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Earth Sciences: Instrumentation and Facilities (EAR/IF)

Program Solicitation

NSF 04-507

Replaces Document 96-50



National Science Foundation

Directorate for Geosciences

Division of Earth Sciences

Full Proposal Target Date(s):

January 16, yearly

All proposals except equipment acquisition and instrument and technique development

July 16, yearly

All proposals

REVISIONS AND UPDATES

This program solicitation is specific to the Division of Earth Sciences' Instrumentation and Facilities Program and supercedes [NSF 96-50](#). Major changes include: 1) cost-sharing is no longer a review criterion; it is required and is specified in Section V. B, "Budgetary Information," below; and 2) equipment acquisition and instrument and technique development proposals will now only be accepted once each year for the July 16 target date; all other proposals including facility support and technician support proposals may be submitted to either target date.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:

Earth Sciences: Instrumentation and Facilities (EAR/IF)

Synopsis of Program:

The Instrumentation and Facilities Program (IF) in the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) supports acquisition, development, and access to analytical instrumentation required to foster research and research training in the Earth sciences by U.S. academic and research scientists. EAR/IF will support meritorious requests within and across a broad range of fields in the Earth sciences including but not necessarily limited to: biogeoscience, geology, geochemistry, geodesy, geodynamics, geomorphology, geophysics, hydrology, limnology, mineral physics, mineralogy, paleorecords research, paleontology, petrology, remote sensing,

sedimentology, seismology, stratigraphy, structural geology, tectonics and volcanology. The program will consider proposals for: (1) the acquisition or modernization of research equipment, (2) the development of new instrumentation, analytical techniques and/or software that extend current research capabilities in the Earth sciences, (3) the support of shared facilities that make complex and expensive instrument systems available on a national or regional basis, and (4) the support of research technicians.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- David Lambert, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8558, email: dlambert@nsf.gov
- Russell C. Kelz, Associate Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8558, fax: (703) 292-9025, email: rkelz@nsf.gov

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

- 47.050 --- Geosciences

Eligibility Information

- **Organization Limit:** None Specified.
- **PI Eligibility Limit:** None Specified.
- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** None Specified.

Award Information

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard or Continuing Grant or Cooperative Agreement
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 50 to 60 - combination of standard and continuing grants and possibly cooperative agreements
- **Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$7,000,000 in new awards annually

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Full Proposal Preparation Instructions:** This solicitation contains information that supplements the standard Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) proposal preparation guidelines. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is Specialized. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** Not Applicable.
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Not Applicable.

C. Due Dates

- **Full Proposal Target Date(s):**
 - January 16, yearly
All proposals except equipment acquisition and instrument and technique development
 - July 16, yearly
All proposals

Proposal Review Information

- **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

The Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) supports research and education focused on understanding Earth dynamics. Deciphering the complex record of the planet's past or investigating the forces actively changing it today, EAR's research portfolio centers on the earth's interior and terrestrial surface, including freshwater systems and interactions with the biosphere and atmosphere. Support is available for field, laboratory, and theoretical studies in any discipline of earth science including geology, geobiology, geophysics, geochemistry, geodesy, geolimnology, geomorphology, economic geology, environmental science, hydrology, paleontology, petrology, sedimentology, seismology, stratigraphy, structural geology, tectonics, and volcanology. Given the complexity of earth systems, multidisciplinary research is strongly encouraged and supported.

The Instrumentation and Facilities (IF) Program in the Division of Earth Sciences supports acquisition, development, and access to analytical instrumentation required to foster research and research training in the Earth sciences by U.S. academic and research scientists.

Investigators interested in historical EAR/IF awards and in learning more about supported multi-user facilities are encouraged to browse the EAR/IF homepage at:
<http://www.geo.nsf.gov/ear/if/facil.htm>

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Instrumentation and Facilities Program supports meritorious requests within and across a broad range of fields in the Earth sciences. The program will consider proposals for: (1) the acquisition or modernization of research equipment, (2) the development of new instrumentation, analytical techniques and/or software that extend current research capabilities in the Earth sciences, (3) the support of shared facilities that make complex and expensive instrument systems available on a national or regional basis, and (4) the support of research technicians.

IF support is intended foremost to support analytical tools necessary to carry out NSF/EAR-funded research. However, EAR/IF support is not limited only to investigators with current NSF/EAR research support. Planned research uses of requested instruments must include programs focused on basic research in the solid-Earth sciences.

Equipment needs that can be demonstrably linked to the conduct of a specific research project being proposed to NSF/EAR can and should be included within the budget of the related research proposal. In general, equipment requests on proposals submitted to NSF/EAR research programs should not exceed a total of \$50,000. However, a dispensation from this ceiling can be granted in certain circumstances. Permission to exceed the \$50,000 ceiling for equipment budgets on NSF/EAR research proposals must be obtained from the EAR/IF Program in writing prior to submission and evidence of that permission must be included in the supplementary documents section of the research proposal.

There is no upper budgetary limit on proposals submitted directly to EAR/IF. However, investigators who wish to request in excess of \$500,000 must contact the Program Directors before submission.

Acquisition or Modernization of Research Equipment

The IF Program accepts proposals for the acquisition of new research equipment or the modernization of existing equipment; such proposals should only be submitted for the July 16 target date. However, the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program maintains a January target date each year and the goals and design of the MRI Program complement those of the EAR/IF Program. Investigators are encouraged to examine the MRI solicitation (<http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/solicitations/start.htm>).

As analytical instrumentation and computational equipment often serves a broad range of scientific

disciplines, documentation of any planned interdisciplinary uses of requested equipment is encouraged. However, the Program reserves the right to determine the level of financial support deemed appropriate for awards made through the IF Program, and may seek to partner with other appropriate NSF programs or other agencies.

The IF Program considers the ability of institutions to operate and provide technical support for complex equipment during its expected lifetime a review criterion. Management plans for access and anticipated user fees, if any, should be included in relevant proposals.

Development of New Instrumentation or Analytical Techniques

The IF Program accepts proposals for the development of new instrumentation, analytical techniques and/or software that extend current research capabilities in the Earth sciences; such proposals should only be submitted for the July 16 target date. However, the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program maintains a January target date each year and the goals and design of the MRI program complement those of the EAR/IF program. Investigators are encouraged to examine the MRI solicitation (<http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/solicitations/start.htm>).

Investigators seeking to develop new techniques, analytical capabilities or software should demonstrate that a community of geoscientists is actively interested in the new capability and how development designs or software will be made freely available to the broader scientific community. While IF will consider support of development projects that are collaborative between academic and industrial partners, the Program normally does not support purely commercial development of instrumentation or capabilities.

Support of Shared Facilities

Investigators seeking to establish or continue support of national, multi-user facilities are encouraged to contact Program Directors prior to submission. In general, facility support is reserved for groups that seek to offer expensive or specialized analytical or field equipment and services to the broader geosciences community. Typically, the Program looks for specialized leadership capabilities, the availability of adequate and appropriate supporting infrastructure and personnel, and documentation that such capabilities are not otherwise available or suitable for academic research and student training and are desired by a significant community of geoscientists.

Support of Research Technicians

Investigators seeking technical staff support should be aware that the Program seeks to seed new full-time technical positions. In general, EAR/IF does not support existing technical staff. In order to accommodate the diversity of institutional approaches to the problem of technician support, the IF Program will grant support of technicians in two phases. Phase I proposals may currently request a maximum of \$75,000/year for three years. This ceiling is adjusted periodically and the proposer is urged to contact the Program Officer for the latest maximum. Phase I grantees are eligible to apply for an additional two-year Phase II award at the same annual level.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The categories of proposers identified in the [Grant Proposal Guide](#) are eligible to submit proposals under this program announcement/solicitation.

IV. AWARD INFORMATION

Approximately \$7,000,000 annually for 50-60 new awards, subject to the availability of funds.

V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Full Proposal Instructions:

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 Website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpg>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

Special attention should be paid to the following when submitting a proposal to the EAR/IF Program:

1. Title

The title of the proposal should convey its main topic. Proposals for new equipment, equipment upgrade, development of new instrumentation or technique, support of facilities, and support of technicians should, respectively, have titles beginning with:

"Acquisition of _____," "Upgrading of _____," "Development of _____," "Facility Support: _____," "Technician Support: _____"

2. Project Description

Proposals for *equipment acquisition or upgrade* must include a description of the research projects of the principal investigator(s) and other non-casual users for which the equipment will be used. The description of the research projects and the equipment should be comprehensive enough to allow reviewers to evaluate the merit of the research and the extent to which the equipment is essential and appropriate.

Proposals for the *development of new instrumentation or techniques* must include a description of the instrument design or technique that is sufficiently detailed for reviewers to evaluate its technical capabilities and potential benefit to research in the Earth sciences.

Proposals for the *support of a facility* must include a description of the technical capabilities of the facility and the impact that these capabilities will make on the science. The size and nature of the science community that will make principal use of the facility should also be described, along with any evidence of that community's desire to pool resources in support of the facility.

Proposals for the *support of a technician* must include a description of the laboratory and/or field responsibilities that will be assumed by the technician. The description should be detailed enough so that reviewers can evaluate the extent of the technician's contribution to the research of an individual principal investigator, group of investigators, or a department-wide research program. Phase II proposals require a letter signed by an institutional representative that commits the University to underwriting the technician's full salary for a minimum of two years following any

Phase II award should other funding sources not be available.

3. *Maintenance and Operation*

Proposals for facilities or complex equipment must include a section describing the provisions for their maintenance and operation. The qualifications of persons immediately in charge and the source of funds to meet the cost of maintenance and operations should be given. If user fees are involved, a description of how they will be assessed should be included. For facilities or shared-use departmental equipment, the proposal should include a management plan for dealing with questions of access by users.

4. *Inventory of Existing Equipment and Technician Positions*

Proposals for equipment must list all comparable items of equipment at the submitting institution or to which the applicants have access elsewhere.

Proposals requesting technician support must include a short description of all existing technician positions in the submitting department and their source of funding. The proposal should make it clear that the request is for support of a full-time technician position.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program announcement/solicitation number (04-507) 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:

To be eligible for review, all proposals requesting permanent equipment, with the exception of facility support proposals, must include a statement committing the organization to cost sharing of 30% of all permanent equipment in excess of \$50,000. For example, mandatory cost-sharing for a \$100,000 equipment item or group of items would be $0.30(100,000 - 50,000) = \$15,000$. As a corollary, cost-sharing is not required for equipment items or groups of items that total less than \$50,000. The dollar amount of cost sharing must not exceed the mandatory eligibility requirement.

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 as 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.

Budget Preparation Instructions:

The budget section of proposals for equipment acquisition or upgrade should indicate the current price and any discounts available for the total equipment package requested, itemized by major components. Relevant manufacturers quotes should be scanned into the supplementary documents section of the proposal.

Personnel costs directly attributable to instrument or technique development efforts or to the operation of a facility may be requested. Personnel costs are not ordinarily supported on grants for acquisition or upgrading of equipment. Exceptions might include the establishment of new laboratories by early-career investigators. PI's are advised to contact the Program Officer before including salary support in any instrument acquisition or upgrade proposal.

Phase I and Phase II technician support proposals may currently request a maximum of \$75,000/year for three and two years, respectively. This ceiling is adjusted periodically and the proposer is urged to contact the Program Officer for the latest maximum. The budget section should make it clear how the combined NSF and organizational support will result in a full-time technician position during this period.

C. Due Dates

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

Full Proposal Target Date(s):

January 16, yearly

All proposals except equipment acquisition and instrument and technique development

July 16, yearly

All proposals

D. FastLane Requirements

Proposers are required to prepare and submit all proposals for this announcement/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 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 announcement/solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this announcement/solicitation.

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. Proposers are no longer required to provide a paper copy of the signed Proposal Cover Sheet to NSF. 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 National Science Board approved revised criteria for evaluating proposals at its meeting on March 28, 1997 ([NSB 97-72](#)). All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of the two merit review criteria. In some instances, however, NSF will employ additional criteria as required to highlight the specific objectives of certain programs and activities.

On July 8, 2002, the NSF Director issued [Important Notice 127](#), Implementation of new Grant Proposal Guide Requirements Related to the Broader Impacts Criterion. This Important Notice reinforces the importance of addressing both criteria in the preparation and review of all proposals submitted to NSF. NSF continues to strengthen its internal processes to ensure that both of the merit review criteria are addressed when making funding decisions.

In an effort to increase compliance with these requirements, the January 2002 issuance of the GPG incorporated revised proposal preparation guidelines relating to the development of the Project Summary and Project Description. Chapter II of the GPG specifies that Principal Investigators (PIs) must address both merit review criteria in separate statements within the one-page Project Summary. This chapter also reiterates that broader impacts resulting from the proposed project must be addressed in the Project Description and described as an integral part of the narrative.

Effective October 1, 2002, NSF will return without review proposals that do not separately address both merit review criteria within the Project Summary. It is believed that these changes to NSF proposal preparation and processing guidelines will more clearly articulate the importance of broader impacts to NSF-funded projects.

The two National Science Board approved merit review criteria are listed below (see the [Grant Proposal Guide](#) Chapter III.A for further information). 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 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 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:

In addition to the general NSF merit review criteria (intellectual merit/broader impacts), criteria specifically appropriate to the evaluation of proposals by EAR/IF may include: (1) the intrinsic merit of the research for which the equipment, technique, facility, or effort of a technician is intended, (2) the number of investigators who will substantially benefit from the equipment or service of a technician and the strength of their research programs, (3) the degree to which equipment, technique, facility, or the aid of a technician is appropriate and essential for the intended research, (4) the ability to operate and provide technical support for complex equipment during its expected lifetime, and (5) the ability to provide access to a facility intended to serve a regional or national research community.

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 Ad Hoc 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.

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 Director. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

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 date of receipt. 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 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 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 Website at http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants/grants_gac.htm. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 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 Website 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 Website 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. Failure to provide final technical reports delays NSF review and processing of pending proposals for the PI and all Co-PIs. 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. 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 this program should be made to:

- David Lambert, Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8558, email: dlambert@nsf.gov
- Russell C. Kelz, Associate Program Director, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Earth Sciences, 785 S, telephone: (703) 292-8558, fax: (703) 292-9025, email: rkelz@nsf.gov

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- Brian E. Dawson, Information Technology Specialist, Directorate for Geosciences, 705 N, telephone: (703) 292-

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 Website 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.

Related Programs:

- Earth Sciences Research at the National Science Foundation ([NSF 03-590](#))

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, although some programs may have special requirements that limit eligibility.

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 GPG Chapter II, Section D.2 for instructions regarding preparation of these types of proposals.

The National Science Foundation promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States by competitively awarding grants and cooperative agreements for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

To get the latest information about program deadlines, to download copies of NSF publications, and to access abstracts of awards, visit the NSF Website at <http://www.nsf.gov>

- **Location:** 4201 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22230

- **For General Information** (NSF Information Center): (703) 292-5111

- **TDD (for the hearing-impaired):** (703) 292-5090 or (800) 281-8749

- **To Order Publications or Forms:**

Send an e-mail to: pubs@nsf.gov

or telephone: (703) 292-7827

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

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 proposal 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.

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 3145-0058. 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: Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, Division of Administrative Services, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230.

OMB control number: 3145-0058.



The National Science Foundation

4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230, USA

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