



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

OCE 10-001

DATE: November 13, 2009

**TITLE: The Division of Ocean Sciences (OCE), Integrative Programs Section (IPS) –
Employment Opportunities for Program Director - - Dear Colleague Letter**

Dear Colleague:

The Division of Ocean Sciences (OCE), Integrative Programs Section (IPS) announces a nationwide search to fill the Ocean Observing Science Program Director position.

Formal consideration of interested applicants will begin November 13, 2009, and will continue until a selection is made.

The ocean science community has long recognized the inter-connectivity of the ocean with the Earth system as a whole on many temporal and spatial scales, and the need for a new way of studying the ocean to provide concurrent time-series data and responsive capabilities. The ocean exhibits complex, 3-dimensional, multi-parameter dynamical behavior that manifests itself on local, regional and global scales. The need for ocean observing capabilities is increasingly recognized to address critical societal issues. Global, regional, and local climate change and impacts, coastal hazards, ecosystem-based management and the relationship between the ocean and human health are amongst the critical issues that point to the need for a sustained, research-driven, ocean observing capability.

In addition to supporting existing ocean observing assets, NSF is making a major investment in ocean observing capabilities with the Ocean Observatories Initiative. The OOI is a Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) project beginning construction this year. The OOI will be an adaptive network of ocean infrastructure that includes deep-sea buoys capable of deployment in harsh environments, regional electro-optical cabled nodes on the seafloor spanning several geological and oceanographic features and processes, and a network of fixed and relocatable coastal observatories, all integrated by a cutting edge, open access, user-enabling cyberinfrastructure. The OOI will provide open-data access to the ocean science community and the public. A key component of the tasking for the Ocean Observing Science Program Director position will be to develop and strengthen ocean observing science efforts, with a particular focus on the OOI, as well as supporting the NSF OOI Program Director in the construction effort.

Specific duties of the Science Program Director position for Ocean Observing will include:

- Coordinating with OCE science programs to plan for and effectively utilize ocean observing facilities

- Collaborating with other NSF environmental observing facilities to promote cross-cutting research efforts
- Coordinating with planned and implemented interagency and international ocean observing to maximize opportunities to use ocean observing facilities to enhance research capabilities
- Representing NSF on ocean observing science issues at community town halls, scientific and technical conferences, OOI science workshops, scientific interagency efforts, and international coordination and collaborative efforts
- Planning and implementing the NSF OOI proposal process, including coordinating with OCE core programs on OOI science proposals, and with the NSF OOI Program Director and OOI Project Team on logistics for awarded proposals;
- Engaging with OCE Senior Management and the OOI Project Team on scientific strategic planning for the OOI;
- Serving as liaison, in conjunction with the NSF OOI Program Director, to the OOI Project Advisory Committee; Serving as liaison to the OOI Scientific Oversight Committee;
- Coordinating with the OOI Project Team on science GPRA requirements; and Coordinating with the OOI Project Team on OOI communications.
- To support the OOI construction effort, specific duties of the Ocean Observing Science Program Director position will include: Providing input to the NSF OOI Program Director on analysis of science impacts resulting from proposed network changes;
- Coordinating with the NSF OOI Program Director as the OOI representative on NSF committees;
- Coordinating with the NSF OOI Program Director in internal NSF OOI reporting; and Assisting the NSF OOI Program Director in assessing OOI Project Team performance, including planning and participation in periodic performance reviews and facility recompetition activities.

Applicants must have an earned 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 oceanography or marine science; An established record of oceanography or marine science; Experience in interagency and/or international collaborative efforts; Familiarity with project management principles and processes; Expert ability to coordinate effectively with scientific staff; and, Expert ability to successfully communicate orally and in writing to a diverse (technical and non-technical) audience Familiarity with NSF programs and activities is highly desirable.

The incumbent is expected to function effectively, both as an individual within the OOI program, and as a member of a crosscutting and interactive team. The incumbent must also demonstrate a capability to work across government agencies to promote NSF activities and to leverage program funds through interagency collaborations.

The Ocean Observing Science Program Director position recruited under this announcement may be filled with 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/.

Please submit your application to:

Ocean Observing Science Program Director Search
Mr. Bob Houtman, Head of the Integrative Program Section
Division of Ocean Sciences
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 725N
Arlington, VA 22230

Applications also will be received electronically. Please make electronic submissions to: bhoutman@nsf.gov. Applicants may also apply to vacancy E20100005 – Rotator.

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