# Atmospheric Sciences Mid-Size Infrastructure Opportunity (MSI)

## Program Solicitation
NSF 07-602

**National Science Foundation**

Directorate for Geosciences
　　Division of Atmospheric Sciences

**Preliminary Proposal Due Date(s)** *(required):*

January 11, 2008

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

June 02, 2008

## REVISION NOTES

In furtherance of the President's Management Agenda, NSF has identified programs that will offer proposers the option to utilize Grants.gov to prepare and submit proposals, or will require that proposers utilize Grants.gov to prepare and submit proposals. Grants.gov provides a single Government-wide portal for finding and applying for Federal grants online.

In response to this program solicitation, proposers may opt to submit proposals via Grants.gov or via the NSF FastLane system. In determining which method to utilize in the electronic preparation and submission of the proposal, please note the following:

Collaborative Proposals. All collaborative proposals submitted as separate submissions from multiple organizations must be submitted via the NSF FastLane system. Chapter II, Section D.3 of the Grant Proposal Guide provides additional information on collaborative proposals.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### General Information

**Program Title:**

Atmospheric Sciences Mid-Size Infrastructure Opportunity  (MSI)

**Synopsis of Program:**

The Division of Atmospheric Sciences (ATM) recognizes the need for mid-size infrastructure to meet emerging demands of the research community it supports.  For the purposes of this solicitation, mid-size infrastructure includes research equipment costing between $4M and $25M.  Projects to be funded as mid-size infrastructure must have broad community support, and the facility or the data resulting from the facility must be widely used by researchers traditionally supported by ATM. Examples include in situ and remote

sensing instrumentation, airborne platforms for research instrumentation, cyberinfrastructure needed to support observations and field programs, and upgrades to existing facilities. Design, engineering, and prototyping of mid-size infrastructure will be considered for funding only if there is valid justification for why this activity cannot be funded at the program level.

Selected projects will be funded for one or more years, not to exceed five years. The development of mid-size infrastructure is intended to be a long-term effort in ATM to phase in high priority science-enabling tools consistent with community needs, ATM goals, and the NSF strategic vision.

**Cognizant Program Officer(s):**

- Robert   M Robinson, telephone: (703) 292-8529, email: rmrobins@nsf.gov

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

- 47.050 --- Geosciences

## Award Information

**Anticipated Type of Award:**  Standard Grant or Continuing Grant

**Estimated Number of Awards:**   1 to  4

**Anticipated Funding Amount:**   $4,000,000  to $25,000,000

## Eligibility Information

**Organization Limit:**

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Academic Institutions located in the U.S.: U.S. universities and colleges located in the U.S.
- For-profit organizations: U.S. commercial organizations, especially small businesses with strong capabilities in scientific or engineering research or education.
- Non-profit, non-academic organizations: Independent museums, observatories, research labs, professional societies and similar organizations in the U.S. associated with educational or research activities. FFRDC's affiliated with agencies other than the National Science Foundation are NOT eligible to submit a proposal to this competition.

**PI Limit:**

None Specified

**Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:**

None Specified

**Limit on Number of Proposals per PI:**

None Specified

## Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

**A. Proposal Preparation Instructions**

- **Letters of Intent:** Not Applicable

- **Preliminary Proposals:** Submission of Preliminary Proposals is required. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

- **Full Proposals:**

    - Full Proposals submitted via FastLane: Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) Guidelines apply. The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg.

    - Full Proposals submitted via Grants.gov: NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov Guidelines apply (Note: The NSF Grants.gov Application Guide is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/docs/grantsgovguide.pdf/)

## B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is not required by NSF.

- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:**  Not Applicable

- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Not Applicable

## C. Due Dates

- **Preliminary Proposal Due Date(s)** *(required):*

    January 11, 2008

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

    June 02, 2008

## Proposal Review Information Criteria

**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 Division of Atmospheric Sciences (ATM) at the National Science Foundation recognizes the need for new experimental infrastructure that directly enables areas of research traditionally supported by the Division.  For the purpose of this solicitation, mid-size infrastructure is defined as research equipment costing between $4M and $25M.  The development of mid-size infrastructure is intended to be a long-term effort in ATM to phase in high priority science-enabling tools consistent with community needs, ATM goals, and the NSF strategic vision.  The potential for broad community usage and support is essential.

Community demand for mid-size infrastructure has been expressed over the past several years through decadal surveys, focused workshops, and committee recommendations.  Although NSF has a number of modes of support for research infrastructure, the intent of this solicitation is to fund projects that are not easily accommodated within existing programs.  For example, the MSI opportunity is not intended to be an alternative source of funding for major research instrumentation/computation infrastructure that could be funded under the annual Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program.

# II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Projects to be funded as mid-size infrastructure must be multi-user facilities that have demonstrable broad community support and directly enable research activities traditionally supported by ATM (http://www.nsf.gov/geo/atm/about.jsp).  The infrastructure or the data resulting from the infrastructure must be widely available for use by the ATM research community.

Examples of mid-size infrastructure for ATM include:

- In situ and remote sensing instrumentation
- Airborne or other platforms for research instrumentation
- Cyberinfrastructure that increases the usability of observational data and efficiency of field programs
- Upgrades or replacements to existing facilities and instrumentation that substantially improve performance and capabilities

Broad community advocacy for proposed projects is essential, as evidenced by the results of decadal surveys, focused workshops, and relevant steering or advisory committee recommendations. Selected projects will be funded for one to five years.

Design, engineering, and prototyping of mid-size infrastructure will be considered for funding only if there is valid justification for why this activity cannot be funded at the program level.  Activities related to the management and operations of MSI beyond the period of the original award are not included in this solicitation, but proposers must provide sufficient information to estimate the level of such support.  The feasibility of accommodating these costs within projected ATM budgets will be an

important aspect of the consideration process for MSI proposals. Similarly, the future scientific activities associated with the MSI are outside the scope of MSI funding. Strategies to cover the costs of science, management, and operations of MSI will be jointly developed by awardees and the relevant ATM Program Officers.

Based on the proposals selected for funding through this solicitation, ATM will implement a multi-year funding plan that may phase in projects at various times. For projects not started in the current fiscal year, additional reviews may be conducted to ensure the proposed technology and/or scientific priorities have not been superseded by progress in the intervening time. The outcome of this planning process and ATM budget growth in future years will determine when this solicitation is reissued.

## III. AWARD INFORMATION

An approximate maximum of $25 million is expected to be awarded for selected proposals over five years, beginning in FY2008. Depending upon the availability of funds, NSF expects to make one to four awards. Each award will be made as a Cooperative Agreement to the lead institution for no more than five years of support. Awards from this competition are expected to commence in September 2008. Oversight for selected MSI projects is the responsibility of the appropriate program within the Division of Atmospheric Sciences.

## IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

**Organization Limit:**

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Academic Institutions located in the U.S.: U.S. universities and colleges located in the U.S.
- For-profit organizations: U.S. commercial organizations, especially small businesses with strong capabilities in scientific or engineering research or education.
- Non-profit, non-academic organizations: Independent museums, observatories, research labs, professional societies and similar organizations in the U.S. associated with educational or research activities. FFRDC's affiliated with agencies other than the National Science Foundation are NOT eligible to submit a proposal to this competition.

**PI Limit:**

None Specified

**Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:**

None Specified

**Limit on Number of Proposals per PI:**

None Specified

**Additional Eligibility Info:**

## V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

## A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

**Preliminary Proposals***(required):* Submission of preliminary proposals is required. Preliminary proposals **must** be submitted via FastLane and must adhere to the general guidelines described in NSF's Grant Proposal Guide (GPG), except as specified below.

**Preliminary Proposal Preparation Instructions:** When preparing a preliminary proposal, proposers are advised to review the Program Description, the Proposal Review Information, and the preliminary proposal preparation instructions described herein. A preliminary proposal will consist only of the main documents and supplementary documents described in Sections (1)-(8) below.

1.  Cover Sheet. For planning purposes, September 1, 2008, should be shown as the start date.

2.  Project Summary: The summary should be written in the third person and should provide a rationale for the MSI. The summary should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and, insofar as possible, understandable to a scientifically or technically literate lay reader. Provide a clear description of the proposed MSI and the long-range plans for future research and education activities. The merit review criteria must be addressed in separate statements (see GPG for additional instructions).

3.  Table of Contents (automatically generated by FastLane).

4.  Project Description. The Project Description is **limited to 10 pages** including tables and illustrations. The broader impacts resulting from the proposed project must be addressed, including the estimated number of users of the facility and/or data produced by the facility. The scientific motivation for the MSI should be explained in detail, as well as the proposed technical approach. Evidence for broad community support should be presented along with a description of the anticipated scientific research activity. An estimate of future operations and maintenance costs is required.

5.  Budget (see NSF GPG instructions)

6.  References Cited (two-page limit). See NSF GPG instructions.

7.  Biographical Sketches (two-page limit per person). Use instructions from NSF GPG. Copies of publications should not be included or sent to NSF.

8.  Results of Prior Support for PI and CO-PI's (2 pages). Provide information only for the PI and each co-PI, for contributions to the development of human resources in science and engineering over the past five years (from any funding source). Include a brief statement of results of funded projects.

**Full Proposal Preparation Instructions:** Proposers may opt to submit proposals in response to this Program Solicitation via Grants.gov or via the NSF FastLane system.

- Full proposals submitted via FastLane: Proposals submitted in response to this program 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/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=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. Proposers are reminded to identify this program solicitation number in the program solicitation block on the NSF Cover Sheet For Proposal to the National Science Foundation. Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.

- Full proposals submitted via Grants.gov: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation via Grants.gov should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov. The complete text of the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: (http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/docs/grantsgovguide.pdf). To obtain copies of the Application Guide and Application Forms Package, click on the Apply tab on the Grants.gov site, then click on the Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Application Instructions link and enter the funding opportunity number, (the program solicitation number without the NSF prefix) and press the Download Package button. Paper copies of the Grants.gov Application Guide also may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

In determining which method to utilize in the electronic preparation and submission of the proposal, please note the following:

Collaborative Proposals. All collaborative proposals submitted as separate submissions from multiple organizations must be submitted via the NSF FastLane system. Chapter II, Section D.3 of the Grant Proposal Guide provides additional information on collaborative proposals.

**Full proposals will be submitted by invitation only.** When preparing a full proposal for this competition, proposers are advised to review the Program Description and the Proposal Review Information found in this solicitation for information pertinent to this program.

Every effort should be made to update information that was provided in the preliminary proposal and to fully address issues raised in the merit review of the preliminary proposal. Follow the guidelines provided for preparing a preliminary proposal **except** as indicated below:

- Project Description: The Project Description for full proposals should be **no more than 20 pages long.** In addition to the guidance provided for preliminary proposals, the full proposal project description should include a sound management plan with a description of the test and validation procedures required prior to commissioning and operations.

## B. Budgetary Information

**Cost Sharing:**  Cost sharing is not required by NSF in proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation.

## C. Due Dates

- **Preliminary Proposal Due Date(s)** *(required):*

    January 11, 2008

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

    June 02, 2008

## D. FastLane/Grants.gov Requirements

- **For Proposals Submitted Via FastLane:**

    Detailed technical instructions regarding the technical aspects of preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm. For FastLane user support, call the FastLane Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail fastlane@nsf.gov. The FastLane Help Desk answers general technical questions related to the use of the FastLane system. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this funding opportunity.

    *Submission of Electronically Signed Cover Sheets.* The Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must electronically sign the proposal Cover Sheet to submit the required proposal certifications (see Chapter II, Section C of the Grant Proposal Guide for a listing of the certifications). The AOR must provide the required electronic certifications within five working days following the electronic submission of the proposal. Further instructions regarding this process are available on the FastLane Website at: https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.jsp.

- **For Proposals Submitted Via Grants.gov:**

    Before using Grants.gov for the first time, each organization must register to create an institutional profile. Once registered, the applicant's organization can then apply for any federal grant on the Grants.gov website. The Grants.gov's Grant Community User Guide is a comprehensive reference document that provides technical information about Grants.gov. Proposers can download the User Guide as a Microsoft Word document or as a PDF document. The Grants.gov User Guide is available at: http://www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport. In addition, the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide provides additional technical guidance regarding preparation of proposals via Grants.gov. For Grants.gov user support, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or by email: support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Contact Center answers general technical questions related to the use of Grants.gov. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this solicitation.

    *Submitting the Proposal:* Once all documents have been completed, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must submit the application to Grants.gov and verify the desired funding opportunity and agency to which the

application is submitted. The AOR must then sign and submit the application to Grants.gov. The completed application will be transferred to the NSF FastLane system for further processing.

## VI. NSF PROPOSAL PROCESSING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

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

## A. NSF Merit Review Criteria

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

The two NSB-approved merit review criteria are listed below. The criteria include considerations that help define them. These considerations are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. While proposers must address both merit review criteria, reviewers will be asked to address only those considerations that are relevant to the proposal being considered and for which the reviewer is qualified to make judgements.

**What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?**
How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of the prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative 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:**

1. Potential to advance or transform atmospheric sciences

2. Extent to which the infrastructure will serve a broad section of the atmospheric sciences community

3. Degree of technological readiness or heritage, or the degree to which the infrastructure makes use of emerging technologies

4. Appropriateness of the budget for mid-size infrastructure funding

5. Potential impact of operations and maintenance costs

6. Criticality and/or uniqueness of project in the near and mid-term

7. Effectiveness of plans for analysis distribution, and/or access of data

8. Consistency with NSF and community-defined science priorities

9. Coordination with other institutions and agencies (domestic and foreign)

10. Qualifications of the personnel

11. Soundness of management and risk reduction plan

## B. Review and Selection Process

Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation will be reviewed by Ad hoc Review 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.

After scientific, technical and programmatic review and consideration of appropriate factors, the NSF Program Officer recommends to the cognizant Division Director whether the proposal should be declined or recommended for award. NSF is striving to be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months. The time interval begins on the date of receipt. The interval ends when the Division Director accepts the Program Officer's recommendation.

A summary rating and accompanying narrative will be completed and submitted by each reviewer. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Officer. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

In all cases, after programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements for review of business, financial, and policy implications and the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with a NSF Program Officer. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the NSF Grants and Agreements Officer does so at their own risk.

## VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

## A. Notification of the Award

Notification of the award is made to *the submitting organization* by a Grants Officer in the Division of Grants and Agreements. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator. (See Section VI.B. for additional information on the review process.)

## B. Award Conditions

An NSF award consists of: (1) the award letter, which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (2) the budget, which indicates the amounts, by categories of expense, on which NSF has based its support (or otherwise communicates any specific approvals or disapprovals of proposed expenditures); (3) the proposal referenced in the award letter; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (GC-1); * or 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 agreements also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Financial and Administrative Terms and Conditions (CA-FATC) and the applicable Programmatic Terms and Conditions. NSF awards are electronically signed by an NSF Grants and Agreements Officer and transmitted electronically to the organization via e-mail.

*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Website at http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/general_conditions.jsp?org=NSF. 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 and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the NSF *Award & Administration Guide* (AAG) Chapter II, available electronically on the NSF Website at http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=aag.

## C. Reporting Requirements

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

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

PIs are required to use NSF's electronic project-reporting system, available through FastLane, for preparation and submission of annual and final project reports.  Such reports provide information on activities and findings, project participants (individual and organizational) publications; and, other specific products and contributions.  PIs will not be required to re-enter information previously provided, either with a proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system.  Submission of the report via FastLane constitutes certification by the PI that the contents of the report are accurate and complete.

## VIII. AGENCY CONTACTS

General inquiries regarding this program should be made to:

- Robert   M   Robinson, telephone: (703) 292-8529, email: rmrobins@nsf.gov

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- FastLane Help Desk, telephone: 1-800-673-6188; e-mail: fastlane@nsf.gov.

For questions relating to Grants.gov contact:

- Grants.gov Contact Center: If the Authorized Organizational Representatives (AOR) has not received a confirmation message from Grants.gov within 48 hours of submission of application, please contact via telephone: 1-800-518-4726; e-mail: support@grants.gov.

## IX. OTHER INFORMATION

The NSF Website provides the most comprehensive source of information on NSF Directorates (including contact information), programs and funding opportunities. Use of this Website by potential proposers is strongly encouraged. In addition, MyNSF (formerly the Custom News Service)is an information-delivery system designed to keep potential proposers and other interested parties apprised of new NSF funding opportunities and publications, important changes in proposal and award policies and procedures, and upcoming NSF Regional Grants Conferences. Subscribers are informed through e-mail or the user's Web browser each time new publications are issued that match their identified interests. MyNSF also is available on NSF's Website at http://www.nsf.gov/mynsf/.

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

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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

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

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

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

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 292-5090 and (800) 281-8749, FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

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

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

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

- **Location:**                                          4201 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22230

- **For General Information**                  (703) 292-5111
  (NSF Information Center)**:**

- **TDD (for the hearing-impaired):**     (703) 292-5090

- **To Order Publications or Forms:**

    Send an e-mail to:             pubs@nsf.gov

    or telephone:             (703) 292-7827

- **To Locate NSF Employees:**             (703) 292-5111

## PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

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

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