



**National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230**

CBET 10-004

Dear Colleague Letter: The Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET) Employment Opportunities for Program Director

DATE: September 27, 2010

Dear Colleague:

The Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET), within the Directorate for Engineering at the National Science Foundation (NSF), announces a nationwide search for an engineering professional to fill the following position:

Program Director: Environmental Health and Safety of Nanotechnology Program

Formal consideration of interested applicants will begin September 30, 2010, with an approximate appointment date of January 2011.

While disciplinary expertise will be expected for the program director, the focus of the search is to locate a scholarly, open-minded, diverse and intellectually integrated engineer to join the present team in sharing The Engineering Directorate's responsibilities within NSF's overall mission: to promote the progress of science and engineering; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense.

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Environmental Health and Safety of Nanotechnology program provides support to understand and test the environmental effects and transport of nanotechnologies. Fundamental research is sought to understand, evaluate, and mitigate the impact of nanotechnology on environmental processes and systems. The program also supports research on the development and substantive improvement of sensors that utilize nanotechnologies which can be used to measure a wide variety of physical, chemical, and biological properties of interest in characterizing, monitoring, and understanding environmental impacts, in both natural and engineered systems. The program emphasizes engineering principles underlying the environmental health and safety impacts of nanotechnology. Innovative methods related to production processes, waste reduction, recycling, and industrial ecology of nanotechnology are of interest. Areas of support include: understanding and mitigating the effects of nanotechnology on the environment; predictive methodology for the interaction of nanoparticles with the environment, including predictive approaches for toxicity; fate and transport of natural, engineered, and incidental (by-product) nanoparticles; risk assessment and Life Cycle Assessment of nanomaterials in the environment. Current areas of support for this program do not include biomedical and nanotoxicology topics involving clinical trials.

NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Agency's overall mission. To discharge this responsibility requires not only knowledge in the appropriate disciplines, but also a commitment to high standards, a considerable breadth of interest and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

Qualification requirements include a Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience in the relevant discipline, plus six or more years of successful research, research administration and/or substantial managerial experience in academe, industry, or government. Appointees are expected to have significant and relevant knowledge of research related to environmental health and safety of nanotechnology and related processes. Also desirable is knowledge of the general scientific community, skill in written communication and preparation of technical reports, an ability to communicate orally, and several years of successful independent research of the kind normally expected of the academic rank of associate or full professor. All appointees are expected to function effectively both within specific programs and in a team mode, contributing to and coordinating with organizations in the Directorate, across the Foundation, and with other Federal and State government agencies and private-sector organizations as necessary. Such responsibilities can include serving on committees developing new administrative approaches and new focused research activities.

Periodic appointments to leadership of interdivisional, inter-directorate and interagency programs may be made. Program Director positions recruited under this announcement may be filled under one of the following appointment options:

Intergovernmental Personnel Assignment (IPA) Act : Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Initial assignments under IPA provisions may be made for a period up to two years, with a possible extension for up to an additional two-year period. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides the negotiated funding toward the assignee’s salary and benefits. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended by mutual agreement.

Visiting Scientist Appointment : Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Visiting Scientists are on non-paid leave status from their home institution and placed on the NSF payroll. NSF withholds Social Security taxes and pays the home institution’s contributions to maintain retirement and fringe benefits (i.e., health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institution or to the carrier. Appointments are usually made for a one-year period and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.

Temporary Excepted Service Appointment : Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, and life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Temporary appointments may not exceed three years.

For additional information on NSF’s rotational programs, please see “Programs for Scientists, Engineers, and Educators” on the NSF website at: http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/.

Should you or your colleagues be interested in this position, or wish to nominate suitable candidates, please email a current CV accompanied by a cover letter that highlights the background that specifically relates to the program objectives to:

Dr. Robert Wellek
Search Committee Coordinator, Deputy Division Director
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