



National Science Foundation

4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding NSF Cross-Directorate Initiative: Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation (CDI) [NSF 07-603](#)

- **Why are Letters of Intent required?**

Letters of Intent (LoI) help NSF prepare for the review process; i.e., identify panelists, and plan panels. Especially in the case of a multi-disciplinary solicitation such as CDI, assembling panels with the right combination of expertise is crucial.

- **Can I submit a preliminary proposal even if I do not submit a Letter of Intent?**

No. Letters of Intent are mandatory in order to be able to submit a preliminary proposal to CDI. Each preliminary proposal **MUST** refer to a *Letter of Intent ID*, issued by the NSF upon receiving the Letter of Intent.

- **Are Letters of Intent binding?**

It is okay not to submit a preliminary proposal, even if you have submitted a Letter of Intent. Only one preliminary proposal may refer to a *Letter of Intent ID*. Although changes may occur, you are strongly encouraged to give the best possible information on your planned proposal in the Letter of Intent.

- **Can I participate in multiple LoIs as PI or Co-PI or senior personnel?**

Yes, you can be part of at most two letters of intent as stated in the solicitation. The same limit applies to preliminary proposals and full proposals.

- **Can all types of proposals contribute to all CDI themes?**

Yes, all types of projects can contribute to one or more CDI themes.

- **Can federal research laboratories be part of research teams?**

Yes, federal research laboratories can be part of research teams; however they cannot be supported by NSF funds unless they meet one of the exceptions. We refer to and follow the NSF's Grant Proposal Guide, Chapter 1, section E.

- **Is summer "support" the same as summer salary?**

The meaning of summer support in the solicitation means roughly one month of summer salary for the investigator.

- **Regarding the estimated number of awards, is it anticipated that a total of 30 awards will be made during the life of the competition or for the first year?**

The estimated number of awards, 30, is for FY 2008 only.