcement/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

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 National Science Board approved revised criteria for evaluating proposals at its meeting on March 28, 1997 (NSB 97-72). All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of the two merit review criteria. In some instances, however, NSF will employ additional criteria as required to highlight the specific objectives of certain programs and activities.

On July 8, 2002, the NSF Director issued [Important Notice 127](#), Implementation of new Grant Proposal Guide Requirements Related to the Broader Impacts Criterion. This Important Notice reinforces the importance of addressing both criteria in the preparation and review of all proposals submitted to NSF. NSF continues to strengthen its internal processes to ensure that both of the merit review criteria are addressed when making funding decisions.

In an effort to increase compliance with these requirements, the January 2002 issuance of the GPG incorporated revised proposal preparation guidelines relating to the development of the Project Summary and Project Description. Chapter II of the GPG specifies that Principal Investigators (PIs) must address both merit review criteria in separate statements within the one-page Project Summary. This chapter also reiterates that broader impacts resulting from the proposed project must be addressed in the Project Description and described as an integral part of the narrative.

Effective October 1, 2002, NSF will return without review proposals that do not separately address both merit review criteria within the Project Summary. It is believed that these changes to NSF proposal preparation and processing guidelines will more clearly articulate the importance of broader impacts to NSF-funded projects.

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 judgments.

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.

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 submitted in response to this announcement/solicitation will be reviewed by Ad Hoc Review followed by Panel Review.

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 names of the 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 proposers 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 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 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 Website 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 Website 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 Website at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

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. Failure to provide final technical reports delays NSF review and processing of pending proposals for the PI and all Co-PIs. 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. 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 this program should be made to:

- Rachael Craig, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8233, fax: (703) 292-9025, email: rcraig@nsf.gov
- Enriqueta C. Barrera, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8551, fax: (703) 292-9025, email: ebarrera@nsf.gov
- L. Douglas James, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8549, email: ldjames@nsf.gov
- H. Richard Lane, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8551, email: hlane@nsf.gov
- Fredric Lipschultz, Associate Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Ocean Sciences, 725 N, telephone: (703) 292-8582, fax: (703) 292-9085, email: flipschu@nsf.gov
- Barbara Ransom, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Ocean Sciences, 725 N, telephone:

(703) 292-8581, fax: (703) 292-9085, email: bransom@nsf.gov

- Anne-Marie Schmoltner, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Atmospheric Sciences, 775 S, telephone: (703) 292-8522, fax: (703) 292-9022, email: aschmolt@nsf.gov

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- Lerome D. Jackson, Program Technology Specialist, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8551, fax: (703) 292-9025, email: ljackson@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 Website 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.

Because of the variety of programs within NSF that offer support for microbe-related research it is important for researchers to understand that this program is focused on projects that directly examine the geo-bio interface. A broad range of programs within and across many directorates of NSF support research on microbes. The most relevant are listed below. Investigators are encouraged to contact appropriate program officers to determine which program, initiative or special focus solicitation is most appropriate as a funding source to avoid inappropriate proposals and to expedite the proposal-writing and review process.

The Biological Sciences Directorate (<http://www.nsf.gov/bio>), Division of Environmental Biology supports microbial research within these programs: Biotic Surveys & Inventories; Ecology; Ecosystem Studies; and Population Biology. The Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB) supports microbial studies through the Microbial Genetics; and Microbial Observatories programs.

Within the Engineering Directorate (ENG), the Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Systems (BES) has a program in Environmental Engineering and Technology that considers proposals related to microbes http://www.eng.nsf.gov/bes/Programs/Environmental_Engineering_Basi/environmental_engineering_basi.htm.

The Directorate for Geosciences (<http://www.geo.nsf.gov>) supports microbe-related research within each Division including programs and special foci in the Ocean Sciences Division: Biological Oceanography; Chemical Oceanography; Marine Geology and Geophysics (MGG); the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP); and several within the Earth Sciences Division (Hydrologic Sciences; Geobiology and Environmental Geochemistry; Paleobiology and Stratigraphy) and the Atmospheric Sciences Division including the Biogeosciences Initiative at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

The Directorate for Geosciences participates in the federal effort in microbial science coordinated through the Microbe Project Interagency Working Group (MPIWG).

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, although some programs may have special requirements that limit eligibility.

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 GPG Chapter II, Section D.2 for instructions regarding preparation of these types of proposals.

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: pubs@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; 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.

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.

OMB control number: 3145-0058.

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