NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

FROM THE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) requests your company's participation in the 1998 Survey of Industrial Research and Development that the Bureau of the Census is conducting for us. This annual survey is the only source of detailed information on U.S. industry's research and development (R&D) performance.

Your company's participation is vital to the accuracy of the resulting information. Because R&D expenditures are concentrated in relatively few companies, a completed response is needed from each surveyed firm — *there is no substitute for the information that you can provide.* Your company can be assured of complete confidentiality. Survey data will be released only in aggregate form so that responses of individual companies cannot be identified. We have enclosed a data brief from the 1996 survey to show you how these results are used.

If you have questions concerning the operation of this survey, please direct them to the Census Bureau on (301) 457–1339. In addition to the data brief, survey results also are made available in an annual report entitled *Research and Development in Industry.* If you would like to receive a copy of the most recent report, please call the NSF publication clearinghouse on (301) 947–2722 or send an e-mail message to paperpubs@nsf.gov.

Thank you for your assistance in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Rita R. Colwell

Rita R. Colwell
Director

Enclosures