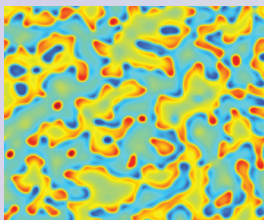


## Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (OMA)

OMA seeds crosscutting research in areas of strategic emphasis for MPS as well as areas that might develop into strategic importance; facilitates partnerships with other agencies, national laboratories, industries, state and local governments, and international organizations; and supports innovative experiments in education and broadening participation. The purpose of OMA investments is to initiate, but not sustain indefinitely, these activities.



A numerical simulation of the temperature field of mixing alloys using the Allen-Cahn equation, from a DMS student research project.

Credit: Timothy Sauer and Tom Stephens,  
George Mason University



Advanced LIGO exhibit at the 2009 World Science Festival in New York City.

Credit: Marco Cavaglia

OMA does not accept external proposals, but rather encourages submission from MPS Divisions of initiatives and projects that are multi-investigator, multi-disciplinary, and strategic to MPS, as well as innovative projects incorporating education and broadening participation that contribute to a diverse, technical workforce.



Participants in the 2008 Undergraduate ALFA Team  
at the Arecibo Observatory.

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# OMA

# Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)

**Proposal Review:** MPS maximizes the quality of the proposals it supports through the use of a competitive, merit-based review process. In FY 2009, 88% of research funds were allocated to externally reviewed projects.

**Committee of Visitors (COV):** MPS convenes Committees of Visitors, composed of qualified external evaluators, to review each program every three years. These experts assess the integrity and efficiency of the processes for proposal review and provide a retrospective assessment of the quality of results of NSF's investments. COV reports and Directorate responses are at <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/activities/cov/covs.jsp>.

**MPS Advisory Committee (MPSAC):** MPS also receives advice from the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Advisory Committee on such issues as: the mission, programs, and goals that can best serve the scientific community; promoting quality graduate and undergraduate education in the mathematical and physical sciences; and priority investment areas in MPS-supported research. Minutes are at <http://www.nsf.gov/mps/advisory.jsp>.

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