



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

**Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)  
Phase I Grant General Conditions (SBIR I)  
Effective October 1, 2010**

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### **1. Type of Award**

The grant notice specifies a pre-determined fixed amount of NSF support for the project described in the referenced grant proposal. NSF anticipates that the full award amount will be paid without regard to the actual cost subsequently incurred. Payment of this amount, however, is subject to compliance with the award terms and conditions, including Article 8, Grant Reporting Requirements, Article 9, Payments, and NSF's acceptance of the reports submitted by the Grantee under Article 8. On the basis of its review of these reports and/or other pertinent information, NSF reserves the right to suspend or terminate the award, if NSF determines that such action is appropriate.

This award is not subject to the Federal Commercial Cost Principles (48 CFR Part 31), except insofar as provided under Article 22, Suspension or Termination and Article 23, Termination Review Procedure of these Conditions. If estimated total expenditures are significantly less than the award amount, NSF reserves the right to renegotiate the amount of this award.

### **2. Grantee Responsibilities**

The Grantee has full responsibility for the conduct of the project or activity supported under this award and for adherence to the award conditions. A minimum of two-thirds of the research and/or analytical effort as measured by the budget must be performed by the Grantee on an SBIR award. On an STTR award, a minimum of 40% of the research, as measured by the budget, must be performed by the grantee and a minimum of 30% of the research, as measured by the budget, by the collaborating institution.

Although the Grantee is encouraged to seek the advice and opinion of the Foundation on special problems that may arise, such advice does not diminish the Grantee's responsibility for making sound scientific and administrative judgments and should not imply that the responsibility for operating decisions has shifted to the Foundation. The Grantee is responsible for notifying NSF about (1) any allegation of scientific misconduct that it concludes has substance and requires an investigation in accordance with NSF misconduct regulations published at 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 689, and (2) any significant problems relating to the scientific, technical, administrative or financial aspects of the grant.

The grantee is responsible for ensuring that the Principal Investigator(s) or Project Director(s)

receives a copy of the award conditions, including: the award notice, the budget, these general terms and conditions, any special terms and conditions and any subsequent changes in the award conditions. These grant conditions are made available to the grantee by NSF in electronic form at [http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/special\\_conditions.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/special_conditions.jsp) and may be duplicated, copied or otherwise reproduced by the grantee as appropriate. This provision does not alter the grantee's full responsibility for conduct of the project and compliance with all award terms and conditions. Award notices are available to be viewed, printed and/or downloaded electronically via the NSF FastLane system at <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.isp>.

### **3. Prior Approval Requirements**

Unless otherwise specified in the award, provisions of the applicable Federal cost principles and other Federal administrative requirements for prior agency approval apply only to the activities and expenditures specified below.

- a. Written prior approval from the NSF Grants Officer is required for Significant Project Changes:
  1. Transfer of the project effort (see Article 4);
  2. Change in objectives or scope (see Article 4);
  3. Absence or change of PI (see Article 4).
- b. The prior approval requirements identified above (as well as other types of award related notifications stipulated in *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide*, Part II; *Award & Administration Guide* [AAG] Chapter II, Exhibit II-1) must be submitted electronically to NSF through use of the NSF FastLane system.

### **4. Significant Project Changes**

The Grantee is required to notify NSF in writing and obtain appropriate approvals whenever there are significant changes in the project or its direction as set forth below:

- a. *Transfer of the Project Effort (Subawards)*
  1. NSF authorization to contract or otherwise transfer a significant part of the research or substantive effort to another organization that has been disclosed in the proposal is not needed unless approval has been specifically withheld in the award notice.
  2. If it becomes necessary to transfer, by contract or other means, a significant part of the research or substantive effort after an award has been made, notification of this intent should be submitted to NSF electronically via the NSF FastLane system and electronically signed by an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). At a minimum, the request shall include a clear description of the work to be performed and the basis for selection of the subrecipient (except for collaborative/joint arrangements; see AAG Chapter II.B.3. for additional information). NSF approval of such changes will be by an amendment to the grant signed by the NSF Grants Officer.
  3. The grantee remains responsible for maintaining the necessary documentation on all subawards and making it available to NSF upon request. The grantee shall include subaward activities in the annual and final project reports that are submitted to NSF.

b. *Change in Objectives or Scope*

A proposed change in the phenomenon or phenomena under study or the objectives of the project stated in the proposal or agreed modifications thereto should be communicated to NSF via use of the FastLane notification and request module (<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.isp>.) NSF approval of such changes will be by an amendment to the award signed by the NSF Grants Officer.

c. *Absence or Change of Principal Investigator*

If a named Principal Investigator or Project Director (PI/PD) plans to or becomes aware that he or she will (1) devote substantially less effort to the work than anticipated in the approved proposal, (2) sever his or her connection with the Grantee organization, or (3) be absent for a continuous period of three months or more, or otherwise relinquish active direction of the project, he or she shall advise in writing the SBIR program officer and the Grantee's Authorized Organizational Representative. Action appropriate to the situation will be initiated consistent with standard NSF policies. Such changes are subject to NSF approval or other appropriate action including termination.

The prior approval requirements identified above must be submitted electronically to NSF through use of the NSF FastLane system.

## **5. Pre-Award Costs**

- a. Grantees may approve pre-award costs incurred within the ninety calendar day period immediately preceding the effective date of the award. Requests for approval of pre-award costs for periods greater than 90 calendar days must be submitted electronically via the NSF FastLane system.
- b. Pre-award costs must be necessary for the effective and economical conduct of the project.
- c. Pre-award expenditures are made at the grantee's risk. Grantee authority to approve pre-award costs does not impose an obligation on NSF: (1) in the absence of appropriations; (2) if an award is not subsequently made; or (3) if an award is made for a lesser amount than the grantee expected.

## **6. Subaward Requirements**

Any proposed subcontract over \$5,000, other than those identified in the approved budget, must be forwarded to the NSF Grants Officer for approval. The proposed subcontract must be approved prior to its issuance. See also Article 2, Grantee Responsibilities, regarding the minimum amount of effort required to be completed by the Grantee.

The grantee remains responsible for maintaining the necessary documentation on all subawards and making it available to NSF upon request. The grantee shall include sub award activities in the annual and final project reports that are submitted to NSF.

## **7. Consultant Services**

Payments to individuals for consultant services under this grant shall not exceed the daily equivalent of the then current maximum rate paid to an Executive Schedule Level IV Federal employee (exclusive of indirect cost, travel, per diem, clerical services, fringe benefits and supplies).

## **8. Grant Reporting Requirements**

Payment of the grant amount is conditioned upon the Grantee's acceptance and compliance with the award terms and conditions which include expending the approximate person-months proposed and delivery to NSF and its acceptance of required reports. The results of the Grantees' efforts under this award are to be documented in the form of a final report which includes a project summary as specified in the SBIR/STTR Program Solicitation.

The final report (due within 15 days following the end of the performance period) must be submitted to the SBIR/STTR program officer for review and acceptance using the SBIR/STTR Report Cover Page and in accordance with <http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/reporting2.jsp>. Grantees shall submit final reports electronically via the project reporting system in FastLane. The NSF FastLane system may be accessed at: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.isp>.

Unless otherwise specified in the award, the grantee shall submit a Project Outcomes Report for the General Public within 90 days following the expiration date of the award. The Project Outcomes Report must be submitted electronically via Research.gov, which may be accessed at <http://www.research.gov/>. This report serves as a brief summary, prepared specifically for the public, of the nature and outcomes of the project. For information about the content of the report, see the [AAG Chapter II.E.3](#).

## **9. Payments**

Payments will be made by NSF as follows: 2/3 of the total award will be made within two weeks after receipt of the NSF SBIR Award Request for Initial Payment Form, but not before the award effective date, and the remainder upon receipt and acceptance by NSF of a satisfactory final report and financial certification (included on the SBIR Report Cover Page). The NSF SBIR Award Request for Initial Payment Form is available at <http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/sbir/forms.jsp>. This form should be submitted in accordance with instructions in the award notice.

To receive payment, SBIR grant recipients must register with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) at <http://www.ccr.gov>. NSF will use the grantee address and electronic funds transfer information from CCR to register the official address and banking information for payments. Request for initial advance payments should be made within 30 days of the date of the award, and must be made using an NSF SBIR Award Request for Initial Payment form. Failure to submit an acceptable final report will result in withholding of payment and may be grounds for suspension or termination of the award.

## **10. Rights in Technical Data**

The Grantee may retain rights in technical data, including software developed under this grant, except that the Government shall have the right to use such data for Governmental purposes. The Final Technical Report delivered under this grant, including technical data, may be made available to the public by the Government, except for that portion of the report containing technical data properly identified and marked as set forth below. To the extent permitted by law, the Government will not release properly marked technical data (such as data relating to an invention or software) outside the Government, except for evaluation purposes, for a period of four years from the expiration of the Phase II grant or of the Phase I grant, when no Phase II award is made, without approval of the Grantee. The Grantee must properly identify such data and set it off on a separate page in any submission to the Foundation. Such data must be clearly labeled as proprietary and marked with a legend similar to the following:

*"The following is information which (name of Grantee) requests not be released to persons*

*outside the Government, except for purposes of evaluation, for a period of four years from the expiration date of Grant No. (the NSF grant number) or the expiration date of a follow-on Phase II grant if awarded, whichever is later."*

In addition to the rights vested in the Government to use such technical data during the four year period mentioned above, the Government shall retain a royalty free, irrevocable, world-wide license to use the data after the conclusion of the four year period whether or not the Grantee has sought or obtained patent protection or claimed copyright protection.

## **11. Copyrightable Material**

### *a. Definition*

Subject writing means any material that:

- (1) is or may be copyrightable under Title 17 of the United States Code; and
- (2) is produced by the Grantee or its employees in the performance of work under this grant.

Subject writings include such items as reports, books, journal articles, software, databases, sound recordings, video tapes, and video discs.

### *b. Copyright Ownership, Government License*

Except as otherwise specified in the grant or by this paragraph, the Grantee may own or permit others to own copyright in all subject writings. The Grantee agrees that if it or anyone else does own copyright in a subject writing, the Federal government will have a non-exclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, royalty-free license to exercise or have exercised for or on behalf of the United States throughout the world all the exclusive rights provided by copyright which rights will be subject to Article 10, Rights in Technical Data. Such license, however, will not include the right to sell copies or photo records of the copyrighted works to the public.

### *c. Awards Affected by International Agreements*

If the award indicates it is subject to an identified international agreement or treaty, NSF can direct the grantee to convey to any foreign participant or otherwise dispose of such rights to subject writings as are required to comply with that agreement or treaty

### *d. Grantee Action to Protect Government Interests*

The Grantee agrees to acquire, through written agreement or an employment relationship, the ability to comply with the requirements of the preceding paragraphs and, in particular, to acquire the ability to convey rights in a subject writing to a foreign participant if directed by the Foundation under the previous paragraph. The Grantee further agrees that any transfer of copyright or any other rights to a subject writing, by it or anyone whom it has allowed to own such rights, will be made subject to the requirements of this article.

## **12. Publications**

### *a. Acknowledgment of Support*

The grantee is responsible for assuring that an acknowledgment of NSF support:

1. is made in any publication (including World Wide Web pages) of any material based on or developed under this project, in the following terms:

"This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. (NSF grant number)."

2. is orally acknowledged during all news media interviews, including popular media such as radio, television and news magazines.

*b. Disclaimer*

The grantee is responsible for assuring that every publication of material (including World Wide Web pages) based on or developed under this award, except scientific articles or papers appearing in scientific, technical or professional journals, contains the following disclaimer:

"Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation."

*c. Copies for NSF*

The grantee is responsible for assuring that the cognizant NSF Program Officer is provided access to, either electronically or in paper form, a copy of every publication of material based on or developed under this award, clearly labeled with the award number and other appropriate identifying information, promptly after publication.

*d. Metric System*

All reports and publications resulting from this NSF award are encouraged to use the metric system of weights and measures.

### **13. Travel**

*a. Allowability of Travel Expenses*

1. Expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence and related items incurred by project personnel and by outside consultants employed on the project (see AAG Chapter V.B.4) who are in travel status on business related to an NSF-supported project are allowable as prescribed in the governing cost principles. The requirements for prior approval detailed in the governing cost principles are waived.
2. Except as provided in the governing cost principles, the difference between economy airfare and a higher-class airfare is unallowable. A train, bus or other surface carrier may be used in lieu of, or as a supplement to, air travel at the lowest first-class rate by the transportation facility used. If such travel could have been performed by air, however, the allowance will not normally exceed that for jet economy airfare.

*b. Use of U.S.-Flag Air Carriers*

1. In accordance with the Fly America Act (49 USC 40118), any air transportation to, from, between, or within a country other than the U.S. of persons or property, the expense of which will be assisted by NSF funding, must be performed by or under a code-sharing arrangement with a U.S.-flag air carrier if service provided by such a carrier is available (see Comptroller General Decision B-240956, dated September 25, 1991). Tickets (or

documentation for electronic tickets) must identify the U.S. flag air carrier's designator code and flight number.

2. For the purposes of this requirement, U.S.-flag air carrier service is considered available even though:
  - (a) comparable or a different kind of service can be provided at less cost by a foreign-flag air carrier;
  - (b) foreign-flag air carrier service is preferred by, or is more convenient for, NSF or traveler;  
or
  - (c) service by a foreign-flag air carrier can be paid for in excess foreign currency.
3. The following rules apply unless their application would result in the first or last leg of travel from or to the U.S. being performed by a foreign-flag air carrier:
  - (a) a U.S.-flag air carrier shall be used to destination or, in the absence of direct or through service, to the farthest interchange point on a usually traveled route.
  - (b) if a U.S.-flag air carrier does not serve an origin or interchange point, a foreign-flag air carrier shall be used only to the nearest interchange point on a usually traveled route to connect with a U.S. flag air carrier.

c. *Short Distance Travel*

For all short distance travel, regardless of origin and destination, use of a foreign-flag air carrier is permissible if the elapsed travel time on a scheduled flight from origin to destination airport by a foreign-flag air carrier is three hours or less and service by a U.S.-flag air carrier would double the travel time.

#### **14. Information Collection**

Information collection activities performed under this grant are the responsibility of the Grantee, and NSF support of the project does not constitute NSF approval of the survey design, questionnaire content, or information collection procedures. The Grantee shall not represent to respondents that such information is being collected for or in association with the National Science Foundation or any other Government agency without the specific written approval of such information collection plan or device by the Foundation. This requirement, however, is not intended to preclude mention of NSF support of the project in response to an inquiry or acknowledgment of such support in any publication of this information.

#### **15. Responsible Conduct of Research**

**Article 15 applies to new proposals submitted or due on or after January 4, 2010.**

In accordance with Section 7009 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o-1) NSF requires that grantees must have a plan in place to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research (RCR) to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who will be supported by NSF to conduct research. Training plans are subject to review, upon request.



Grantees must designate one or more persons to oversee compliance with the RCR training requirement. Grantees are responsible for verifying that undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers supported by NSF to conduct research have received training in the responsible and ethical conduct of research, in accordance with the plan the grantee has put in place for their organization.

Grantees shall ensure that these RCR requirements, if applicable, flow down to all subrecipients, or are otherwise appropriately addressed in the subaward instrument.

## **16. Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation**

**Article 16 applies to new grants of \$25,000 or more awarded on or after October 1, 2010.**

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget guidance published in the Federal Register (FR) September 14, 2010 on *Requirements for Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Implementation*, grantees must comply with the following award term, contained in 75 FR 22705:

### *a. Reporting of first-tier subawards*

1. *Applicability.* Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, you must report each action that obligates \$25,000 or more in Federal funds that does not include Recovery funds (as defined in section 1512(a)(2) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5) for a subaward to an entity (see definitions in paragraph e of this award term).

### *2. Where and when to report*

(a) You must report each obligating action described in paragraph a.1. of this award term to [www.fsrc.gov](http://www.fsrc.gov).

(b) For subaward information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the obligation was made. (For example, if the obligation was made on November 7, 2010, the obligation must be reported by no later than December 31, 2010.)

3. *What to report.* You must report the information about each obligating action that the submission instructions posted at [www.fsrc.gov](http://www.fsrc.gov) specify.

### *b. Reporting Total Compensation of Recipient Executives*

1. *Applicability and what to report.* You must report total compensation for each of your five most highly compensated executives for the preceding completed fiscal year, if:

(a) the total Federal funding authorized to date under this award is \$25,000 or more;

(b) in the preceding fiscal year, you received—

(i) 80 percent or more of your annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and

(ii) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and

(c) The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at <http://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm>.)

2. *Where and when to report.* You must report executive total compensation described in paragraph b.1.of this award term:

(a) As part of your registration profile at [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov).

(b) By the end of the month following the month in which this award is made, and annually thereafter.

c. *Reporting of Total Compensation of Subrecipient Executives*

1. *Applicability and what to report.* Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, for each first-tier subrecipient under this award, you shall report the names and total compensation of each of the subrecipient's five most highly compensated executives for the subrecipient's preceding completed fiscal year, if:

(a) in the subrecipient's preceding fiscal year, the subrecipient received—

(i) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and

(ii) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts), and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act (and subawards); and

(b) The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at <http://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm>.)

2. *Where and when to report.* You must report subrecipient executive total compensation described in paragraph c.1.of this award term:

(a) To the recipient.

(b) By the end of the month following the month during which you make the subaward. For example, if a subaward is obligated on any date during the month of October of a given year (i.e., between October 1 and 31), you must report any required compensation information of the subrecipient by November 30 of that year.

d. *Exemptions*

If, in the previous tax year, you had gross income, from all sources, under \$300,000, you are exempt from the requirements to report:

1. subawards, and
2. the total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of any subrecipient.

e. *Definitions*

For purposes of this award term:

1. Entity means all of the following, as defined in 2 CFR part 25:
  - (a) A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian tribe;
  - (b) A foreign public entity;
  - (c) A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization;
  - (d) A domestic or foreign for-profit organization;
  - (e) A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non-Federal entity.
2. Executive means officers, managing partners, or any other employees in management positions.
3. Subaward:
  - (a) This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.
  - (b) The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, see Sec. --.210 of the attachment to OMB Circular A- 133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations").
  - (c) A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you or a subrecipient considers a contract.
4. Subrecipient means an entity that:
  - (a) Receives a subaward from you (the recipient) under this award; and
  - (b) Is accountable to you for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.

5. Total compensation means the cash and noncash dollar value earned by the executive during the recipient's or subrecipient's preceding fiscal year and includes the following (for more information see 17 CFR 229.402(c)(2)):

(a) *Salary and bonus.*

(b) *Awards of stock, stock options, and stock appreciation rights.* Use the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the fiscal year in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (Revised 2004) (FAS 123R), Shared Based Payments.

(c) *Earnings for services under non-equity incentive plans.* This does not include group life, health, hospitalization or medical reimbursement plans that do not discriminate in favor of executives, and are available generally to all salaried employees.

(d) *Change in pension value.* This is the change in present value of defined benefit and actuarial pension plans.

(e) *Above-market earnings on deferred compensation which is not tax-qualified.*

(f) Other compensation, if the aggregate value of all such other compensation (e.g. severance, termination payments, value of life insurance paid on behalf of the employee, perquisites or property) for the executive exceeds \$10,000.

## **17. Central Contractor Registration and Universal Identifier Requirements**

### **Article 17 applies to new grants awarded on or after October 1, 2010.**

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget guidance published in the Federal Register (FR) September 14, 2010 on *Financial Assistance Use of Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration*, grantees must comply with the following award term, contained in 75 FR 22706:

a. *Requirement for Central Contractor Registration (CCR).* Unless you are exempted from this requirement under 2 CFR 25.110, you as the recipient must maintain the currency of your information in the CCR until you submit the final financial report required under this award or receive the final payment, whichever is later. This requires that you review and update the information at least annually after the initial registration, and more frequently if required by changes in your information or another award term.

b. *Requirement for Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers.* If you are authorized to make subawards under this award, you:

1. Must notify potential subrecipients that no entity (see definition in paragraph c. of this award term) may receive a subaward from you unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.

2. May not make a subaward to an entity unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.

c. *Definitions.* For purposes of this award term:

1. Central Contractor Registration (CCR) means the Federal repository into which an entity must provide information required for the conduct of business as a recipient. Additional information about registration procedures may be found at the CCR Internet site (currently at <http://www.ccr.gov>).

2. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number means the nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities. A DUNS number may be obtained from D&B by telephone (currently 866-705-5711) or the Internet (currently at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).

3. Entity, as it is used in this award term, means all of the following, as defined at 2 CFR part 25, subpart C:

- (a) A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian tribe;
- (b) A foreign public entity;
- (c) A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization;
- (d) A domestic or foreign for-profit organization; and
- (e) A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non-Federal entity.

4. Subaward:

(a) This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.

(b) The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, see Sec. --.210 of the attachment to OMB Circular A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations").

(c) A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you consider a contract.

5. Subrecipient means an entity that:

- (a) Receives a subaward from you under this award; and
- (b) Is accountable to you for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.

## **18. Patent Rights**

a. *Definitions*

1. **INVENTION** means any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable or otherwise protectable under Title 35 of the USC, to any novel variety of plant which is or

may be protected under the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 USC §§2321 et seq.).

2. SUBJECT INVENTION means any invention of the grantee conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of work under this award, provided that in the case of a variety of plant, the date of determination (as defined in section 41(d)) must also occur during the period of performance.

3. PRACTICAL APPLICATION means to manufacture in the case of a composition or product, to practice in the case of a process or method, or to operate in the case of a machine or system; and, in each case, under such conditions as to establish that the invention is being utilized and that its benefits are to the extent permitted by law or Government regulations available to the public on reasonable terms.

4. MADE when used in relation to any invention means the conception or first actual reduction to practice of such invention.

5. NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION means a domestic university or other institution of higher education or an organization of the type described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 USC §501(c)) and exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (26USC §501(a) or any domestic non-profit scientific or educational organization qualified under a State non-profit organization statute.

b. *Allocation of Principal Rights*

The grantee may retain the entire right, title, and interest throughout the world to each subject invention subject to the provisions of this Patent Rights clause and 35 USC §203. With respect to any subject invention in which the grantee retains title, the Federal Government shall have a non-exclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced for or on behalf of the U.S. the subject invention throughout the world. If the award indicates it is subject to an identified international agreement or treaty, the National Science Foundation (NSF) also has the right to direct the grantee to convey to any foreign participant such patent rights to subject inventions as are required to comply with that agreement or treaty.

c. *Invention Disclosure, Election of Title and Filing of Patent Applications by Grantee*

1. The grantee will disclose each subject invention to NSF within two months after the inventor discloses it in writing to grantee personnel responsible for the administration of patent matters. The disclosure to NSF shall be in the form of a written report and shall identify the award under which the invention was made and the inventor(s). It shall be sufficiently complete in technical detail to convey a clear understanding of the nature, purpose, operation, and, to the extent known, the physical, chemical, biological or electrical characteristics of the invention. The disclosure shall also identify any publication, on sale or public use of the invention, whether a manuscript describing the invention has been submitted for publication and, if so, whether it has been accepted for publication, at the time of disclosure. In addition, after disclosure to NSF, the grantee will promptly notify NSF of the acceptance of any manuscript describing the invention for publication, or of any on sale or public use planned by the grantee.

2. The grantee will elect in writing whether or not to retain title to any such invention by notifying NSF within two years of disclosure to NSF. However, in any case where publication, on sale, or public use has initiated the one-year statutory period wherein valid patent protection can still be obtained in the U.S., the period for election of title may be shortened by NSF to a date that is no more than 60 days prior to the end of the statutory period.
3. The grantee will file its initial patent application on an invention to which it elects to retain title within one year after election of title or, if earlier, prior to the end of any statutory period wherein valid patent protection can be obtained in the U.S. after a publication, on sale, or public use. The grantee will file patent applications in additional countries or international patent offices within either ten months of the corresponding initial patent application, or six months from the date when permission is awarded by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to file foreign patent applications when such filing has been prohibited by a Secrecy Order.
4. Requests for extension of the time for disclosure to NSF, election, and filing under subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3. may, at the discretion of NSF, be awarded.

*d. Conditions When the Government May Obtain Title*

The grantee will convey to NSF, upon written request, title to any subject invention:

1. if the grantee fails to disclose or elect the subject invention within the times specified in paragraph c. above, or elects not to retain title, provided that NSF may only request title within 60 days after learning of the failure of the grantee to disclose or elect within the specified times;
2. in those countries in which the grantee fails to file patent applications within the times specified in paragraph c. above, but prior to its receipt of the written request of NSF, the grantee shall continue to retain title in that country; or
3. in any country in which the grantee decides not to continue the prosecution of any application for, to pay the maintenance fees on, or defend in a reexamination or opposition proceeding on, a patent on a subject invention.

*e. Minimum Rights to Grantee*

1. The grantee will retain a non-exclusive royalty-free license throughout the world in each subject invention to which the Government obtains title, except if the grantee fails to disclose the subject invention within the times specified in paragraph c. above. The grantee's license extends to its domestic subsidiaries and affiliates, if any, within the corporate structure of which the grantee is a party and includes the right to award sublicenses of the same scope to the extent the grantee was legally obligated to do so at the time the award was made. The license is transferable only with the approval of NSF except when transferred to the successor of that part of the grantee's business to which the invention pertains.
2. The grantee's domestic license may be revoked or modified by NSF to the extent necessary to achieve expeditious practical application of the subject invention

pursuant to an application for an exclusive license submitted in accordance with applicable provisions at 37 CFR §404. This license will not be revoked in that field of use or the geographical areas in which the grantee has achieved practical application and continues to make the benefits of the invention reasonably accessible to the public. The license in any foreign country may be revoked or modified at discretion of NSF to the extent the grantee, its licensees, or its domestic subsidiaries or affiliates have failed to achieve practical application in that foreign country.

3. Before revocation or modification of the license, NSF will furnish the grantee a written notice of its intention to revoke or modify the license, and the grantee will be allowed thirty days (or such other time as may be authorized by NSF for good cause shown by the grantee) after the notice to show cause why the license should not be revoked or modified. The grantee has the right to appeal, in accordance with applicable regulations in 37 CFR §404 concerning the licensing of Government-owned inventions, any decision concerning the revocation or modification of its license.

*f. Grantee Action to Protect Government's Interest*

1. The grantee agrees to execute or to have executed and promptly deliver to NSF all instruments necessary to: (i) establish or confirm the rights the Government has throughout the world in those subject inventions for which the grantee retains title; and (ii) convey title to NSF when requested under paragraph d. above, and to enable the Government to obtain patent protection throughout the world in that subject invention.
2. The grantee agrees to require, by written agreement, its employees, other than clerical and non-technical employees, to disclose promptly in writing to personnel identified as responsible for the administration of patent matters and in a format suggested by the grantee each subject invention made under this award in order that the grantee can comply with the disclosure provisions of paragraph c. above, and to execute all papers necessary to file patent applications on subject inventions and to establish the Government's rights in the subject inventions. The disclosure format should require, as a minimum, the information requested by paragraph c.1. above. The grantee shall instruct such employees through the employee agreements or other suitable educational programs on the importance of reporting inventions in sufficient time to permit the filing of patent applications prior to U.S. or foreign statutory bars.
3. The grantee will notify NSF of any decision not to continue prosecution of a patent application, pay maintenance fees, or defend in a reexamination or opposition proceeding on a patent, in any country, not less than 30 days before the expiration of the response period required by the relevant patent office.
4. The grantee agrees to include, within the specification of any U.S. patent application and any patent issuing thereon covering a subject invention, the following statement:

"This invention was made with Government support under (identify the award) awarded by the National Science Foundation. The Government has



certain rights in this invention."

5. The grantee or its representative will complete, execute and forward to NSF a confirmation of a License to the U.S. Government and the page of a United States patent application that contains the Federal support clause within two months of filing any domestic or foreign patent application.

g. *Subcontracts*

1. The grantee will include this Patent Rights clause, suitably modified to identify the parties, in all subcontracts, regardless of tier, for experimental, developmental or research work. The subcontractor will retain all rights provided for the grantee in this Patent Rights clause, and the grantee will not, as part of the consideration for awarding the subcontract, obtain rights in the subcontractors' subject inventions.
2. In the case of subcontracts, at any tier, when the prime award by NSF was a contract (but not a cooperative agreement), NSF, subcontractor, and contractor agree that the mutual obligations of the parties created by this Patent Rights clause constitute a contract between the subcontractor and the Foundation with respect to those matters covered by this Patent Rights clause.

h. *Reporting on Utilization of Subject Inventions*

The grantee agrees to submit on request periodic reports no more frequently than annually on the utilization of a subject invention or on efforts at obtaining such utilization that are being made by the grantee or its licensees or assignees. Such reports shall include information regarding the status of development, date of first commercial sale or use, gross royalties received by the grantee and such other data and information as NSF may reasonably specify. The grantee also agrees to provide additional reports in connection with any march-in proceeding undertaken by NSF in accordance with paragraph j. of this Patent Rights clause. As required by 35 USC §202(c)(5), NSF agrees it will not disclose such information to persons outside the Government without the permission of the grantee.

i. *Preference for United States Industry*

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Patent Rights clause, the grantee agrees that neither it nor any assignee will grant to any person the exclusive right to use or sell any subject invention in the U.S. unless such person agrees that any products embodying the subject invention or produced through the use of the subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the U.S. However, in individual cases, the requirement for such an agreement may be waived by NSF upon a showing by the grantee or its assignee that reasonable but unsuccessful efforts have been made to award licenses on similar terms to potential licensees that would be likely to manufacture substantially in the U.S. or that under the circumstances domestic manufacture is not commercially feasible.

j. *March-in Rights*

The grantee agrees that with respect to any subject invention in which it has acquired title, NSF has the right in accordance with procedures at 37CFR §401.6 and NSF regulations at 45 CFR &650.13 to require the grantee, an assignee or exclusive licensee of a subject

invention to grant a nonexclusive, partially exclusive, or exclusive license in any field of use to a responsible applicant or applicants, upon terms that are reasonable under the circumstances and if the grantee, assignee, or exclusive licensee refuses such a request, NSF has the right to grant such a license itself if NSF determines that:

1. such action is necessary because the grantee or assignee has not taken or is not expected to take within a reasonable time, effective steps to achieve practical application of the subject invention in such field of use;
2. such action is necessary to alleviate health or safety needs which are not reasonably satisfied by the grantee, assignee, or their licensees;
3. such action is necessary to meet requirements for public use specified by Federal regulations and such requirements are not reasonably satisfied by the grantee, assignee, or licensee; or
4. such action is necessary because the agreement required by paragraph i. of this Patent Rights clause has not been obtained or waived or because a licensee of the exclusive right to use or sell any subject invention in the U.S. is in breach of such agreement.

k. *Special Provisions for Awards with Non-profit Organizations*

If the grantee is a non-profit organization, it agrees that:

1. rights to a subject invention in the U.S. may not be assigned without the approval of NSF, except where such assignment is made to an organization which has as one of its primary functions the management of inventions, provided that such assignee will be subject to the same provisions as the grantee;
2. the grantee will share royalties collected on a subject invention with the inventor, including Federal employee co-inventors (when NSF deems it appropriate) when the subject invention is assigned in accordance with 35 USC §202(e) and 37 CFR §401.10;
3. the balance of any royalties or income earned by the grantee with respect to subject inventions, after payment of expenses (including payments to inventors) incidental to the administration of subject inventions, will be utilized for the support of scientific or engineering research or education; and
4. it will make efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to attract licensees of subject inventions that are small business firms and that it will give preference to a small business firm if the grantee determines that the small business firm has a plan or proposal for marketing the invention which, if executed, is equally likely to bring the invention to practical application as any plans or proposals from applicants that are not small business firms; provided that the grantee is also satisfied that the small business firm has the capability and resources to carry out its plan or proposal. The decision whether to give a preference in any specific case will be at the discretion of the grantee. However, the grantee agrees that the Secretary of Commerce may review the grantee's licensing program and decisions regarding small business applicants, and the grantee will negotiate changes to its

licensing policies, procedures or practices with the Secretary when the Secretary's review discloses that the grantee could take reasonable steps to implement more effectively the requirements of this paragraph k.4.

I. *Communications*

All communications required by this Patent Rights clause must be submitted through the iEdison Invention Information Management System maintained by the National Institutes of Health unless prior permission for another form of submission is obtained from the Patent Assistant at patents@nsf.gov or at Office of the General Counsel, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

**19. Program Income**

a. *Definition*

Program income means gross income earned by the grantee that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the award. Program income includes, but is not limited to, income from fees for services performed, the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under the award, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under the award, license fees and royalties on patents and copyrights, and interest on loans made with award funds. Interest earned on advances of Federal funds is not program income. Program income does not include the receipt of principal on loans, rebates, credits, discounts, etc., or interest earned on any of them.

b. *Standard Treatment*

Unless otherwise specified in the award, program income (except as noted in (1) below) received or accrued to the grantee during the period of this award shall be retained and added to the funds committed to the project by NSF and used to further project objectives. Also, unless otherwise specified, the grantee shall have no obligation to NSF with respect to: (1) license fees and royalties for copyrighted material, patents, patent applications, trademarks, and inventions received or accrued at any time; or (2) program income received beyond the period of this award.

c. *Records Retention*

The grantee is required to retain appropriate financial and other records relating to project income earned during the award period and for three years beyond the end of the award period.

**20. Audit and Records**

a. Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and other records pertinent to this award shall be retained by the grantee for a period of three years from submission of the final reports specified in Article 8.

1. Records that relate to audits, appeals, litigation or the settlement of claims arising out of the performance of the project shall be retained until such audits, appeals, litigation or claims have been disposed of.
2. Records relating to projects subject to special project income provisions shall be retained until three years from the end of the grantee's fiscal year in which the award requirement for reporting income expires.

- b. Unless court action or audit proceedings have been initiated, the grantee may substitute microfilm copies of original records.
- c. The Director of the National Science Foundation and the Comptroller General of the U.S., or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any pertinent books, documents, papers and records of the grantee organization and of the performing organization, if different, to make audits, examinations, excerpts and transcripts. Further, any negotiated contract in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$100,000) made by the grantee shall include a provision to the effect that the grantee, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Comptroller General of the U.S., or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to pertinent records for similar purposes.
- d. In order to avoid duplicate record keeping, NSF may make special arrangements with the grantee to retain any records that are needed for joint use. NSF may request transfer to its custody of records not needed by the grantee when it determines that the records possess long-term retention value. When the records are transferred to, or maintained by NSF, the three-year retention requirement is not applicable to the grantee. In the rare event that this provision is exercised, NSF will negotiate a mutually agreeable arrangement with the grantee regarding reimbursement of costs.

## **21. Site Visits**

The Foundation, through authorized representatives, has the right, at all reasonable times, to make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems and to provide such technical assistance as may be required. If any site visit is made by the Foundation on the premises of the Grantee or a subcontractor under the grant, the Grantee shall provide and shall require its subcontractors to provide all reasonable facilities and assistance for the safety and convenience of the Government representatives in the performance of their duties. All site visits and evaluations shall be performed in such a manner as will not unduly delay the work.

## **22. Suspension or Termination**

- a. Any suspension or termination action taken by NSF must be issued by an NSF Grants Officer and will be in accordance with this article and [AAG Chapter VII.A](#).
- b. The award may be suspended or terminated in whole or in part in any of the following situations by:
  - 1. NSF when the grantee has materially failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the award;
  - 2. NSF when the Foundation has other reasonable cause;
  - 3. NSF when ordered by the Deputy Director under NSF's Regulation on Research Misconduct [45 CFR Part 689];
  - 4. NSF and the grantee by mutual agreement (if NSF and the grantee cannot reach an agreement, NSF reserves the right to unilaterally terminate the award); or
  - 5. the grantee on written notice to NSF setting forth the reasons for such action, the effective date, and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated or suspended (with the understanding that if NSF determines that the

unterminated portion will not accomplish the purposes of the award, it may suspend or terminate the entire award).

- c. Normally, action by the Foundation to suspend or terminate a grant will be taken only after the Grantee has been informed by the Foundation of any deficiency on its part and given an opportunity to correct it; but the Foundation may immediately suspend or terminate the grant without notice when it believes such action is reasonable to protect the interests of the Government.
- d. No costs incurred during a suspension period or after the effective date of a termination will be allowable, except those costs which, in the opinion of the Foundation, the Grantee could not reasonably avoid or eliminate, or which were otherwise authorized by the suspension or termination notice, provided such costs would otherwise be allowable under the terms of the grant and 48 CFR Part 31.
- e. Within 30 days of the termination date, the Grantee will furnish a summary of progress under the grant and an itemized accounting of costs incurred prior to the termination date or pursuant to c., above. Final allowable costs under a termination settlement shall be in accordance with the terms of the grant, including this article, and the commercial cost principles contained at 48 CFR Part 31, giving due consideration to the progress under the grant. In no event will the total of NSF payments under a terminated grant exceed the grant amount, or the NSF pro rata share when cost sharing was anticipated, whichever is less.
- f. A notice of termination other than by mutual agreement and/or the final settlement amount may be subject to review pursuant to Article 23.

### **23. Termination Review Procedure**

- a. A request for review of a notice of termination should be addressed to the Director, Division of Grants and Agreements, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington VA, 22230. It must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the postmarked date of such notice.
- b. The request for review must contain a full statement of the Grantee's position and the pertinent facts and reasons in support of such position.
- c. Review of a notice of termination will be conducted in accordance with [AAG Chapter VII.A.4.](#)
- d. Pending resolution of the request for review, the notice of termination shall remain in effect.

### **24. Allowable Costs**

- a. The allowability of costs and cost allocation methods for work performed under this award, up to the amount specified in the award, shall be determined in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles in effect on the effective date of the award and the terms of the award.
- b. The Federal cost principles applicable are contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation 31.2 [48 CFR §31.2] for commercial firms and those non-profit organizations specifically exempted from the provisions of OMB Circular A-122; and
- c. Certain prior approval requirements contained in these Federal cost principles have been

modified by Article 3.

## **25. Nondiscrimination**

- a. The award is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 [42 U.S.C. § 2000d], Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 [20 USC §§ 1681 *et seq.*], the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 [29 U.S.C. § 794], the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 [42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 *et seq.*], and all regulations and policies issued by NSF pursuant to these statutes. Specifically, in accordance with these statutes, regulations, and policies, no person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under the award.
- b. By electronically signing a proposal, the Authorized Organizational Representative is providing the requisite Certification of Compliance with National Science Foundation Nondiscrimination Regulations and Policies. This Nondiscrimination Certification sets forth the nondiscrimination obligations with which all grantees must comply.<sup>1</sup> These obligations also apply to subrecipients, subgrantees, and subcontractors under the award. The grantee, therefore, shall obtain the NSF Nondiscrimination Certification from each organization that applies to be or serves as a subrecipient, subgrantee or subcontractor under the award (for other than the provision of commercially available supplies, materials, equipment or general support services) prior to entering into the subaward arrangement.

## **26. Reporting Classifiable Information**

NSF awards are intended for unclassified, publicly releasable research. The awardee will not be granted access to classified information. NSF does not expect that the results of the research project will involve classified information.

If, however, in conducting the activities supported under an award, the PI is concerned that any of the research results involve potentially classifiable information that may warrant Government restrictions on the dissemination of the results, the PI should promptly notify the cognizant NSF Program Officer.

## **27. Animal Welfare**

- a. Any grantee performing research on vertebrate animals<sup>2</sup> shall comply with the Animal Welfare Act [7 U.S.C. §§2131 *et seq.*] and the regulations promulgated there under by the Secretary of Agriculture [9 CFR § § 1.1-4.11] pertaining to the humane care, handling, and treatment of vertebrate animals held or used for research, teaching or other activities supported by Federal awards. The grantee is expected to ensure that the guidelines described in the National Academy of Science (NAS) Publication, "*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*" (1996) are followed and to comply with the *Public Health Service Policy and Government Principles Regarding the Care and Use of Animals* (included as Appendix D to the

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<sup>1</sup> The complete text of the Nondiscrimination Certification is available electronically in the Grant Proposal Guide, Chapter II, Exhibit II-6 at: [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=gpg](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg).

<sup>2</sup> In addition to vertebrate animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act, the requirements specified in this Article also are extended to rats, birds and mice.

NAS Guide).

b. In the event the grantee's multi-project Assurance is cancelled or lapses, the grantee must immediately notify the cognizant Grants Officer identified in the award notice.

NOTE-- The grantee may request registration of its facility and a current listing of licensed dealers from the Regional Office of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture, for the region in which its research facility is located. The location of the nearest APHIS Regional Office, as well as information concerning this and other APHIS activities, may be obtained at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>.

## **28. Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules**

If this award supports research involving recombinant DNA molecules, the grantee agrees to comply with the requirements of AAG Chapter VI.B.2.

## **29. Clean Air and Water**

(Applicable only if the award exceeds \$100,000, or a facility to be used has been the subject of a conviction under the Clean Air Act [42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(1)] or the Clean Water Act [33 U.S.C. § 1319(c)] and is listed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or the award is not otherwise exempt.) The grantee agrees as follows:

- a. To comply with all the requirements of Section 114 of the Clean Air Act [42 U.S.C. § 7414] and Section 308 of the Clean Water Act [33 U.S.C. § 1318], respectively, relating to inspection, monitoring, entry, reports and information, as well as other requirements specified in Section 114 and Section 308 of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, respectively, and all regulations and guidelines issued thereunder before the award of the grant.
- b. That no portion of the work required by the award will be performed in a facility listed on the Environmental Protection Agency List of Violating Facilities on the date that the award was awarded unless and until EPA eliminates the name of such facility or facilities from such listing.
- c. To use its best efforts to comply with clean air standards and clean water standards at the facility in which the award is being performed.
- d. To insert the substance of the provisions of this article into any nonexempt subcontract.

## **30. Human Research Subjects**

The Grantee is responsible for the protection of the rights and welfare of any human subjects involved in research, development and related activities supported by this grant. The Grantee agrees to comply with the NSF regulation, entitled, "Protection of Human Subjects, [45 CFR 690.]"

## **31. Investigator Financial Disclosure Policy**

If the grantee employs more than 50 persons, the grantee shall maintain an appropriate written and enforced policy on conflict of interest consistent with the provisions of [AAG Chapter IV.A.](#)

### **32. State Sales and Use Taxes**

Grantees are reminded that the cost principles cited in Article 24 limit the allowability of taxes to those the organization is required to pay. Grantees must avail themselves of any tax exemptions for which any activities supported by Federal funds may qualify, including any applicable exemptions from state or local sales and use taxes on the purchase of goods and services made with NSF award funds.

### **33. Resolution of Conflicting Conditions**

Should there be any inconsistency between any special conditions contained in the award and these General Conditions, the special conditions in the award shall control.

Should there be any inconsistency between any special conditions contained in the award, these General Conditions, and any NSF guides, brochures, etc., cited or included by reference in the award, the matter should be referred to the NSF Grants Officer for guidance.

### **34. Debarment and Suspension**

Recipients shall fully comply with the requirements stipulated in Subpart C of 45 CFR §620, entitled "*Responsibilities of Participants Regarding Transactions.*" The recipient is responsible for ensuring that any lower tier covered transaction, as described in Subpart B of 45 CFR §620, entitled "*Covered Transactions,*" includes a term or condition requiring compliance with Subpart C. The recipient also is responsible for further requiring the inclusion of a similar term or condition in any subsequent lower tier covered transaction. The recipient acknowledges that failing to disclose the information required under 45 CFR §620.335 may result in the termination of the award, or pursuance of other available remedies, including suspension and debarment. Recipients may access the Excluded Parties List System at <http://epls.arnet.gov>.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **35. Liability**

The Foundation cannot assume any liability for accidents, illnesses, or claims arising out of any work supported by a grant or for unauthorized use of patented or copyrighted materials. The Grantee institution is advised to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to insure or protect itself, its employees and its property.

### **36. Government Permits and Activities Abroad**

- a. For awards that include activities requiring permits from appropriate Federal, state, or local government authorities, the grantee should obtain any required permits prior to undertaking the proposed activities.
- b. The grantee must comply with the laws and regulations of any foreign country in which research is to be conducted. Areas of potential concern include: (1) requirements for advance approval to conduct research or surveys; (2) special arrangements for the participation of foreign scientists and engineers; and (3) special visas for persons engaged in research or studies. NSF does not assume responsibility for grantee compliance with the laws and regulations of the country in which the work is to be conducted.
- c. The grantee also should assure that activities carried on outside the U.S. are coordinated as necessary with appropriate U. S. and foreign government authorities and that necessary licenses, permits' or approvals are obtained prior to undertaking the proposed activities.



### **37. Sharing of Findings, Data, and Other Research Products**

- a. NSF expects significant findings from research and education activities it supports to be promptly submitted for publication, with authorship that accurately reflects the contributions of those involved. It expects investigators to share with other researchers, at no more than incremental cost and within a reasonable time, the data, samples, physical collections, and other supporting materials created or gathered in the course of the work. It also encourages grantees to share software and inventions or otherwise act to make the innovations they embody widely useful and usable.
- b. Adjustments and, where essential, exceptions may be allowed to safeguard the rights of individuals and subjects, the validity of results, or the integrity of collections or to accommodate legitimate interests of investigators.

### **38. Sense of the Congress on Use of Funds**

Acts making appropriations to NSF provide "It is the sense of the Congress that, to the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased with funds made available in this Act should be American-made" and require the Foundation to notify awardees of that statement.

### **39. Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States**

In accordance with Executive Order 13043, Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States, dated April 16, 1997, "grantees are encouraged to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for their employees when operating company-owned, rented, or personally owned vehicles."