Catalyzing New International Collaborations

PROGRAM SOLICITATION
NSF 11-508

REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):
NSF 04-35

National Science Foundation

Office of International Science and Engineering

Full Proposal Target Date(s):

March 01, 2011

      March 1, Annually Thereafter

September 01, 2011

      September 1, Annually Thereafter

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

A revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG), NSF 11-1, was issued on October 1, 2010 and is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after January 18, 2011. Please be advised that the guidelines contained in NSF 11-1 apply to proposals submitted in response to this funding opportunity. Proposers who opt to submit prior to January 18, 2011, must also follow the guidelines contained in NSF 11-1.

Cost Sharing: The PAPPG has been revised to implement the National Science Board's recommendations regarding cost sharing. Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited. In order to assess the scope of the project, all organizational resources necessary for the project must be described in the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal. The description should be narrative in nature and must not include any quantifiable financial information. Mandatory cost sharing will only be required when explicitly authorized by the NSF Director. See the PAPP Guide Part I: *Grant Proposal Guide (GP)* Chapter II.C.2.g(xi) for further information about the implementation of these recommendations.

Data Management Plan: The PAPPG contains a clarification of NSF's long standing data policy. All proposals must describe plans for data management and sharing of the products of research, or assert the absence of the need for such plans. FastLane will not permit submission of a proposal that is missing a Data Management Plan. The Data Management Plan will be reviewed as part of the intellectual merit or broader impacts of the proposal, or both, as appropriate. Links to data management requirements and plans relevant to specific Directorates, Offices, Divisions, Programs, or other NSF units are available on the NSF website at: http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmp.jsp. See Chapter II.C.2.j of the GPG for further information about the implementation of this requirement.

Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan: As a reminder, each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include, as a supplementary document, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. Please be advised that if required, FastLane will not permit submission of a proposal that is missing a Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan. See Chapter II.C.2.j of the GPG for further information about the implementation of this requirement.

Revision Notes:

This publication updates and replaces NSF 04-035, International Research and Education: Planning Visits and Workshops. It refines the program's goal to support the participation of U.S. researchers and students in activities intended to catalyze new international collaborations.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:

      Catalyzing New International Collaborations

Synopsis of Program:

      The Catalyzing New International Collaborations program supports the participation of U.S. researchers and

students in activities intended to catalyze new international collaborations.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

Please note that the following information is current at the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

- Find name using Staff by Country link below, telephone: (703) 292-8710, email: intfl@nsf.gov

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

- 47.041 --- Engineering
- 47.049 --- Mathematical and Physical Sciences
- 47.050 --- Geosciences
- 47.070 --- Computer and Information Science and Engineering
- 47.074 --- Biological Sciences
- 47.075 --- Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences
- 47.076 --- Education and Human Resources
- 47.078 --- Office of Polar Programs
- 47.079 --- Office of International Science and Engineering
- 47.080 --- Office of Cyberinfrastructure
- 47.081 --- Office of Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Award Information

Anticipated Type of Award: Standard Grant or Continuing Grant

Estimated Number of Awards: 40 per year

Anticipated Funding Amount: $2,000,000 per year, pending availability of funds

Eligibility Information

Organization Limit:

　　None Specified

PI Limit:

　　None Specified

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

　　None Specified

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI: 1

　　per target date

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Letters of Intent:** Not Applicable

- **Preliminary Proposal Submission:** Not Applicable

- **Full Proposals:**
    - Full Proposals submitted via FastLane: NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide, Part I: 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/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide)

B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.

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

- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Other budgetary limitations apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

C. Due Dates

- **Full Proposal Target Date(s):**

　　March 01, 2011

　　　　March 1, Annually Thereafter

September 01, 2011

September 1, Annually Thereafter

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.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Support of international activities is an integral part of NSF's mission to sustain and strengthen the nation's science, mathematics, and engineering capabilities. NSF recognizes the importance of enabling U.S. researchers and educators to advance their work through international collaboration and of helping to ensure that future generations of U.S. scientists and engineers gain professional experience beyond the nation's borders early in their careers.

Grants from the Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE) contribute to NSF's mission by supporting research and education activities that present unique opportunities and offer potentially high benefits through collaboration with scientists and engineers abroad. OISE support is intended to enhance current U.S. research capacity, develop a cadre of scientists and engineers who will play a leadership role in forging the international collaborations of the future, and broaden the participation of students, recent PhDs, early career faculty members, women, and minority and disabled scientists and engineers. NSF may consider proposals from U.S. institutions for collaborative work with any country that is not explicitly proscribed by the Department of State. Activities can be in any field of science and engineering research and education supported by NSF.

This solicitation offers support for the initial phases of an international collaboration with the strong expectation that the next phase will involve submission of a follow-on proposal for continued funding of the collaborative research. U.S. groups will be expected to develop a future proposal for continued funding that would be competitive in the merit-review process of the appropriate NSF program. Demand for funding of the follow-on international activities may generate new models and enhanced capabilities for supporting such projects.

To facilitate this end, **it is required that PIs establish communication with the cognizant OISE country Program Officer prior to submission to this solicitation. Failure to consult an OISE country Program Officer prior to submission may result in the proposal being returned without review.** (For a list of OISE Program Officers by country, see http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/country-list.jsp.) OISE groups maintain websites which *may* display information concerning their priorities for this solicitation; please see the following:

Africa, Near East and South Asia http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/anesa.jsp

Americas http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/americas.jsp

Europe and Eurasia http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/eur-eurasia.jsp

East Asia and Pacific http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/eap.jsp

Global Initiatives (for multi-lateral projects that are not dominated by country- or region-specific collaborations) http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/global-init.jsp

In addition, PIs are encouraged to contact the cognizant NSF disciplinary Program Officer prior to submission to this solicitation to discuss options for a follow-on proposal.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Scope and Focus

This solicitation can support U.S. participation in a variety of different types of activities intended to catalyze **new** international collaborations. These include, but are not limited to: planning visits, small workshops, initial data gathering activities, and the development of research coordination networks. The community is invited to propose innovative mechanisms and strategies for catalyzing new international collaborations to the stage that competitive research and education proposals can be submitted to relevant NSF programs for on-going support of the project. Any well-justified activity that fulfills the goals of the program will be considered. Creative use of technology in promoting international collaboration is encouraged. Funding levels for catalytic activities can typically range from as little as $10,000 to as much as $100,000, depending on the activities proposed.

Proposals submitted to this solicitation must include:

- Underlying research and education objectives of the proposed project and schedule of activities.
- Details on the complementary expertise of the U.S. and foreign partners; roles of all key individuals; expected contributions or involvement of the U.S. and foreign institution(s); information on the history of collaborative efforts with the foreign counterparts to date; and a description of the proposed division of labor among the participants.
- Ways in which U.S. students and early career researchers will be involved.
- Strategies and plans for continuing the collaboration; the specific NSF program to which a subsequent proposal would be submitted; and justification for why the proposed catalytic activity is necessary before submission of a subsequent proposal.

For PIs with Active NSF Awards

PIs with active NSF awards related to the topic of their planned catalytic activity may be eligible to seek funding for the activity by requesting a supplement to the existing award. These PIs should contact their cognizant disciplinary Program Officer and the OISE country Program Officer to discuss this option.

Additional Consideration

Visas and Permits: PIs are responsible for obtaining any required visas for foreign travel, and through the U.S. research institution, for providing documentation in support of U.S. visas for foreign counterpart investigators. PIs are also responsible for obtaining research permits and import/export documents, where necessary. PIs should review NSF's web page "Information for U.S. Travelers", http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/for-travelers-main.jsp.

III. AWARD INFORMATION

It is anticipated that approximately 40 awards will be made annually at a total investment of $2 million, subject to the availability of funds. Awards will be standard or continuing grants.

Award duration and budget are expected to vary considerably depending on the scope of activities proposed.

IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Organization Limit:

   None Specified

PI Limit:

   None Specified

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

   None Specified

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI: 1

   per target date

Additional Eligibility Info:

The categories of proposers identified in the Grant Proposal Guide are eligible to submit proposals under this program announcement/solicitation. PIs are eligible to submit one proposal per target date.

V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

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 nsfpubs@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/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide). 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 nsfpubs@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.4 of the Grant Proposal Guide provides additional information on collaborative proposals.

The information below supplements the standard Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) and NSF Grants.gov Application Guide proposal preparation guidelines. Use them to prepare your proposal to catalyze a new international collaboration.

1. **Proposal Cover Sheet**. Highlight this solicitation number in the program announcement/solicitation block and select "Catalyzing New International Collaborations" as the Program in the Unit Selection List. Grants.gov Users: The program solicitation number will be pre-populated by Grants.gov on the NSF Grant Application Cover Page. Grants.gov users should refer to Section VI.1.2. of the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide for specific instructions on how to designate the NSF Unit of Consideration. Check the box for "International Cooperative Activities Country Name" that appears under Other Information when the "remainder of cover sheet" is clicked, then select the countries involved.
2. **Project Summary** (one page maximum). Include the names and institutional affiliations of key foreign collaborators, and note their roles in the proposed activities. Intellectual merit and broader impacts anticipated from the international activity must be addressed in separate paragraphs.
3. **Project Description**. Describe how the activity will promote and develop new collaborative research with foreign partners. Include:

   - Underlying research and education objectives of the proposed project and schedule of activities.
   - Details on the complementary expertise of the U.S. and foreign partners; roles of all key individuals; expected contributions or involvement of the U.S. and foreign institution(s); information on the history of collaborative efforts with the foreign counterparts to date; and a description of the proposed division of labor among the participants.
   - Ways in which U.S. students and early career researchers will be involved.
   - Strategies and plans for continuing the collaboration; the specific NSF program to which a subsequent proposal would be submitted; and justification for why the proposed catalytic activity is necessary before submission of a subsequent proposal.

     If the proposal is for a workshop, then it must also adhere to the special guidelines for Proposals for Conferences, Symposia, and Workshops given in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide Section II.D.8 http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/gpg_2.jsp#IID8. OISE does not provide support for U.S. scientists and engineers to participate in international conferences; nor does it provide support for such meetings. However, via this solicitation, OISE can support targeted workshops specifically designed to foster a new international collaboration that immediately precede or follow a larger-scale conference.
4. **Project Budget**. The budget justification should explain and justify major cost items. Funds may be requested to support catalytic activities, such as visits of U.S. faculty, postdocs, and/or students to counterpart foreign research groups, sharing of unique facilities or data, support for U.S. participants at workshops or special meetings, etc. Salary and stipend support, as well as major equipment costs, will only be allowed in exceptional cases. Funding levels will typically range from $10,000 to $100,000, depending on the type and scope of activities proposed.
5. **Supplementary Documentation**.

   - Biographical sketches for all principal foreign collaborators. All sketches must adhere to the format given in the Grant Proposal Guide (Chapter II.C.2.f, http://nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg).
   - Letters of commitment from collaborating foreign researchers and/or institutions.
   - Evidence of prior communication and consultation (e.g. copy of an email or synopsis of a telephone conversation) with the relevant OISE Program Officer indicating the appropriateness of the proposed activity for the Catalyzing New International Collaborations program.

For PIs with Active NSF Awards

PIs with active NSF awards related to the topic of their planned catalytic activity may be eligible to seek funding for the activity by requesting a supplement to the existing award. These PIs should contact their cognizant disciplinary Program Officer and the appropriate OISE country Program Officer to discuss this option.

B. Budgetary Information

Cost Sharing: Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited

Other Budgetary Limitations:

OISE funding can support the participation of U.S. principal investigators, contributing researchers, postdoctoral fellows, students and support staff, when specifically justified in terms of the international collaboration. OISE support for students and postdoctoral researchers is generally limited to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

In most cases, foreign participants should obtain their own funding for participation in the collaborative project. However, when foreign participants are from a developing country, from a country whose economy is in transition, or from a country whose currency is not convertible, some support may be provided for the foreign participation. Applicants should discuss specifics with relevant OISE country Program Officers before submitting a proposal.

For living expenses abroad, applicants are encouraged to work with foreign counterparts to develop realistic budget requests. For example, access to university guest housing or similar facilities should be explored. In no case should the amount for lodging and meals and incidental expenses (MI&E) exceed the authorized U.S. Government per diem rates, calculated at the daily rate for the first 30 days of a single project visit, and 50 percent of that rate for all time after that. Various approaches to cost-effective, reciprocal arrangements can be considered. By law, U.S. flag carriers must be used in accordance with the Fly America Act (see Chapter VI.G.1b of the NSF Award and Administration Guide at http://nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=aag).

C. Due Dates

- **Full Proposal Target Date(s):**

    March 01, 2011

    > March 1, Annually Thereafter

    September 01, 2011

    > September 1, Annually Thereafter

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. Comprehensive information about using Grants.gov is available on the Grants.gov Applicant Resources webpage: http://www07.grants.gov/applicants/app_help_reso.jsp. 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 where they will be reviewed if they meet NSF proposal preparation requirements. 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 of interest with the proposal.

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, original, or potentially transformative 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?

Examples illustrating activities likely to demonstrate broader impacts are available electronically on the NSF website at: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/broaderimpacts.pdf.

Mentoring activities provided to postdoctoral researchers supported on the project, as described in a one-page supplementary document, will be evaluated under the Broader Impacts criterion.

Additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria

In addition to the general NSF review criteria described above, the following criteria will be used in evaluating proposals submitted in response to this announcement:

1. Mutual benefits among partners; true intellectual collaboration with the foreign partner(s); and benefits to be realized from the expertise and specialized skills, facilities, sites, and/or resources of the international counterpart(s).

2. Active international research engagement of U.S. students and/or early career researchers.

3. Proposed activities likely to lead to potentially transformative contributions to research and education not possible without this catalytic step.

NSF staff also will give careful consideration to the following in making funding decisions:

Integration of Research and Education
One of the principal strategies in support of NSF's goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learning perspectives.

Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities
Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens -- women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities -- is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

B. Review 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 deadline or target date, or receipt date, whichever is later. 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 Research 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/award_conditions.jsp?org=NSF. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from nsfpubs@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, and a project outcomes report for the general public.

Failure to provide the required annual or final project reports, or the project outcomes report 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. The project outcomes report must be prepared and submitted using Research.gov. This report serves as a brief summary, prepared specifically for the public, of the nature and outcomes of the project. This report will be posted on the NSF website exactly as it is submitted by the PI.

VIII. AGENCY CONTACTS

Please note that the program contact information is current at the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

General inquiries regarding this program should be made to:

- Find name using Staff by Country link below, telephone: (703) 292-8710, email: intfl@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.

Please contact the OISE geographic region/country Program Officer regarding proposal development and appropriate funding levels. It is required that Principal Investigators establish communication with the cognizant OISE Program Officer prior to submission to this solicitation. Contacts for cognizant Program Officers are available from the OISE Staff by Country page.

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, National Science Foundation Update is a free e-mail subscription service 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 when new publications are issued that match their identified interests. Users can subscribe to this service by clicking the "Get NSF Updates by Email" link on the NSF web site.

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.

Related Programs:

This solicitation offers support for the initial phases of an international collaboration with the strong expectation that the next phase will involve submission of a follow-on proposal for continued funding of the collaboration. Follow-on proposals may be submitted to **any** appropriate NSF program.

Investigators also may wish to view the Programs and Funding Opportunities section of the OISE home page http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=OISE to view the lists of OISE Managed Opportunities and other NSF Opportunities that Highlight International Collaboration.

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.

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