



National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

NSF 12-096

Dear Colleague Letter: US-China Collaborative Software Research

The NSF Office of Cyberinfrastructure (OCI) and the Division of Computer and Network Systems (CNS) in the Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate (CISE) are interested in encouraging collaborations with China-based researchers who are currently funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, NSFC. This interest is one outcome from the **US and China Workshop Series to Build a Collaborative Framework for Developing Shared Software Infrastructure, which was supported jointly by the NSF and the NSFC** (**workshop website: <http://www.nsf-nsfc-sw.org/>**).

US-based researchers with current NSF awards can submit supplemental funding requests to their awards to collaborate with China-based researchers who are currently funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, NSFC. Topics must fit the Software Infrastructure for Sustained Innovation (SI2) program of OCI (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11589/nsf11589.htm>) in the broad area of software development in support of science and engineering research, or the core programs of the CNS Division of CISE, (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11555/nsf11555.htm>). Supplemental funding requests may include international planning visits, and may include funding for students.

US-based researchers may also submit Early Concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) proposals on topics that fit the programs identified above, and that involve exploratory collaborations with an NSFC-funded investigator. The guidelines for EAGER proposals should be reviewed carefully prior to submission to ensure that the proposed research fits the criteria for this funding mechanism. Specifically, the **Grant Proposal Guide** states, ***"The EAGER funding mechanism may be used to support exploratory work in its early stages on untested, but potentially transformative, research ideas or approaches. This work may be considered especially "high risk-high payoff" in the sense that it, for example, involves radically different approaches, applies new expertise, or engages novel disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspectives."***

Interested investigators **MUST** contact the program officer in OCI or CISE/CNS whose expertise is most germane to the proposed project prior to submission of either a supplemental funding request or an EAGER proposal.

Questions concerning these opportunities should be addressed to the following program directors:

Gabrielle Allen in OCI (gdallen@nsf.gov)
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