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Partnerships for Innovation (PFI)

Program Solicitation

NSF-02-060

DIRECTORATE FOR EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES
DIRECTORATE FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
DIRECTORATE FOR COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING
DIRECTORATE FOR GEOSCIENCES
DIRECTORATE FOR MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DIRECTORATE FOR SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES
OFFICE OF POLAR PROGRAMS

LETTER OF INTENT DUE DATE(S) (*optional*): March 14, 2002

FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE(S): May 7, 2002

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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- **For General Information (NSF Information Center):** (703) 292-5111
- **TDD (for the hearing-impaired):** (703) 292-5090
- **To Order Publications or Forms:**

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

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Title: Partnerships for Innovation (PFI)

Synopsis of Program: The goals of the Partnerships for Innovation Program are to: 1) stimulate the transformation of knowledge created by the national research and education enterprise into innovations that create new wealth, build strong local, regional and national economies and improve the national well-being; 2) broaden the participation of all types of academic institutions and all citizens in NSF activities to more fully meet the broad workforce needs of the national innovation enterprise; and 3) catalyze or enhance enabling infrastructure necessary to foster and sustain innovation in the long-term. To develop a set of ideas for pursuing these goals, this competition will support 15-25 promising partnerships among academe, state/local/federal government and the private sector that will explore new approaches to support and sustain innovation.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- John Hurt, Partnerships for Innovation Program, Program Director, Education and Human Resources, Room 815, telephone: (703)292-5332, e-mail: jhurt@nsf.gov.

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

- 47.074 --- Biological Sciences
- 47.070 --- Computer and Information Science and Engineering
- 47.076 --- Education and Human Resources
- 47.041 --- Engineering
- 47.050 --- Geosciences
- 47.049 --- Mathematical and Physical Sciences
- 47.078 --- Office of Polar Programs
- 47.075 --- Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- **Organization Limit:**

    - **Limitation on the categories of organizations that are eligible to submit proposals:** Proposals may be submitted by degree-granting academic institutions of higher learning. A Partnership proposal must be submitted as a single administrative package by the lead institution. The submitting institution must serve as the lead institution or partner in the proposed Partnership, that is, as the institution responsible for overall management of the Partnership activity with administrative responsibility for the proposed effort. Partners may include, but are not limited to, other academic institutions, not-for-profit institutions, private sector firms, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, state and local government entities, trade and professional associations, and Federal laboratories. At a minimum, proposed Partnerships must include academic institutions and private sector organizations. Partnerships that include state/local government entities are strongly encouraged.

- **PI Eligibility Limit:**

  A senior institutional administrator (Dean or higher) in the lead institution must serve as Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator.

- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** Degree-granting academic institutions of learning may participate in no more than two Partnership proposals. Such institutions may submit only one Partnership proposal as the lead institution.

AWARD INFORMATION

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard Grant

- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 15-25 (up to $600K for award durations of two or three years)

- **Anticipated Funding Amount:** Approximately $9.0 million (pending availability of funds) will be available for this FY 2002 competition.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Letters of Intent:** Submission of Letters of Intent is optional. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

- **Full Proposals:** Deviations From Standard Preparation Guidelines
    - The program announcement/solicitation contains deviations from the standard Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) proposal preparation guidelines. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is required (Percentage).
- **Cost Sharing Level/Amount:** 10%
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** Not Applicable.
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Other budgetary limitations apply. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

C. Deadline/Target Dates

- **Letters of Intent (*optional*):** March 14, 2002
- **Preliminary Proposals (*optional*):** None
- **Full Proposal Deadline Date(s):** May 7, 2002

D. FastLane Requirements

- **FastLane Submission:** Required
- **FastLane Contact(s):**
    - Office of Integrative Activities, Room 1270, telephone: (703)292-8040, e-mail: pfifl@nsf.gov.

PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

- **Merit Review Criteria:** National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review considerations apply. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

- **Award Conditions:** Standard NSF award conditions apply.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Standard NSF reporting requirements apply.

I. INTRODUCTION

Innovation in science and technology has been the dominant source of productivity gains and new enterprises in the U.S. economy over the last fifty years, accounting for as much as fifty percent of U.S. economic growth. The transformation of scientific and technological advances into new products, processes, systems and services has created astonishing, tangible benefits to society, including improved healthcare, transportation and computer-communications capacities. Much of the capacity for innovation in the U.S. has resulted from Federal funding of research. For 50 years, NSF has enabled innovation through its support of discovery and the production of a scientifically and technologically knowledgeable workforce second to none. More recently, NSF has established centers and developed other programs that facilitate knowledge and technology transfer to the private sector. Since businesses and industries today are more dependent on research and technology advances and since the product development cycle in all industry sectors is more rapid than before, NSF's traditional roles are more proximate and relevant to economic development than at any time in our past.

In the Partnerships for Innovation program NSF seeks to stimulate and capitalize on innovation by catalyzing partnerships among colleges and universities, state and local governments, the private sector and other relevant organizations. Key factors in the innovation enterprise include creation of and access to new knowledge; a scientifically and technologically literate workforce prepared to capitalize on new knowledge; and an infrastructure that enables innovation. For the purposes of this program, innovation explicitly extends both to developing the people and tools and to creating the necessary organizational conditions to foster the transformation of knowledge into the products, processes, systems and services that fuel economic development, create wealth and generate improvements in the national standard of living. The academic institutions that are NSF's traditional clientele play an essential role in generating new knowledge and creating a scientifically and technologically literate workforce.

Partnerships are an important means for developing an innovation capability that links new knowledge and a knowledge-rich workforce to economic growth and other societal benefits. Partnerships involving various combinations of colleges and universities, private sector firms, and local, state, and federal government, have the potential to increase the value of each of the partners' portfolios, and to mobilize innovation in a systemic manner. For example, private sector firms gain access to new knowledge and a workforce that can capitalize on it; academe gains financial support, the ability to capitalize on intellectual property, and access to real-world problems for field training; and local and state governments gain sustainable regional and local economic development activities. The innovation process is facilitated by students moving into the workplace as the ultimate knowledge transfer mechanism.

Some of the nation's colleges and universities have a long tradition of active research and education programs and strong connections to the private sector, and many have offices responsible for enabling knowledge transfer and stimulating the growth of new businesses. However, few academic institutions have all of the necessary capacity to provide the infrastructure to foster innovation. Institutions that have not participated as actively in Federal R&D programs may not have capabilities and infrastructure that are as finely honed.

Likewise, many states have taken action to develop programs that facilitate innovation. Colleges and universities in some states have access to an infrastructure that allows them to tie their research emphases to areas the state regards as important. This infrastructure enables innovation at the state and local level where innovation generally happens; at the same time it enhances the institutions' ability to conduct research. States without this infrastructure may find it more difficult to take full advantage of opportunities for innovation.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Partnerships for Innovation program is intended to forge connections between new knowledge created in the discovery process to learning and innovation, while broadening the participation of people and institutions in NSF activities. For the purposes of this program innovation is defined as the transformation of knowledge into the products, processes, systems and services that fuel economic development, create wealth and generate improvements in the national standard of living. The goals of the program are to:

- Stimulate the transformation of knowledge created by the national research and education enterprise into innovations that create new wealth, build strong local, regional and national economies and improve the national well-being;

- Broaden the participation of all types of academic institutions and all citizens in NSF activities to more fully meet the broad workforce needs of the national innovation enterprise; and

- Catalyze or enhance enabling infrastructure necessary to foster and sustain innovation in the long-term.

Appropriate activities for projects in the program might include the planning and/or implementation of new models for innovation that connect scientific and technological discovery to use through knowledge transfer; education and training activities that explicitly address the workforce needs of the innovation enterprise; and the development and deployment of new tools or mechanisms that support the innovation infrastructure. They may focus on creating a critical level of innovation activity in a technology area, an industry sector, or a geographical region.

In all Partnerships, NSF seeks to optimize the participation of the private sector to foster innovation-driven growth per se, as well as to ensure appropriate workforce development activities. Since innovation occurs first as a localized phenomenon, Partnerships involving regional, state or local governments are strongly encouraged. At a minimum, proposed Partnerships must include academic institutions and private sector organizations. Partnerships that also include state/local government entities are strongly encouraged. The outcomes for proposed activities should foster economic and/or societal well-being that can be self-sustaining in the long term.

Since innovation is critically dependent upon a diverse workforce poised to innovate, Partnerships led by and involving academic institutions of all types are essential for the program's success. The participation of institutions that serve groups currently underrepresented in the science, engineering and technological workforce, as well as those institutions that serve regions and or sectors not yet fully participating in the innovation enterprise, is strongly encouraged. NSF seeks to enhance the roles such institutions play in contributing to and participating in innovation.

Partnerships for Innovation may:

- Capitalize upon the shared interests of regional academic institutions, local and state governments and the private sector to contribute to the innovation enterprise;
- Enable small- and medium-sized businesses to utilize the resources and capabilities of academic institutions;
- Promote and enable innovation by increasing the scientific and technological capabilities of the workforce;
- Strengthen the capabilities of all academic institutions to contribute to the innovation process;
- Enable technological innovation through the synergistic development, integration and transfer of new knowledge; and
- Create and validate new generalized models that integrate research and education capacity to create a critical level of technological innovation in a state or a region.

This competition will support the planning and early implementation of new activities designed to support and sustain innovation in the long-term. Through a diverse set of awards, NSF seeks to identify best practices for enabling innovation that in the future might be replicated on a national scale. NSF will make 15-25 awards totaling $9 million in FY 2002. Proposed Partnerships may request from NSF total budgets up to $600,000 for award durations of two or three years. A complete list of FY 2001 partners, with project descriptions is available at: http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/pfi/

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Proposing Partnerships: Each proposed Partnership must designate a lead organization; the lead organization must be a degree-granting academic institution of higher learning. Partners may include, but are not limited to, not-for-profit institutions, private sector firms, state and local government entities, trade and professional associations, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and Federal laboratories. At a minimum, proposed Partnerships must include academic institutions and private sector organizations. Partnerships that include state/local government entities are strongly encouraged. A Partnership proposal must be submitted as a single administrative package by the lead institution, which is responsible for overall management of the Partnership activity and has administrative responsibility for the proposed effort.

PI Eligibility Limit: A senior institutional administrator (Dean or higher) in the lead institution must serve as Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator.

Limit on Number of Proposals: Degree-granting academic institutions of higher learning may participate in no more than two Partnership proposals. Such institutions may submit only one Partnership proposal as the lead institution.

Budget Limitations : Proposed Partnerships may request from NSF, total budgets up to $600,000 for award durations of two or three years. Proposals requesting budgets outside this range will be ineligible and will be returned without review.

Cost Sharing: For eligibility purposes, cost sharing is required at a level of 10% of the requested NSF budget. Cost sharing is defined in OMB Circular A-110, Section 23, and may be cash or in-kind. This cost sharing must be shown on line M of the budget. Contributions may be made from any non-Federal source, including non-Federal grants or contracts, and may be cash or in kind.

IV. AWARD INFORMATION

NSF will make 15-25 awards totaling approximately $9.0 million. Proposed Partnerships may request from NSF total budgets up to $600,000 for award durations of two or three years. It is anticipated that award decisions will be publicly announced by October 2002.

V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Letters of Intent:

The Principal Investigator at the lead institution representing a Partnership intending to submit a proposal is encouraged to submit a notice of intent via email ONLY to: jhurt@nsf.gov by March 14, 2002. The notice should briefly describe the proposed activity, the organizations and senior personnel involved in the Partnership; this description must not exceed 300 words. The notice of intent allows NSF to prepare for the review process. **The notice of intent is not mandatory and is non-binding.**

Full Proposal:

Proposals submitted in response to this program announcement/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 Web Site at: http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpg. 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.

Proposal Content

Partnerships for Innovation proposals must include the following information:

1. Information about Principal Investigators/Project Directors (NSF Form 1225): FastLane automatically generates this form. (Note, NSF limits the number of Principal Investigators to one PI and four co-PIs. Additional Partner personnel can be listed as Senior Personnel in the Project Description. Senior Personnel must provide biographical sketches and list current and pending support.)

2. Project Summary (one-page limit): Provide the title of the proposed Partnership for Innovation and the name of the PI. Identify the lead institution as well as other partner organizations vital to the success of the Partnership. Provide a summary of the proposed Partnership including its rationale, vision, distinguishing features and proposed activities to enable innovation. Where appropriate the summary should include statements describing potential economic and societal impact.

3. Table of Contents (NSF Form 1359 cannot be edited and is automatically generated by FastLane)

The Project Description must contain the following sections, incorporating items (4) through (8)

4. Narrative Description (eight-page limit): The narrative must describe how the proposed activity will contribute toward realization of the goals of the Partnerships for Innovation program, especially the activities that stimulate and foster economic and/or societal well-being. It must also describe the Partnership's rationale, goals, and implementation plan to assure long-term sustainability. Clearly describe how all partner organizations are necessary to the innovation goals of the Partnership. A description of any related activities by the proposer or others, both historical and current, that are similar to those being proposed and an indication of success of various similar approaches should be provided. This section should provide an indication of knowledge of the published literature on innovation, industry-academe-government partnerships as well as similar activities in the field by others. Proposals based on existing Partnerships must describe how the proposed effort will add value, change or enhance ongoing activities.

5. Management Plan (three-page limit): Describe the respective roles and responsibilities of each partner organization, the resources each partner will bring to the Partnership, and how the partners will work together to realize the proposed goals.

6. Innovation Outcomes (three-page limit): Describe plans to monitor and assess progress toward realizing the goals of the Partnerships for Innovation program and related outcomes that foster innovation.

7. Lists of Partnership Organizations and Personnel (two-page limit): Provide a list of Partnership organizations subdivided into the following categories: academic institutions, national laboratories, state and local governments, private sector organizations and others. In each category, list participating organizations alphabetically. Provide a list of each organization's senior personnel participating in the Partnership. First, subdivide the Partnership organizations into the categories listed above. For each organization, list alphabetically, senior personnel participating in the Partnership. For personnel representing academic institutions, include the department(s) and/or school(s) with which the person is associated.

8. Intellectual Property Rights (one-page limit): Provide a concise statement on the proposed Partnership's policies on Intellectual Property Rights. The Partnership policies must be consistent with the NSF policy found in section 730 of the NSF Grant Policy Manual (NSF 95-26).

9. Optional - List of Suggested Reviewers (one-page limit): Provide a list of appropriate or inappropriate reviewers for the proposed Partnership for Innovation (use Fastlane module).

10. Budget and Budget Justification: Provide a budget (NSF Form 1030) for each of the years for which NSF support is requested (FastLane will automatically fill out a cumulative budget for your proposal).
11. Submit a separate budget in FastLane for each participating partner (hard copy signed budgets will be required only for those being recommended for award and will be requested prior to the award recommendation). Identify items of equipment costing more than $10,000; full justification for such equipment must be provided. A budget justification (three-page limit) must be provided.
12. Cost sharing at a level of 10% of the requested NSF support is required for all proposals submitted. This cost sharing must be shown on line M of the budget. Cost sharing is defined in OMB Circular A-110, Section 23, and may be cash or in-kind. Proposals without the mandated amount of cost sharing will be ineligible and will be returned without review.
13. NSF will not provide salary support for personnel employed by Federal agencies or Federally Funded Research and Development Centers.
14. References Cited: Section not to exceed two pages.
15. Biographical Sketches (two-page limit per person): For the PI, Co-Principal Investigator and other Senior Personnel, provide a brief biographical sketch or curriculum vitae.
16. Current and Pending Support (NSF Form 1239). Provide a complete listing of current and pending support (where applicable) for the Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigators and other Senior Personnel.
17. Facilities and Equipment (NSF Form 1363) if applicable.
18. Partner Commitment: A list of partner organizations and their respective commitments to the proposed Partnership must be provided. In addition, letters of commitment signed by the appropriate institutional representative should be scanned into the supplementary document ("Supplementary Docs" module in Fastlane) section of the FastLane submission. Hard copies should NOT be mailed to NSF.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program solicitation number (NSF-02-060) in the program announcement/solicitation block on the proposal Cover Sheet. Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.

B. Budgetary Information

Cost sharing at a level of 10% percent of the requested total amount of NSF funds is required for all proposals submitted in response to this solicitation. The proposed cost sharing must be shown on Line M on the proposal budget. Documentation of the 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 in the awardee'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 award. All cost sharing amounts are subject to audit. Failure to provide the level of cost sharing reflected in the approved award budget may result in termination of the NSF award, disallowance of award costs and/or refund of award funds to NSF.

Other Budgetary Limitations:

Budget Limitations: Proposed Partnerships may request from NSF, total budgets up to $600,000 for award durations of two or three years. Proposals requesting budgets outside this range will be ineligible and will be returned without review.

Travel: Cost for travel for the PI for one trip to Washington DC per year to report on progress or participate in workshops should be included in the requested budget.

C. Deadline/Target Dates

Proposals must be submitted by the following date(s):

Letters of Intent (*optional*): March 14, 2002
Full Proposals *by 5:00 PM local time*: May 7, 2002

D. FastLane Requirements

Proposers are required to prepare and submit all proposals for this Program Solicitation through the FastLane system. Detailed instructions for proposal preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm. For FastLane user support, call 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail fastlane@nsf.gov.

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 certifications within five working days following the electronic submission of the proposal. Further instructions regarding this process are available on the FastLane website at: http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov.

VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. NSF Proposal Review Process

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.

The two 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 he/she 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

- Responsiveness of the proposal to the goals of the Partnerships for Innovation program;
- The degree to which the proposed activity will stimulate new innovation opportunities for the partner organizations;
- The potential impact of the proposed innovation activities on the economic and/or societal well-being of the region,

- Potential of the proposed Partnership to foster and sustain innovation in the long-term;

- The degree to which the participation of institutions that serve groups currently underrepresented in the science, engineering and technological workforce are involved in the proposed innovation activity; and,

- The degree to which institutions that serve regions and/or sectors not yet fully participating in the innovation enterprise contribute to the proposed activities.

In making the final award decisions, NSF will also consider:

- Geographic distribution and diversity of lead institutions;

- Likely distribution of societal impacts; and

- Distribution of technology or industry sectors served.

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 identities of reviewers, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Director. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

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/solicitation will be reviewed by panels, three members of which will provide written reviews.

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.

In most cases, proposers will be contacted by the Program Officer after his or her recommendation to award or decline funding has been approved by the Division Director. This informal notification is not a guarantee of an eventual 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 closing date of an announcement/solicitation or the date of proposal receipt (whichever is later). 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 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 one's 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 Division 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.A. 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 (NSF-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 agreement awards also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions (CA-1). Electronic mail notification is the preferred way to transmit NSF awards 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/home/grants/grants_gac.htm. 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, available electronically on the NSF Web site at http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpm. The GPM is also for sale through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC 20402. The telephone number at GPO for subscription information is (202) 512-1800. The GPM may be ordered through the GPO Web site at http://www.gpo.gov.

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 the expiration of an award, 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 an electronic project reporting system, available through FastLane. This system 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. PIs will not be required to re-enter information previously provided, either with a proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system.

VIII. CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General inquiries regarding Partnerships for Innovation should be made to:

- John Hurt, Partnerships for Innovation Program, Program Director, Education and Human Resources, Room 815, telephone: (703)292-5332, e-mail: jhurt@nsf.gov.

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- Office of Integrative Activities, Room 1270, telephone: (703)292-8040, e-mail: pfifl@nsf.gov.

IX. OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The NSF *Guide to Programs* is a compilation of funding for research and education in science, mathematics, and engineering. The NSF *Guide to Programs* is available electronically at http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gp. General descriptions of NSF programs, research areas, and eligibility information for proposal submission are provided in each chapter.

Many NSF programs offer announcements or solicitations concerning specific proposal requirements. To obtain additional information about these requirements, contact the appropriate NSF program offices. Any changes in NSF's fiscal year programs occurring after press time for the *Guide to Programs* will be announced in the NSF E-Bulletin, which is updated daily on the NSF web site at http://www.nsf.gov/home/ebulletin, and in individual program announcements/solicitations. Subscribers can also sign up for NSF's Custom News Service (http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/start.htm) to be notified of new funding opportunities that become available.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Awardees 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 (FASED) 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/solicitation for further information.

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, FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.

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PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

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