International Materials Institutes (IMI)

Toward an International Materials Research Network

Program Solicitation
NSF 03-593
Replaces Document NSF 02-096

National Science Foundation
Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Division of Materials Research
Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences
Office of International Science and Engineering

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

December 01, 2003

REVISIONS AND UPDATES

This solicitation is being updated due to conflicting information regarding the Limit on Number of Proposals in the original version.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:

International Materials Institutes (IMI)

Synopsis of Program:

The National Science Foundation supports International Materials Institutes (IMIs) in order to enhance international collaboration between U.S. researchers and educators and their counterparts worldwide. These Institutes advance fundamental materials research by coordinating international research and education projects involving condensed matter and materials physics; solid state and materials chemistry; and the design, synthesis, characterization, and processing of materials to meet global and regional needs. The Institutes must be university-based and provide a research environment that will attract leading scientists and engineers. The Institutes' long term goal is the creation of a worldwide network in materials research and the development of a new generation of scientists and engineeers with enhanced international

leadership capabilities. A critically important aspect of an IMI is its potential impact on advancing materials research on an international scale and developing an internationally competitive generation of materials researchers, and this distinguishes an IMI from other materials research centers that NSF supports.

Representative activities of an IMI may include, for example: identifying areas of important and innovative research for joint collaborative programs; organizing and coordinating international exchange programs; establishing mechanisms for long-term international collaborations among academia, industrial and government agencies and laboratories; organizing international workshops on materials research and education, and coordinating international research experiences for students and postdoctoral scholars; developing internet-based resources with video capabilities for international conferencing and learning; developing and supporting a materials research network that will provide access to research and education resources, such as searchable databases, publications, facilities, instruments, and experts; enhancing public awareness of economic and societal contributions by materials researchers; and partnering with states, private foundations, industry, national laboratories, international organizations, other universities, centers, and national facilities to accomplish the stated goals of the IMI.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- Carmen I. Huber, Program Director, Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Division of Materials Research, 1065 N, telephone: (703) 292-4939, email: chuber@nsf.gov
- Kathryn Sullivan, Deputy Director, Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences, Office of International Science and Engineering, 935 N, telephone: (703) 292-8710, email: ksulliva@nsf.gov

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

- 47.049 --- Mathematical and Physical Sciences
- 47.075 --- Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

Eligibility Information

- **Organization Limit:** Only U.S. academic institutions are eligible.
- **PI Eligibility Limit:**

  An individual may be the Principal Investigator in only one proposal.

- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** 1. An institution may not be the lead organization in more than one proposal.

Award Information

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Cooperative Agreement
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 2 to 4 - depending on quality of proposals and availability of funds
- **Anticipated Funding Amount:** $2,200,000 in FY 2004, depending on availability of funds, with $500,000 to $1,000,000 per year per award.

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:** Not Applicable.

C. Due Dates

- **Full Proposal Deadline Date(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):
  December 01, 2003

Proposal Review Information

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

Award Administration Information

- **Award Conditions:** Standard NSF award conditions apply.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Standard NSF reporting requirements apply.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

The basic properties of materials frequently define the capabilities, potential, reliability, and limitations of technology. Improved materials and processes will play an ever-increasing role in efforts to improve energy efficiency, promote environmental protection, reduce health-care costs, develop an information infrastructure, and provide modern and reliable transportation and civil infrastructure systems. Advances in materials research enable progress across a broad range of scientific disciplines and technological areas with dramatic impacts on society.

Continued progress in materials research is increasingly dependent upon collaborative efforts among chemists, physicists, biologists, mathematicians and engineers, as well as closer coordination among funding agencies and effective partnerships involving universities, industry, national laboratories, and international organizations. Because of the rapidly growing interdependence of regional priorities, partnerships are not only important at the national level but also from a global perspective.

With this in mind, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has co-sponsored a series of international workshops in materials research designed to stimulate enhanced collaborations among materials researchers and create networks linking the participating countries. An NSF report (NSF 02-068) entitled "TOWARD AN INTERNATIONAL MATERIALS RESEARCH NETWORK" provides background information and reports for each of several international workshops co-sponsored by NSF: US, Canada, Mexico; NSF - European Commission; US - Pan American Countries; US - Asian Pacific Countries; and US - African Countries. The individual workshop reports are available on the web page of the International Union of Materials Research Societies at http://www.iumrs.org.

As a result of the first IMI competition held in FY 2002, NSF established three International Materials Institutes. In FY 2004 the NSF will support the establishment of two to four additional International Materials Institutes to advance materials research by coordinating international projects involving condensed matter and materials physics; solid state and materials chemistry; and the design, synthesis, characterization, and processing of materials to meet global and regional needs. The Institutes' long term goal is the creation of a worldwide network in materials research and the development of a new generation of scientists and engineeers with enhanced international leadership capabilities.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program supports International Materials Institutes that enhance international collaboration between U.S. researchers and educators and their counterparts in specific areas of the world such as major regions of Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, or the Pacific region. The objective is to advance materials research by coordinating international projects involving condensed matter and materials physics; solid state and materials chemistry; and the design, synthesis, characterization, and processing of materials to meet global and regional needs. A critically important aspect of an IMI is its potential impact on advancing materials research on an international scale and developing an internationally competitive generation of materials researchers, and this distinguishes an IMI from other materials research centers that NSF supports.

The Institutes must be university-based (single or multi-campus), and provide a research environment that will attract leading scientists and engineers. Various models may be considered for these institutes, including, but not limited to, broad-based institutes focusing on the advancement of materials research and education on a global scale; institutes focusing on the advancement of an area of materials research for which international collaborations are essential, either on a global or regional scale; and institutes based on consortia of universities, centers, and national facilities that enhance their international impact.

Each IMI must address two long-term goals: (1) creating elements of a global materials research network designed to coordinate and support the rapidly growing interdependence of materials research priorities and related activities carried out in all regions of the world; and (2) developing a new generation of students, postdoctoral scholars, and materials researchers and educators with enhanced international leadership capabilities. The activities of the IMI may include some or all of the following:

- Identifying areas of important and innovative research for joint international collaborative programs;

- Organizing and coordinating international exchange programs at all professional levels;

- Establishing mechanisms for long-term international collaborations among academia, industrial and government agencies and laboratories;

- Organizing international workshops and coordinating international research experiences for students and post-doctoral scholars in the materials field;

- Developing internet-based activities with video capabilities for international conferencing and learning;

- Developing and supporting research and education resources such as searchable databases, publications, facilities, instruments, and information about education activities and research expertise;

- Implementing at the international level materials education efforts designed to increase public awareness of the contributions materials research makes to society;

- Linking with institutes and research centers worldwide, including other IMIs, to coordinate and enhance materials research and education efforts;

- Partnering with states, private foundations, industry, national laboratories, international organizations, other universities, centers, and national facilities to accomplish the stated goals of the IMI.

Each IMI has the responsibility to manage and evaluate its own operation with respect to program administration, planning, content and direction. NSF support is intended to promote optimal use of university resources and capabilities, and to provide maximum flexibility in setting research directions, developing cooperative activities with other institutions, nations, global regions and international communities, and aiding the international materials research community to respond quickly and effectively to new opportunities to advance materials research and education.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Only U.S. academic institutions are eligible. An institution may not be the lead organization in more than one proposal. An

individual may be the Principal Investigator in only one proposal.

IV. AWARD INFORMATION

NSF anticipates total funding of up to $2,200,000 in FY 2004, contingent on availability of funds. NSF support for each IMI is expected to range from $500,000 to $1,000,000 per year. Awards will be made for an initial period of up to five years. Funding for the fifth year will be contingent upon the outcome of a comprehensive review during the fourth year. The number of awards will depend on the availability of funds and the quality of proposals received. The anticipated date of awards is July 1, 2004. NSF plans to expand the IMI program by means of subsequent competitions that will result in additional awards.

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:

- Project Summary

  Provide a clear rationale for and description of the proposed IMI and its potential impact on advancing international materials research and developing an internationally competitive generation of materials researchers. Briefly describe the vision for the Institute; its institutional setting; its proposed international scope and organization, including international networking components; activities in materials research and education and their integration; plans for the development of human resources; and management plan. Limit: 2 pages.

- Project Description (20 pages total) should include the following:

  1. List of Participants

  List each senior investigator (faculty level or equivalent), by full name, and her/his institutional and departmental affiliation; also enter each name in "Add/Delete Non Co-PI Senior Personnel" FastLane Form.

  2. Achievements under Prior NSF Support

Describe achievements under prior NSF support that pertain to the present proposal. Limit: 2 pages.

The following activities, (3) through (11), should be described to an extent consistent with the nature of the proposed IMI:

3. International Research Collaborations

Describe how the Institute will identify areas of important and innovative research for joint collaborative programs and establish mechanisms for substantive, long-term international collaborations involving academic, industrial and/or government laboratories. List names and institutions of foreign collaborators.

4. Research Opportunities

Describe how the Institute will attract leading materials researchers as participants. Describe the research themes to be addressed and the research proposed by the IMI, and describe proposed mechanisms for networking with other IMIs, universities, centers, and national facilities.

5. Education and Training

Describe mechanisms to enhance materials education at the international level and increase the public's awareness of the contributions materials research makes to society.

6. Exchange Programs

Describe the proposed activities of the Institute towards human resource development, including plans for international exchange programs involving undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and senior investigators.

7. Partnerships

Describe how the Institute plans to develop partnerships with states, private foundations, industries, national laboratories, and international organizations in order to fully advance the stated goals of the IMI.

8. Internet Resources

Describe how the Institute plans to provide capabilities for international conferencing and learning, and develop and support a materials network that will provide access to research and education resources, such as searchable databases, publications, and information about education activities and professional expertise. Software architectures should address both security and openness issues. If applicable, describe how the Institute would provide access for remote use of instruments and facilities through the internet.

9. International Workshops

Describe the role of the Institute in facilitating the advancement of materials research through national and international scientific organizations, international meetings, symposia and workshops, and describe the role of the institute in coordinating international research experiences for students and postdoctoral scholars in materials research.

10. International Materials Research Network

Describe how the Institute plans to work with organizations in the US, other countries and world regions to create a global materials research network that would coordinate the efforts of regional networks, counterpart institutes and other organizations.

11. Management

Describe the plans for administration of the Institute, including the functions of key personnel and the role of any proposed advisory committee, executive committee, and/or program committee or their equivalent. Describe the procedures and criteria that will be used to select, administer and evaluate the programs of the Institute.

NOTE: References are not part of the project description and therefore are not included in the 20-page limitation.

- Biographical Sketches

  Include a biographical sketch for each senior participant (faculty level or equivalent) according to GPG guidelines.

- Current and Pending Support

  List current and pending support for each senior participant.

- Supplementary Documentation

  Include only letters documenting collaborative arrangements of significance to the IMI from participating institutions. Scan signed letters into the Supplementary Documents section of FastLane, do not send originals. Limit: 5 pages

Proposers are reminded to identify the program announcement/solicitation number (03-593) 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.

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):

December 01, 2003

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: http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm. For FastLane user support, call the FastLane Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail fastlane@nsf.gov. The FastLane Help Desk answers general technical questions related to the use of the FastLane system. Specific questions related to this program 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 Proposal Cover Sheet to NSF. Further instructions regarding this process are available on the FastLane Website at: http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov

VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. NSF Proposal Review Process

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

The 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.

Additional Review Criteria:

A critically important aspect of an IMI is its potential impact on advancing materials research on an international scale and developing an internationally competitive generation of materials researchers. In addition to the standard NSF review criteria, reviewers will be asked to use the following criteria:

- The merit of the proposed international activities and the expected mutual benefit to be derived from the contributions of the scientists and engineers in each country or region.

- Potential international and global impact of the IMI on advancing national and international collaborations that integrate materials research with education and foster interactive approaches to materials research and technology.

- Plans for contributing to the development of a worldwide materials research and education network.

- Institutional setting and rationale for the Institute. Relationship to existing and planned institutional programs; capabilities in materials research and education; intellectual breadth of the research and education opportunities; potential for stimulating interdisciplinary international collaborations.

- Achievements under relevant prior NSF support, where applicable.

- Plans and potential for developing partnerships with states, private foundations, industry, national laboratories, international organizations, other IMIs, universities, centers, and national facilities.

- Institutional arrangements, management plan, and budget. Institutional arrangements established toward the stated goals of the IMI. Likely effectiveness of the proposed management plan, including allocation of resources, plans and potential for implementing flexible and innovative programs, and plans for evaluating the programs of the Institute. Appropriateness of the requested budget.

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 and/or 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.

NSF is striving to be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months. The time interval begins on the date of receipt. 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:

- Carmen I. Huber, Program Director, Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Division of Materials Research, 1065 N, telephone: (703) 292-4939, email: chuber@nsf.gov
- Kathryn Sullivan, Deputy Director, Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences, Office of International Science and Engineering, 935 N, telephone: (703) 292-8710, email: ksulliva@nsf.gov

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- Maxine E. Jefferson-Brown, Computer Specialist, Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Division of Materials Research, 1065 N, telephone: (703) 292-4918, fax: (703) 292-9035, email: mjeffers@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.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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

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

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) 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 or (800) 281-8749
- **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.

National Science Foundation Celebrating 50 Years

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