

INSTRUMENTATION FOR MATERIALS RESEARCH

Program Announcement and Guidelines

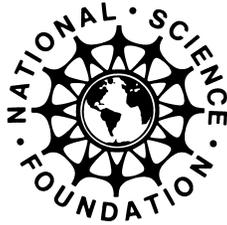
NSF 99 -170

DIRECTORATE FOR MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL
SCIENCES
DIVISION OF MATERIALS RESEARCH

DEADLINE DATE: JANUARY 3, 2000



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



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Arlington, VA
22230 |
| ☐ For General Information (NSF Information Center): | (703) 306-1234 |
| ☐ TDD (for the hearing-impaired): | (703) 306-0090 |
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| or telephone: | (301) 947-2722 |
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SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Name: Instrumentation for Materials Research (IMR)

Short Description/Synopsis of Program:

The IMR Program supports the acquisition or development of research instruments that will provide new capability and/or advance current capability to: (1) discover fundamental phenomena in materials; (2) synthesize, process, and/or characterize the composition, structure, properties, and performance of materials; and (3) improve the quality, expand the scope, and foster and enable the integration of research and education in research-intensive environments.

Cognizant Program Officer(s): Dr. Guebre X. Tessema, Room 1065, Division of Materials Research, telephone (703) 306-1817, e-mail: gtessema@nsf.gov.

Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.: 47.049 — Mathematical and Physical Sciences Grants

ELIGIBILITY

- ◆ Limitation on the categories of organizations that are eligible to submit proposals: **None**
- ◆ PI eligibility limitations:
An individual may serve as a PI in one proposal only. He/she may collaborate as a co-PI in one other proposal.
- ◆ Limitation on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an organization: **None**

AWARD INFORMATION

- ◆ Type of award anticipated: **Standard or continuing Grant**
- ◆ Number of awards anticipated in FY 00: **35-40 awards**
- ◆ Amount of funds available: **Approximately \$8.1 million for this initiative in FY 2000**
- ◆ Anticipated date of award: **June 1, 2000**

PROPOSAL PREPARATION & SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- ◆ **Proposal Preparation Instructions**
 - Letter of Intent requirements: **None**
 - Preproposal requirements: **None**

- Proposal preparation instructions: **Standard NSF Grant Proposal Guide instructions**
- Supplemental proposal preparation instructions: **See additional notice under proposal preparation.**
- Deviations from standard (GPG) proposal preparation instructions: **No deviation**

◆ **Budgetary Information**

- Cost sharing/matching requirements:

Cost sharing at a level of 30% of total eligible project costs is required for all proposals from Ph.D. granting institutions submitted in response to this announcement. Cost sharing at a level of 15% of the total eligible project costs is required for proposals from non-Ph.D. granting institutions. The proposed cost sharing must be shown on line M on the proposal budget (NSF Form 1030.)

- Indirect cost (F&A) limitations: **In accordance with the Federal Negotiated Rate**
- Other budgetary limitations:

Approximate total IMR award sizes over the past several years have ranged from \$50,000 to \$2,500,000. The median IMR award size in FY 98 and FY 99 was \$111,000 and \$139,000, respectively.

◆ **FastLane Requirements**

- FastLane proposal preparation requirements: **FastLane use required**
- Point of contact: **Maxine E. Jefferson, e-mail: dmrfl@nsf.gov; or Florence I. Rabanal, email: mmsgl@nsf.gov.**

◆ **Deadline/Target Dates:**

- Proposal Deadline: 5:00 PM (submitter's local time), January 3, 2000

PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

- ◆ Merit Review Criteria: **Standard National Science Board approved criteria and additional Review Criteria described in the IMR program announcement**

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

- ◆ Grant Award Conditions: **GC-1 or FDP III**
- ◆ Special grant conditions anticipated: **None anticipated**
- ◆ Special reporting requirements anticipated: **None**

INTRODUCTION

Observation and discovery of new phenomena are at the very heart of our scientific enterprise. The Instrumentation for Materials Research (IMR) program in the Division of Materials Research (DMR) is designed to provide advanced capability for discovery, observation, characterization, fabrication and testing to the nation's scientists and engineers who are endeavoring to conduct research and educational activities in all areas normally supported by DMR. The Division supports a wide range of programs addressing fundamental phenomena in materials, materials synthesis and processing, structure and composition, properties and performance, and materials education. DMR plays a significant role in various NSF-wide interdisciplinary initiatives and programs. Consult the NSF "Guide to Programs," NSF 99-4 (October 1998), www.nsf.gov/pubs/1999/nsf994/nsf994.txt for more information.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The goals of the IMR Program are to support the acquisition or development of research instruments that will provide new capability and/or advance current capability to: (1) discover fundamental phenomena in materials; (2) synthesize, process, and/or characterize the composition, structure, properties, and performance of materials; and (3) improve the quality, expand the scope, and foster and enable the integration of research and education in research-intensive environments.

ELIGIBILITY

Proposals may be submitted by universities in support of individual investigators or small groups. Synergistic collaboration among researchers and collaboration or partnerships with industry or government laboratories is encouraged when appropriate. Only one proposal may be submitted by a Principal Investigator and he/she may collaborate in one other proposal as a co-Investigator. Group and collaborative proposals involving more than one institution must be submitted as a single administrative package from one of the institutions involved. Due to the limited availability of funds, prospective applicants are strongly urged to contact [one of] the program officer[s] listed at the end of this document for guidance.

The IMR program normally considers proposals for single instruments or a single system. If more than one instrument is requested, the proposal *must* indicate their relative priority, and give explanations and scientific justification for each item requested. A proposal listing assorted instruments without a focused research or research training program will not be accepted.

Proposers requesting instruments for multidisciplinary use involving more than one Program or Division within NSF are encouraged to discuss their plans with the appropriate Program Officers prior to submission (see "Other NSF Programs for Research or Educational Instrumentation"). Multidisciplinary instrumentation proposals must only be submitted to one NSF Division, with a cover letter describing the multidisciplinary nature of the proposal. Proposals which are multidisciplinary in nature will be co-reviewed by the appropriate Division(s) within NSF. Proposals submitted to IMR that are under active review elsewhere in the Foundation are considered inappropriate and will not be accepted.

The IMR program accepts proposals submitted in accordance with the general guidelines described in the NSF "Grant Proposal Guide", (GPG) NSF 00-2 (October 1999) www.nsf.gov/pubs/2000/nsf002/nsf002.txt, supporting (a) a single investigator and requesting funds to purchase or develop instruments which have a total cost of more than \$100,000; or (b) a small group and to purchase or develop instruments which have a total cost of more than \$50,000. Proposals to support a small group and to purchase or develop instruments costing less than \$50,000, or to support individual investigators for instruments costing less than \$100,000, will be assigned to the appropriate disciplinary program(s) for review. Because of the high cost and complexity of major instruments, proposals for multi-user instruments are strongly encouraged.

AWARD INFORMATION

Funding for the IMR program is subject to change annually. It is expected that the support for IMR awards in fiscal year 2000 (FY00) will be at about the same level as in FY99. The program awarded \$8.1 million for instrumentation acquisition and development and education and training activities in FY99. Approximate total IMR award sizes over the past several years have ranged from \$50,000 to \$2,500,000. The median IMR award size in FY 98 and FY 99 was \$111,000 and \$139,000, respectively. Typical award durations are one or two years for instrument acquisition, and may be several years for instrument development. Approximately 35 to 40 new awards are made each year, depending on the quality of the competing proposals and available funds.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION & SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions.

Proposals submitted in response to this program announcement should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG), NSF 00-2. The complete text of the GPG (including electronic forms) is available electronically on the NSF Web site at: <<http://www.nsf.gov/>>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone 301.947.2722 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program announcement number (NSF 99 -170) in the program announcement/solicitation block on the NSF Form 1207, "*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.

What to submit: IMR proposals must adhere to the NSF GPG 00-2 guidelines for proposal preparation and submission. Instrumentation and equipment proposals should follow the format of research proposals. Each potential major user should describe the project(s) for which the equipment will be used. These descriptions should be succinct, not necessarily as detailed as in an individual research proposal, and should emphasize the intrinsic merit of the activity and the importance of the equipment to it. A brief summary will suffice for auxiliary users. The Project Summary must include a brief description of the proposed instrument and the new scientific and educational capability it will provide, a statement of the potential impact it will have on the research and education/training of students, and the potential impact it is expected to have on one or more fields of scientific research, education, or infrastructure. **Proposals which do not contain this information, as well as all of the required information listed below will not be accepted.**

You may suggest the names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of six to eight individuals outside the participating institutions, including women and members of underrepresented groups, who have expertise in the proposed activities and are not collaborators, and who could provide an unbiased evaluation if requested to review your proposal. The names of individuals who should *not* be used as reviewers may also be included. Include in this letter list the names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of all collaborators over the past five years, and indicate the nature of the collaboration. This information must be sent via the FastLane System using the "List of Suggested Reviewers" selection within the Proposal Preparation function.

Special attention should be given to the following *required* information which is essential for the review and decision making process.

1. **Title.** The IMR proposal title should be brief and may not include abbreviations. It should begin with "Acquisition of ---," or "Development of ---", and include Education and/or Student Training in the title. For example: ".Acquisition of a Rheometer for Polymer Materials Research and Education". Another example: "Development of an Ultrahigh Resolution Photoemission System for Studies of Quantum Structures and Student Training". The title must not refer to any specific supplier or include model numbers, and must not exceed 15 words.

2. **Project Description.** The Project Description must clearly justify the instrument requested in terms of the scientific research and educational activities that are being proposed. The new measurement capability that the new instrument will provide should be clearly described. Refer to the GPG guidelines for more guidance. The following items are required *as part of the Project Description* (limited to 15 pages):

a. Instrument Development/Construction Projects:

If **development/construction** of a new instrument is proposed, the design must provide sufficient detail for reviewers to assess its feasibility. Reviewers will be asked to comment on the potential impact that the proposed instrument will have on research and the education/training of students. A brief statement of the anticipated impact of the proposed project is required. The following must be provided:

- An analysis of the need and broad applicability of the proposed instrument, including potential uses and users in the field of materials research and education;
- A description of specific initial research plans for the instrument, and plans for long-range future usage;
- Plans for the construction of the instrument;
- A description of preliminary work completed;
- An analysis of potential problems/issues, and proposed solutions;
- An estimated timeline for completion within the requested duration of support;
- A plan to evaluate the performance of the instrument; and
- A description of industrial or national laboratory collaborations or links during the development stages and subsequent to development/construction completion, if appropriate;

b. Instrument Acquisition Projects:

If purchase of a new instrument is proposed, the following information must be provided:

- A technical description of the proposed instrument, including the specific model(s) chosen, in sufficient detail for reviewers to evaluate the essential need and appropriateness of the instrument for the research and educational activities proposed; and a paragraph indicating whether the instrument will be used for new research project(s) or existing research project(s).
- A discussion of the research project(s) and educational activities for which the instrument will be used in sufficient detail for reviewers to evaluate its scientific merit. For multi-user instruments, no more than four or five *major* research projects, (projects utilizing 20% or more of the instrument time) may be described in succinct form, emphasizing the intrinsic scientific and educational merit of the activities and the importance of the equipment to them. A brief summary of all additional projects, i.e., those involving less than 20% of the instrument time, is sufficient.
- In the event the instrumentation proposal is linked to a research proposal under review in any of the disciplinary NSF programs, a clear statement of this link must be made. A summary of the research and educational goals contained in the proposal must be given, as well as the complementarity of the proposals. However, it is not necessary to duplicate the scientific sections of the research proposal in the instrumentation proposal.
- If the instrument is to be used for existing research projects, a discussion of the new capability the proposed instrument will provide, and how the new instrument will significantly impact the project(s) must be given. If comparable equipment to that requested is already at the proposing institutions, or if replacement of existing equipment is requested, rationale must be provided. This includes comparable government-owned equipment that is on-site.
- Plans for implementing the proposed research and educational activities.

3. The following items must be included following the Project Description as indicated by GPG:
 - A. **Biographical sketches.** Required for all senior personnel involved (maximum of five) with the project, major users, and technical personnel responsible for instrument development and/or major instrument operation and maintenance.
 - B. **Budget page and budget justification.** As required by Proposal Section F of the GPG, the budget sheet (NSF Form 1030) must include the *total cost* of the proposed project or instrument, the itemized cost of each instrument component, and the proposed level of cost-sharing from *all* non-Federal sources. A full budget justification is required, according to the guidelines in the GPG.
 - C. **Maintenance, Operation, and Use Plans.** A description of the operational plans for the maintenance, operation, and shared use of the instrument is required, including: (i) biographical sketch of the person(s) who will have overall responsibility for maintenance and operation, and a brief statement of qualifications; (ii) description of the physical facility, including floor plans and other appropriate information, where the equipment will be located; (iii) annual budget for operation and maintenance of the proposed equipment, specifying source(s) of funds; (iv) plans for the allocation of time on the instrument and the criteria used for allocation; (v) an estimate of the fraction of time the instrument will be used by the various local and other potential users must be indicated; and (vi) a detailed plan of how use charges will be assessed (if applicable).

B. Budgetary Information

Cost Sharing Requirements.

NSF-required cost sharing is considered an eligibility rather than review criterion (See NSF Important Notice No. 124, June 11, 1999). For Ph.D. granting institutions cost sharing of at least 30% of the total instrument acquisition or development costs is required. The required cost sharing for non-Ph.D. granting institutions is at least 15% of the total instrument acquisition or development costs. Personnel, materials, supplies and shop costs may be requested for instrument development and construction projects and will be considered for support if appropriate for the project and documented in the proposal. Requests for personnel support must be justified: the proposal must include a description of the responsibilities of all personnel on the budget, and a clearly articulated rationale for the funds requested. The budget justification must include a timeline if salaries are requested for more than one year. The proposed cost sharing must be shown on line M on the proposal budget (NSF Form 1030.)

The amount of cost sharing must be shown in the proposal in enough detail to allow NSF to determine its impact on the proposed project. Documentation of availability of cost sharing must be included in the proposal.

Only items which would be allowable under the applicable cost principles, if charged to the project, may be included as the grantee's contribution to cost sharing. Contributions may be made from any non-Federal source, including non-Federal grants or contracts, and may be cash or in-kind (see OMB Circular A-110, Section 23). It should be noted that contributions counted as cost-sharing toward projects of another Federal agency may not be counted towards meeting the specific cost-sharing requirements of the NSF grant.

All cost-sharing amounts are subject to audit. Failure to provide the level of cost-sharing reflected in the approved grant budget may result in termination of the NSF grant, disallowance of grant costs and/or refund of grant funds to NSF.

C. Proposal Due Dates.

Proposals must be submitted via NSF FastLane.

When to submit: The deadline for FastLane submission of IMR proposals **in fiscal year 2000 is 5:00 PM (submitter's local time) January 3, 2000.** Proposals received later will not be reviewed. The signed proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207) should be forwarded to the following address and received by NSF by January 10, 2000:

National Science Foundation
DIS-FastLane Cover Sheet
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230

D. FastLane Requirements.

Proposals must be submitted via NSF FastLane. Detailed instructions for proposal preparation and submission via FastLane are available at <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>. Additional questions concerning FastLane should be sent via e-mail to DMR FastLane at dmrfl@nsf.gov.

Submission of Signed Cover Sheets. The signed paper copy of the proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207) should be forwarded to NSF within five working days following proposal submission in accordance with FastLane proposal preparation and submission instructions referenced above.

PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Merit Review Criteria.

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.

Proposals will be reviewed against the following general merit review criteria established by the National Science Board. Following each criterion are potential considerations that the reviewer may employ in the evaluation. These are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. Each reviewer will be asked to address only those that are relevant to the proposal 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 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?

PIs should address the following elements in their proposal to provide reviewers with the information necessary to respond fully to both NSF merit review criteria. NSF staff will give these factors careful consideration 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 learner 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 -- are 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

The following additional criteria will be used in the evaluation of IMR proposals:

1. *Essential need for the instrument.* The utility, impact or potential impact that the instrument will have on the proposed research and/or training/educational activities, or on a field of research.
2. *Impact on Infrastructure.* How the instrument will contribute to broader long-range goals of the institution, fields of science, and education.
3. *The ability of the applicants to operate and maintain the instrument.* Evaluation of the qualifications of the person(s) responsible for the instrument, allocation of time on the instrument, and provisions for operation and long-term maintenance of the instrument over its expected lifetime.
4. *Appropriateness of development plans.* For instrument development/construction, an assessment of feasibility, costs and schedule for completion, and plans for integration and use of the instrument in the research and educational activities described subsequent to the completion of the development/construction phase.
5. *Relevance to research and education.* The relevance of the proposed instrumentation to the research and educational activities, and potential toward achieving national goals of strategic importance.

The impact on all sectors of materials research community. For instrument development proposals, the expected impact on all sectors of the materials research community and potential for enhancing linkages between sectors.

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 will be evaluated on the basis of merit review by experts in the research and educational community by appropriate mechanisms, which may include ad *hoc* mail review, panel review, or a combination of mail and panel review

Reviewers will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. A program officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation. NSF will be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months for 95 percent of proposals. The time interval begins on the proposal deadline or target date or from the date of receipt, if deadlines or target dates are not used by the program. 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 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 an 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 Officer does so at its own risk.

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 (DGA). 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.

Grants awarded as a result of this announcement will be administered in accordance with the terms and conditions of NSF GC-1 (October 1998), Grant General Conditions or FDP-III (7/1/97), Federal Demonstration Partnership General Terms and Conditions. Copies of these documents are available on <http://www.nsf.gov> under "Grants and Awards."

B. Grant Award Conditions.

An NSF grant consists of: (1) the award letter, which includes any special provisions applicable to the grant 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 grant conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (NSF GC-1)* or Federal Demonstration Partnership Phase III (FDP) Terms and Conditions* and (5) any NSF brochure, program guide, announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Electronic mail notification is the preferred way to transmit NSF grants 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 Web site at: <<http://www.nsf.gov/>>. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone 301.947.2722 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, (NSF 95-26) available electronically on the NSF Web site. The GPM also is available in paper copy by

subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The GPM may be ordered through the GPO Web site at: <<http://www.gpo.gov>>. The telephone number at GPO for subscription information is 202.512.1800.

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 expiration of a grant, the PI also is required to submit a final project report. Approximately 30 days before expiration, NSF will send a notice to remind the PI of the requirement to file the final project report. Failure to provide final technical reports delays NSF review and processing of pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

NSF has implemented a new electronic project reporting system, available through FastLane, which 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. Reports will continue to be required annually and after the expiration of the grant, but PIs will not need to re-enter information previously provided, either with the proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system.

Effective October 1, 1999, PIs are required to use the new reporting system for submission of annual and final project reports.

D. New Awardee Information.

If the submitting organization has never received an NSF award, it is recommended that the organization's appropriate administrative officials become familiar with the policies and procedures in the NSF *Grant Policy Manual* which are applicable to most NSF awards. The "Prospective New Awardee Guide" (NSF 99-78) includes information on: Administrative and Management Information; Accounting System Requirements and Auditing Information; and Payments to Organizations with NSF Awards. This information will assist an organization in preparing documents that NSF requires to conduct administrative and financial reviews of an organization. The guide also serves as a means of highlighting the accountability requirements associated with Federal awards. This document is available electronically on NSF's Web site at: <<http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf9978>>.

CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Inquiries about the Instrumentation for Materials Research Program should be made to Guebre X. Tessema, e-mail: gtessema@nsf.gov. FastLane contact personnel are: Maxine E. Jefferson, e-mail: dmrfl@nsf.gov; or Florence I. Rabanal, e-mail: mpsfl@nsf.gov.

OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The NSF Guide to Programs is a compilation of funding for research and education in science, mathematics, and engineering. General descriptions of NSF programs, research areas, and eligibility information for proposal submission are provided in each chapter. Many NSF programs offer announcements concerning specific proposal requirements. To obtain additional information about these requirements, contact the appropriate NSF program offices listed in Appendix A of the GPG. Any changes in NSF's fiscal year programs occurring after press time for the Guide to Programs will be announced in the NSF Bulletin, available monthly (except July and August), and in individual program announcements. The Bulletin is available electronically via the NSF Web Site at <http://www.nsf.gov>. The direct URL for recent issues of the Bulletin is <http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/news/publicat/bulletin/bulletin.htm> Subscribers can also sign up for NSF's Custom News Service to find out what funding opportunities are available.

OTHER NSF PROGRAMS FOR RESEARCH OR EDUCATIONAL INSTRUMENTATION

Related NSF programs for research instrumentation and instrument development are listed below. In NSF divisions that have no separate instrumentation program, needs are provided for in regular research grant programs.

- NSF 98-10 Chemistry Research Instrumentation and Facilities
- NSF 98-16 Major Research Instrumentation
- NSF 98-54 Small Business Innovation Research
- NSF 98-153 Small Business Technology Transfer
- NSF 97-29* Instrumentation and Laboratory Improvement
- NSF 97-146* Computer Information Science & Engineering Research Infrastructure
- NSF 96-11* Improvements in Facilities, Communications, and Equipment at Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories
- NSF 96-50 Earth Sciences Instrumentation and Facilities
- NSF 96-90* Instrument Development for Biological Research
- NSF 96-91* Multi-User Biological Equipment and Instrumentation Resources
- NSF 96-113* Instrumentation Grants for Research in Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering
- NSF 95-13 Social, Behavioral, and Economic Science Instrumentation

* Only available electronically

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Grantees 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 (unless otherwise specified in the eligibility requirements for a particular program).

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) 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 program announcement or contact the program coordinator at (703) 306-1636.

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 regarding NSF programs, employment, or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 306-0090 or through FIRS on 1-800-877-8339.

We want all of our communications to be clear and understandable. If you have suggestions on how we can improve this document or other NSF publications, please email us at plainlanguage@nsf.gov.

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 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.

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: Reports Clearance Officer; Information Dissemination Branch, DAS; National Science Foundation; Arlington, VA 22230.

YEAR 2000 REMINDER

In accordance with Important Notice No. 120 dated June 27, 1997, Subject: Year 2000 Computer Problem, NSF awardees are reminded of their responsibility to take appropriate actions to ensure that the NSF activity being supported is not adversely affected by the Year 2000 problem. Potentially affected items include: computer systems, databases, and equipment. The National Science Foundation should be notified if an awardee concludes that the Year 2000 will have a significant impact on its ability to carry out an NSF funded activity. Information concerning Year 2000 activities can be found on the NSF web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/oirm/y2k/start.htm>.

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