

Guidelines for the Class of 2002 Science and Technology Centers (Centers or STCs)

PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NSF 03-550, to be found at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2003/nsf03550/nsf03550.pdf>

FUNDING, PERFORMANCE, AND REVIEW

Following is the anticipated schedule and type of review/evaluation:

<u>Performance Year</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Performance Period</u>	<u>Type of Review/Evaluation</u>
6 th			
7 th			
8 th			
9 th			
10 th			

The NSF STC Management Team, led by the Lead Program Official, will negotiate the date for each site visit with the principal investigator or the Center. Each site visit is to take place at least three to four weeks prior to the end of each performance period in order for funding decisions to be made and the processing of NSF

The NSF STC Management Team, led by the Lead Program Official, will negotiate the date for each site visit with the principal investigator of the Center. Each site visit is to take place at least three to four weeks prior to the end of each performance period in order for funding decisions to be made and the processing of NSF paperwork to take place. The Site Visit Team will consist of external experts in the scientific and/or engineering areas that are the foci of the Center, as well as knowledge transfer, diversity, and education. The Site Visit Team will write and submit to NSF and the principal investigator a report on the Center. The site visit evaluation (Critical Site Visit) held in the fourth year of the award will consist of *ad hoc* mail reviews of the Center and a formal, on-site review with external experts who will produce a written report and submit it to NSF and the principal investigator. This review will determine whether the Center will receive funding in years six through ten or whether it will phase out in year five.

The awardee will meet, as necessary, with NSF staff to review operations of the Center and to exchange views, ideas, and information concerning the Center.

Also, NSF may request Special Reports from the awardee. The awardee is required to submit those reports following instructions provided at the time by NSF.

No Center will be funded with STC funding for more than ten years.

Continuation of NSF support will depend upon an annual evaluation of progress, accomplishments, and availability of funds. Annual evaluations will include site visits with external reviewers who will produce a written report. All facets of the STC will be evaluated. Examination of an STC's adherence to its diversity plan, and making the STC and its subawardees accountable for results, will be a prominent part of the annual site visits. The annual progress report will provide much of the information required for the annual evaluation. NSF will

have a consultant interact with the appropriate STC personnel to obtain the additional information if needed. NSF will give appropriate notice to the STC in case of any change in the time or type of review. In addition, the Awardee will meet, as necessary, with NSF staff to review operations of the Center and to exchange views, ideas, and information concerning the Center. Additional details follow.

[INFORMATION FOR THIS SECTION IS FORTHCOMING.]

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

For reporting requirements, see <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/stc/documents.jsp>.

Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(b), 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 3145-0194. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 100 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.