



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

MPS 12-004

**Dear Colleague Letter - Division Director, Division of Physics (PHY) Employment Opportunity**

---

DATE: September 24, 2012

The Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) announces a nationwide search to fill the position of Director, Division of Physics (PHY). Formal consideration of interested applicants will begin September 24, 2012 and continue until a selection is made. Appointment to this Senior Executive Service position may be on a career basis, or on a one-to three-year limited-term basis, with a salary range of \$155,500 to \$174,460. Alternatively, the incumbent may be assigned under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) provisions.<sup>1</sup>

The Division Director leads a team of program officers in managing a broad portfolio of investments in physics research and education. The incumbent has managerial and oversight responsibilities for the effective use of Division staff and resources in meeting organizational goals and objectives. This includes directing the activities of the Division, assessing the needs and trends in research and education related to the Division's programs, implementing overall strategic planning, and setting policy. The Director supervises and provides leadership and guidance to senior level PHY staff (Deputy Division Director), PHY program officers, administrative and support personnel. The Director determines funding requirements, prepares and justifies budget estimates, balances program needs, allocates resources, oversees the evaluation of proposals and recommendations for awards and declinations, and represents NSF to relevant external groups. The Director fosters partnerships with other Divisions, Directorates, Federal agencies, scientific organizations, and the academic community.

The mission of the Division of Physics is to enable fundamental research and education across the intellectual frontiers of the field. Programs in six subareas support research that covers a broad spectrum of energy, time, and distance scales. Physics seeks a deep understanding of processes that describe the formation and current structure of the cosmos, the behavior of matter where quantum effects dominate, and the structure of atomic and molecular entities that shape and control the everyday world that we live in. Physics also supports the development of new tools and techniques needed to expand and refine our understanding within these many areas - from particle accelerators to probe physics at the energy frontier, to femtosecond lasers to probe and control atomic and molecular systems, to the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO), a new window on the universe. The knowledge gained through basic research will ultimately have broad impact on other fields of science and on the health, economic strength, and defense of society, while the research activity itself will contribute to the education of the Nation's advanced high-tech workforce.

The successful candidate will possess an established record of significant achievement in research administration as well as leadership responsibility in academe, industry, or government. In addition to having a strong record of research and education accomplishments within his or her technical communities, the Division Director must be experienced and competent in technical, financial, and administrative management. He/she must work well with people, be an effective communicator, and act as a mentor to continuously develop the diversity of talents and skills of his or her colleagues at all levels.

## Qualification Requirements

---

### Executive/Managerial

#### **Essential**

1. **Leading Change.** Demonstrated ability to bring about strategic change, both within and outside the organization, to meet organizational goals. Includes the ability to establish an organizational vision and to implement it in a continuously changing environment.
2. **Leading People.** Demonstrated ability to lead people toward meeting the organization's vision, mission, and goals. Includes the ability to provide an inclusive workplace that fosters the development of others, facilitates cooperation and teamwork, and supports constructive resolution of conflicts.
3. **Results-Driven Leadership.** Demonstrated ability to meet organizational goals and customer expectations. Includes the ability to make decisions that produce high-quality results by applying technical knowledge, analyzing problems, and calculating risks.
4. **Business Acumen.** Demonstrated ability to manage human, financial, and information resources strategically.
5. **Building Coalitions.** Demonstrated ability to build coalitions internally and with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit and private sector organizations, foreign governments, or international organizations to achieve common goals.

### Professional/Technical

#### **Essential**

- Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience, or a combination of education and equivalent experience, in physics or a closely related field.
- Substantial research contributions and strong evidence of scholarship in areas related to physics as evidenced by publications, innovative leadership in research administration, and professional leadership and awards in these technical areas.
- Skill in balancing complex and diverse program demands and available resources in response to major advances or changing needs of science and engineering research and technology.
- Broad understanding of universities and other institutions where research and education in science and engineering is conducted including knowledge of grant administration and fiscal management with experience in materials research support.

Applications will be accepted from US Citizens. Due to a recent change in Federal Appropriations Law, only [Non-Citizens](#) who are permanent US residents and actively seeking citizenship can be considered. Therefore, you are required to provide documentation that confirms you are actively seeking citizenship at the time you submit your application. Non-citizens who do not provide documentation will not be considered.

Under the provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA), non-citizens may be considered as long as the individual is employed at an IPA-eligible institution

## **Application Instructions**

---

You may view the vacancy announcement (PHY-2012-0009) for this position at **USAJOBS:** <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/327248200>. Please submit a current CV accompanied by a cover letter or supplemental statement that addresses the qualification requirements of the position. Applications should be transmitted electronically to [execsrch@nsf.gov](mailto:execsrch@nsf.gov) or mailed or delivered to the following address:

National Science Foundation  
Executive Personnel and Visiting Personnel Branch

Division of Human Resource Management  
4201 Wilson Boulevard Room 315  
Arlington, VA 22230  
ATTN: Meredith Berwick  
(703) 292-8267

General inquiries should be directed to:

Dr. Mark Suskin  
Search Committee Coordinator  
(703) 292-8800  
[msuskin@nsf.gov](mailto:msuskin@nsf.gov)

Sincerely,  
Mark Suskin  
Search Committee Coordinator

**NSF is an equal opportunity employer committed to employing a highly qualified staff that reflects the diversity of our nation.**

<sup>1</sup> **Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment:** This position may be filled under provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA). Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of state and local government agencies, 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 of 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 funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits. Further information regarding IPA positions is available at [http://www.nsf.gov/about/career\\_opps/rotators/ipa.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/ipa.jsp).