

Expeditions in Computing

PROGRAM SOLICITATION NSF 18-528

REPLACES DOCUMENT(S): NSF 16-535



National Science Foundation

Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering
Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure
Division of Computing and Communication Foundations
Division of Computer and Network Systems
Division of Information & Intelligent Systems

Preliminary Proposal Due Date(s) (*required*) (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):

April 25, 2018

Expeditions

April 22, 2020

Expeditions

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):

January 16, 2019

Expeditions

January 20, 2021

Expeditions

Submission Window Date(s) (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):

April 25, 2018 - April 24, 2019

InTrans

April 24, 2019 - April 23, 2020

April 24 - April 23, Annually Thereafter

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

- Innovation Transition (InTrans) funding opportunity for Expeditions/Frontier projects in their fourth or fifth years has been added; and
- A section on Broadening Participation has been added.

Any proposal submitted in response to this solicitation should be submitted in accordance with the revised *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) ([NSF 19-1](#)), which is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after February 25, 2019.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:

Expeditions in Computing (Expeditions)

Synopsis of Program:

The far-reaching impact and rate of innovation in the computer and information science and engineering fields has been remarkable, generating economic prosperity and enhancing the quality of life for people throughout the world.

The Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) has established the *Expeditions in Computing* (*Expeditions*) program to provide the CISE research and education community with the opportunity to pursue ambitious, fundamental research agendas that promise to define the future of computing and information.

In planning **Expeditions projects**, investigators are encouraged to come together within or across departments or institutions to combine their creative talents in the identification of compelling, transformative research agendas that promise disruptive innovations in computer and information science and engineering for many years to come.

Funded at levels up to \$2,000,000 per year for five years, *Expeditions* projects represent some of the largest single investments currently made by the CISE directorate. Together with the Science and Technology Centers that CISE supports, *Expeditions* projects form the centerpiece of the directorate's center-scale award portfolio. With awards funded at levels that promote the formation of large research teams, CISE recognizes that concurrent research advances in multiple fields or sub-fields are often necessary to stimulate deep and enduring outcomes. The awards made in this program will complement research areas supported by other CISE programs, which target particular computer and information science and engineering fields.

Additionally, CISE offers **Innovation Transition (InTrans) awards** for teams nearing the end of their *Expeditions* as well as Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) and Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) Frontier projects. The goal of *InTrans* is to continue the long-term vision and objectives of CISE's center-scale projects. Through In Trans awards, CISE will provide limited funds to match industry support.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

Please note that the following information is current at the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

- Mitra Basu, Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-8910, email: mbasu@nsf.gov

Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):

- 47.070 --- Computer and Information Science and Engineering

Award Information

Anticipated Type of Award: Standard Grant or Continuing Grant

Estimated Number of Awards: 2 to 4

awards in each competition.

Anticipated Funding Amount: \$30,000,000

Up to \$30,000,000 total for each competition, subject to the availability of funds. *Expeditions* projects with annual budgets up to \$2,000,000 for durations of five years will be supported.

Eligibility Information

Who May Submit Proposals:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- U.S. academic institutions accredited in, and having a campus located in the U.S., with undergraduate, masters, and doctoral programs in computer and information science and engineering fields may submit proposals as lead or collaborative institutions. Subawardees may include two- and four-year colleges, non-profit non-academic organizations such as independent museums, institutes, observatories, professional societies and similar organizations in the US that are directly associated with education or research activities in the computer and information science and engineering fields. Other organizations such as national laboratories, for-profit organizations and organizations in other countries may participate in the proposed activities if they have independent sources of support; they will not be supported by NSF.

Who May Serve as PI:

There are no restrictions or limits.

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

There are no restrictions or limits.

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or Co-PI: 1

- An individual may participate in no more than one preliminary and full *Expeditions* proposal as PI, co-PI, or senior personnel.
- In the event that an individual exceeds this limit for a given deadline, any *Expeditions* proposal submitted to that deadline with this individual listed as a PI, co-PI, or senior personnel after the first proposal is received at NSF will be returned without review. No exceptions will be made.

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Letters of Intent:** Not required
- **Preliminary Proposals:** Submission of Preliminary Proposals is required. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.
- **Full Proposals:**
 - Full Proposals submitted via FastLane: *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) guidelines apply. The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg.
 - Full Proposals submitted via Research.gov: *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) guidelines apply. The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg.
 - Full Proposals submitted via Grants.gov: *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov* guidelines apply (Note: The *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide* is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide).

B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:**

Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:**

Not Applicable
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:**

Not Applicable

C. Due Dates

- **Preliminary Proposal Due Date(s) (required)** (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):
 - April 25, 2018
 - Expeditions
 - April 22, 2020
 - Expeditions
- **Full Proposal Deadline(s)** (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):
 - January 16, 2019
 - Expeditions
 - January 20, 2021
 - Expeditions
- **Submission Window Date(s)** (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):
 - April 25, 2018 - April 24, 2019
 - InTrans
 - April 24, 2019 - April 23, 2020
 - April 24 - April 23, Annually Thereafter

Proposal Review Information Criteria

Merit Review Criteria:

National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review criteria apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

Award Administration Information

Award Conditions:

Additional award conditions apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

Reporting Requirements:

Additional reporting requirements apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The computer and information science and engineering community has made significant contributions to society over the past 50 years, generating research and education outcomes that have fueled economic growth, improved national security, and resulted in products and services that have transformed the everyday lives of people across the Nation and around the world.

The **Expeditions in Computing (Expeditions)** program has been created to tap the great reservoir of opportunities that fundamental research advances in computer and information science and engineering promise for the future. The program is designed to inspire the CISE research and education community to be as creative and imaginative as possible in the design of bold *Expeditions* projects that explore new scientific frontiers. Investigators in the computer and information science and engineering fields and beyond are encouraged to come together within and/or across departments or institutions in the development of compelling, transformational research agendas that promise disruptive innovations in computer and information science and engineering for many years to come.

Additionally, **Innovation Transition (InTrans)** for *Expeditions* as well as CISE-funded Frontier projects in their fourth or fifth years aims to continue the long-term vision and objectives of CISE's center-scale projects by (1) enabling maturation and deployment of successful research and innovation results in industry; and (2) facilitating continued support for these projects by industry, which in turn will lead to the development of future technologies.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

New Expeditions in Computing (Expeditions) Projects:

The *Expeditions* program has three goals:

- To catalyze far-reaching research or research cyberinfrastructure explorations motivated by deep scientific questions or hard problems in the computer and information science and engineering fields and/or by compelling applications and novel technologies that promise significant scientific and/or societal benefits;
- To inspire current and future generations of Americans, especially those from under-represented groups, to pursue rewarding careers in computer and information science and engineering; and
- To stimulate significant research and education outcomes that, through effective knowledge transfer mechanisms, promise scientific, economic and/or other societal benefits.

Expeditions projects should be ambitious and potentially transformative. They should exploit advances in computer and information science and engineering; and/or use-driven research cyberinfrastructure that may accelerate discovery and innovation across science and engineering.

Projects supported by the *Expeditions* program comprise the following characteristics:

- Foster research climates that nurture creativity and informed risk-taking, and value complementary research and education contributions such that the whole *Expeditions* project is greater than the sum of its parts;

- Draw upon well-integrated, diverse teams of investigators from computer and information science and engineering fields, and from other fields of science and engineering as appropriate for a given project;
- Stimulate effective knowledge transfer; and
- Demonstrate experimental systems, support shared experimental facilities (including instruments, platforms and/or testbeds), and/or deploy research cyberinfrastructure to accelerate discovery and learning.

An *Expeditions* proposal should have a long-term vision, with objectives that could not be attained simply by a collection of smaller proposals provided similar resources. Project descriptions must be comprehensive and well-integrated, and should make a convincing case that the collaborative contributions of the project team will be greater than the sum of each of their individual contributions. Rationale must be provided to explain why a budget of this size is required to carry out the proposed work, and how the budget is apportioned among the participating team members and institutions. Since the success of collaborative research efforts are known to depend on thoughtful coordination mechanisms that regularly bring together the various participants of the project, these must be articulated in the proposal.

Expeditions projects represent some of the largest single investments made by CISE. Together with the Science and Technology Centers that the CISE directorate supports, *Expeditions* projects form the centerpiece of the directorate's center-scale award portfolio. CISE is working towards a steady-state support of 12 or more *Expeditions* projects that together demonstrate the tremendous potential of computer and information science and engineering innovations.

Innovation Transition (InTrans) for Expeditions/Frontier projects in their Fourth or Fifth Years:

InTrans awards are intended for teams nearing the end of their *Expeditions* or Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) or Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) Frontier projects.

The goal of *InTrans* is to continue the long-term vision and objectives of CISE's center-scale projects by (1) enabling maturation and deployment of successful research and innovation results in industry; and (2) facilitating continued support for these projects by industry, which in turn will lead to the development of future technologies.

This opportunity is available to all *Expeditions* and Frontier project teams who are in the fourth or fifth years of their original awards. For purposes of *InTrans*, a "project team" refers to the institution or group of institutions that [and the associated principal investigators (PIs) and co-PIs who] submitted a successful proposal or collaborative proposal in response to the Expeditions, SaTC or CPS program solicitations. Prior to submission of an *InTrans* proposal, the proposer must secure industry funding for the continuation of the research supported under the Expeditions or Frontier award. Industrial funding must commence no later than one year after the fifth anniversary (i.e., the original award expiration date, prior to any no-cost extension) of the Expeditions or Frontier award (i.e., the original Expeditions or Frontier award expiration date, prior to any no-cost extension), and must be at least three years in duration.

InTrans proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the standard NSB-approved merit review criteria using an *ad hoc* review process. Any prospective PI is required to consult with his/her Expeditions or Frontier program officer prior to submission of an *InTrans* proposal.

Any software developed through an *InTrans* award is required to be released under an open source license listed by the Open Source Initiative (<http://www.opensource.org>). Researchers who develop software that has been declared as a deliverable agree not to incorporate any third-party code into this software that would limit or restrict its ability to be distributed under an open source license.

BROADENING PARTICIPATION

CISE is committed to enhancing the community's awareness of and overcoming barriers to Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC), and to providing information and resources to PIs so that they can develop interest, skills, and activities in support of BPC at all levels of the CISE community (K-12, undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate). Indeed, CISE supports meaningful actions that address the longstanding underrepresentation of various populations, including women, minorities (African Americans/Blacks, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Native Pacific Islanders, and persons from economically disadvantaged backgrounds), and persons with disabilities, in the computing field. Towards this end, with this solicitation, CISE is piloting a requirement for meaningful BPC plans in all proposals submitted to the Expeditions in Computing program. More information, including examples of meaningful BPC activities and metrics, can be found on the CISE BPC webpage: <https://www.nsf.gov/cise/bpc/>.

III. AWARD INFORMATION

Estimated program budget is up to \$30,000,000 for each competition, subject to the availability of funds. Two to four new awards will be made in each competition. *Expeditions* projects with annual budgets up to \$2,000,000 for durations of five years will be supported.

New proposals from current *Expeditions* awardees will be evaluated in an open competition with other new proposals. All *Expeditions* proposals must introduce substantially new research topics and undertake innovative research, which will be evaluated through NSF's two review criteria and additional *Expeditions* review criteria. All *Expeditions* proposals are expected to articulate prior research outcomes for project staff, which are also part of the review. It is expected that re-competing Expeditions proposals will demonstrate research excellence, significant achievements, noteworthy impacts, outreach success, and collaborations with industry and/or other partners, as appropriate, based on the corresponding current *Expeditions* projects.

IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Who May Submit Proposals:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- U.S. academic institutions accredited in, and having a campus located in the U.S., with undergraduate, masters, and doctoral programs in computer and information science and engineering fields may submit proposals as lead or collaborative

institutions. Subawardees may include two- and four-year colleges, non-profit non-academic organizations such as independent museums, institutes, observatories, professional societies and similar organizations in the US that are directly associated with education or research activities in the computer and information science and engineering fields. Other organizations such as national laboratories, for-profit organizations and organizations in other countries may participate in the proposed activities if they have independent sources of support; they will not be supported by NSF.

Who May Serve as PI:

There are no restrictions or limits.

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

There are no restrictions or limits.

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or Co-PI: 1

- An individual may participate in no more than one preliminary and full Expeditions proposal as PI, co-PI, or senior personnel.
- In the event that an individual exceeds this limit for a given deadline, any Expeditions proposal submitted to that deadline with this individual listed as a PI, co-PI, or senior personnel after the first proposal is received at NSF will be returned without review. No exceptions will be made.

Additional Eligibility Info:

Each Expeditions or Frontier project team is limited to the submission of two *InTrans* proposals.

V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Preliminary Proposals (required): Preliminary proposals are required and must be submitted via the NSF FastLane system.

Preliminary Proposal Preparation Instructions: When preparing a preliminary proposal, proposers are advised to review the Program Description, the Proposal Review Information and the preliminary proposal preparation instructions described below. A preliminary proposal will consist only of the following:

1. Cover Sheet. For planning purposes, enter a start date that is approximately 19 months after the preliminary proposal due date. For Expeditions proposals: titles must begin with "Expeditions", followed by a colon, then the title of the project.
2. Project Summary (1 page). The Project Summary should consist of an overview, a statement on the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, and a statement on the broader impacts of the proposed activity. Provide a rationale for the *Expeditions* project, describing the unique opportunities to be pursued, and indicating its potential impact. The summary should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and, insofar as possible, understandable to a scientifically or technically literate lay reader. Provide a clear description of the proposed *Expeditions* project, its overarching goals, its distinguishing features and foci. The names of the collaborative institutions involved and the major contribution of each to the project must be included in the description. The *Intellectual Merit* and *Broader Impacts* merit review criteria must be addressed in separate statements (see NSF's PAPPG) for additional instructions).
3. Table of Contents (automatically generated by FastLane).
4. Project Description. The Project Description must address Sections (4.a) and (4.b) below. Section (4.c) should be addressed, where appropriate. The Project Description is **limited to 10 pages** including tables and illustrations, regardless of the number of research groups or themes. URL's may not be used (see PAPPG for additional information). The Project Description must contain, as separate sections within the narrative, a section labeled "Intellectual Merit" and a section labeled "Broader Impacts." Results from Prior NSF Support should **not** be included in the Project Description (see instructions for Supplementary Documents).

(4.a) Describe the overarching vision and goal(s) of the proposed *Expeditions* project. Describe the contributing research, education and knowledge transfer themes or components, emphasizing how "the whole" *Expeditions* project is greater than the sum of the individual theme or component parts. Describe how the project will contribute to realization of the *Expeditions* program goals (address all three as described in the *II. Program Description* section of this solicitation) and demonstrate the *Expeditions* characteristics (addressing all four as described in the *II. Program Description* section of this solicitation). Provide sufficient detail to allow assessment of the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts of the project and the necessity for support at the requested investment level.

(4.b) Leadership and collaboration. Describe the organizational structure of the *Expeditions* project, including plans for integrating and managing all organizations and individuals involved in all components of the *Expeditions* project to ensure the project goals are met. Explain how collaboration across individuals and organizations will be assured. Describe how effective collaboration will lead to enhanced project outcomes.

(4.c) Experimental systems or shared experimental facilities (where appropriate). Describe the experimental system to be demonstrated and/or shared experimental facilities (e.g., instruments, platforms, and testbeds) to be used or established and describe how these activities add value to the project.

(4.d) Broadening participation plan. All Expeditions projects must include meaningful **Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC)** plans within the Broader Impacts sections of the Project Descriptions. These plans must seek to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in computing. This plan should be clearly identifiable within the Project Description text and should represent a clear, actionable effort with an evaluation plan. If a PI plans to become a part of an institutional broadening participation effort, then the PI must report on his/her specific contribution within that effort. Proposals

that plan interventions that appeal to "all students" can be considered a broadening participation effort if the content is relevant to specific, targeted underrepresented groups within the student body. Examples of activities for BPC can be found on the CISE BPC webpage.

5. Budget (see NSF PAPPG). Provide a one-page budget summary for the full five-year period. This should be entered in Budget Year 1 in FastLane. (FastLane will automatically generate a cumulative budget that is identical to the full five-year budget you entered in Year 1.) The proposed budget should be consistent with the needs and complexity of the proposed activity. The budget justification should provide some information for each year of the full five-year period, showing how funds will be allocated to the project components during the start-up phase, and shared facilities that will be required (where necessary).
6. References Cited (two-page limit). Use the instructions from the NSF PAPPG when observing the two-page limit.
7. Biographical Sketches (two-page limit per person). Biographical sketches are required for all key project personnel (lead PI, each co-PI, and senior personnel or their equivalent). Follow instructions provided in the NSF PAPPG. Copies of publications should not be included or sent to NSF.
8. Special Information and Required Supplementary Documents (required information to be entered in the Supplementary Documents section of FastLane except for collaborative proposals, where **only** the lead institution should provide the information described below).

(8.a) Lists of Partner Institutions and Project Personnel. Provide current, accurate information for the two required lists described below. This information provides NSF and reviewers with a comprehensive list of personnel and institutions involved in the *Expeditions* project, and will be used to find reviewers.

Partner Institutions. List all institutions and organizations for which there are corresponding project personnel. List all partner organizations at the time of submission of the preliminary proposal. Organize the list of institutions involved in the *Expeditions* project into the following categories, as applicable: Academic Institutions (colleges, universities), National Laboratories, Federal Government, Industry, Non-Governmental Organizations, State and Local Government, International, and Other. For each category, list the partner institutions for that category in alphabetical order.

Project Personnel. List all project personnel who have a role in the management, research, education, outreach, and knowledge transfer components of the *Expeditions* project. Use the following format:

first name, last name, institution/organization.

(8.b) Results of Prior Support (2 pages per person). Provide information only for each PI, co-PI, and senior personnel, for contributions to research and education in science and engineering over the past five years (from any funding source). Include a brief statement of results of funded projects.

9. Required information to be submitted to NSF via the FastLane Single Copy Documents Section as a PDF file/document, except for collaborative proposals, where **only** the lead institution should provide the information described below.

Collaborators and Other Affiliations Information:

For this solicitation, the Collaborators & Other Affiliations (COA) information specified in the PAPPG Chapter II.C.1.e should be submitted using the spreadsheet template found at <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/coa.jsp>. For each proposal, a completed spreadsheet for each project participant, including PI, co-PIs, and Senior Personnel, should be uploaded directly into Fastlane in .xls or .xlsx format as a "Collaborator and Other Affiliations" Single Copy Document. NSF will require the use of the spreadsheet for identifying COA information; the spreadsheet will ensure the COA information has a common, searchable format. *Submitters using Grants.gov may upload this document as a PDF.*

Note the distinction to item 8, above, for Special Information and Required Supplementary Documents: the listing of all project participants is collected by the project lead and entered as a Supplementary Document, which is then automatically included with all proposals in a project. The Collaborators and Other Affiliations are entered for each participant within each proposal, including subawardee participants, and, as Single Copy Documents, are available only to NSF staff. Collaborators and Other Affiliations due to participants listed on Supplementary Document (item 8) who are not PIs, co-PIs, or Senior Personnel can be uploaded under Additional Single Copy Documents using Transfer File.

No other items or appendices are to be included. Information pertaining to "Current and Pending Support" and "Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources" is not required for preliminary proposals and should not be included. Preliminary proposals containing items other than those required above will not be reviewed or considered for NSF funding.

Information to be submitted to NSF via email:

Lead Proposers are encouraged to contact the cognizant Program Director via email to mbasu@nsf.gov one week prior to submission with a list of prospective project personnel.

In addition, the proposers must send the following document via email immediately after submission of their proposal. After receipt of the proposal number from FastLane, send an email to: mbasu@nsf.gov. The subject heading of the email should note the proposal number and the lead institution. Attach the following document.

A single PowerPoint slide summarizing the vision of your Expeditions proposal.

This slide will be used during review panel discussions. Remember to email this PowerPoint slide to: mbasu@nsf.gov; do not use FastLane.

Full Proposal Preparation Instructions: Proposers may opt to submit proposals in response to this Program Solicitation via FastLane, Research.gov, or Grants.gov.

- Full proposals submitted via FastLane: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG). The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg. Paper copies of the PAPPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-8134 or by e-mail from nsfpubs@nsf.gov. Proposers are reminded to identify this program solicitation number in the program solicitation block on the NSF Cover Sheet For Proposal to the National Science Foundation. Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.
- Full Proposals submitted via Research.gov: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation should be prepared and submitted in

accordance with the general guidelines contained in the *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG). The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg. Paper copies of the PAPPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-8134 or by e-mail from nsfpubs@nsf.gov. The Prepare New Proposal setup will prompt you for the program solicitation number.

- Full proposals submitted via Grants.gov: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation via Grants.gov should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov*. The complete text of the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide* is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: (https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide). To obtain copies of the Application Guide and Application Forms Package, click on the Apply tab on the Grants.gov site, then click on the Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Application Instructions link and enter the funding opportunity number, (the program solicitation number without the NSF prefix) and press the Download Package button. Paper copies of the Grants.gov Application Guide also may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-8134 or by e-mail from nsfpubs@nsf.gov.

In determining which method to utilize in the electronic preparation and submission of the proposal, please note the following:

Collaborative Proposals. All collaborative proposals submitted as separate submissions from multiple organizations must be submitted via the NSF FastLane system. PAPPG Chapter II.D.3 provides additional information on collaborative proposals.

See PAPPG Chapter II.C.2 for guidance on the required sections of a full research proposal submitted to NSF. Please note that the proposal preparation instructions provided in this program solicitation may deviate from the PAPPG instructions.

For Expeditions Full Proposals:

A full proposal may be submitted by invitation only, based on the evaluation of the preliminary proposal. Full proposals will be accepted **ONLY IF INVITED** by NSF. Full proposals **not invited** will be returned without review.

When preparing a full proposal for this competition, proposers are advised to review the Program Description and the Proposal Review Information found in this solicitation for general information pertinent to this program. Proposers are encouraged to review the most current NSF PAPPG or NSF Grants.gov Application Guide.

Every effort should be made to update information that was provided in the preliminary proposal and to fully address issues raised in the merit review of the preliminary proposal. Required proposal components and additions to or differences from the NSF PAPPG or Grants.gov Application Guide are given below.

1. Cover Sheet. For planning purposes, enter a start date that is approximately 19 months after the preliminary proposal due date. For *Expeditions* proposals: titles must begin with "Expeditions", followed by a colon, then the title of the project.
2. Project Summary (1 page). The Project Summary should consist of an overview, a statement on the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, and a statement on the broader impacts of the proposed activity. Provide a rationale for the *Expeditions* project, describing the unique opportunities to be pursued, and indicating the potential impact of the project. The summary should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and, insofar as possible, understandable to a scientifically or technically literate lay reader. Provide a clear description of the proposed *Expeditions* project, its overarching goals, its distinguishing features and foci. The names of the collaborative institutions involved and the major contribution of each to the project must be included in the description. The overview should include a description of the activity that would result if the proposal were funded and a statement of objectives and methods to be employed. The *Intellectual Merit* and *Broader Impacts* merit review criteria must be addressed in separate statements (see NSF's PAPPG for additional instructions).
3. Table of Contents (automatically generated by Fastlane).
4. Project Description. The Project Description must address Sections (4.a) through (4.c) below. Section (4.d) should be addressed, where appropriate. The Project Description is **limited to 20 pages** including tables and illustrations, regardless of the number of research groups or themes. URL's may not be used (see PAPPG for additional information). The Project Description must contain, as separate sections within the narrative, a section labeled "Intellectual Merit" and a section labeled "Broader Impacts". Results from Prior NSF Support need **not** be included in the Project Description (see instructions for Supplementary Documents).

(4.a) Describe the overarching vision and goal(s) of the proposed *Expeditions* project. Describe the contributing research, education and knowledge transfer themes or components, emphasizing how "the whole" *Expeditions* project is greater than the sum of the individual theme or component parts. Describe how the project will contribute to realization of the *Expeditions* program goals (address all three as described in the *II. Program Description* section of this solicitation) and demonstrate the *Expeditions* characteristics (address all four as described in the *II. Program Description* section of this solicitation). Provide sufficient detail to allow assessment of the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts of the project and the necessity for support at the requested investment level.

(4.b) Leadership and collaboration. Describe the organizational structure of the *Expeditions* project, including plans for integrating and managing all organizations and individuals involved in all components of the *Expeditions* project to ensure the project goals are met. Explain how collaboration across individuals and organizations will be assured. Describe how effective collaboration will lead to enhanced project outcomes.

(4.c) Intellectual property and ethics (up to 1 page). Provide a clear statement of the *Expeditions* project's policies on intellectual property and ethics. Discuss the nature of the research, methodologies used, ownership and ideas, and roles and responsibilities with respect to intellectual property. Describe the program of ethics to be implemented (required), which should include all project and subawardee staff (including faculty, visiting faculty, industrial fellows, postdoctoral researchers, graduate and undergraduate students).

(4.d) Experimental systems or shared experimental facilities (where appropriate). Describe the experimental system to be demonstrated and/or shared experimental facilities (e.g., instruments, platforms, and testbeds) to be used or established and describe how these activities add value to the project.

(4.e) Broadening participation plan. All *Expeditions* projects must include meaningful **Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC)** plans within the Broader Impacts sections of the Project Descriptions. These plans must seek to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in computing. This plan should be clearly identifiable within the Project Description text and should represent a clear, actionable effort with an evaluation plan. If a PI plans to become a part of an institutional broadening participation effort, then the PI must report on his/her specific contribution within that effort. Proposals

that plan interventions that appeal to "all students" can be considered a broadening participation effort if the content is relevant to specific, targeted underrepresented groups within the student body. Examples of activities for BPC can be found on the CISE BPC webpage.

5. Budget (see NSF PAPPG or Grants.gov Application Guide). Provide a detailed budget for each of the five years. FastLane or Grants.gov will automatically generate a cumulative budget. The budget and budget justification should account for start-up time at the commencement of the *Expeditions* project. The budget should include funds for travel to the Washington, DC, area for one meeting of awardees. Submit a separate budget and budget justification for each subawardee institution. Identify items of equipment costing more than \$10,000, full justification of these items is required.
6. References Cited. Follow the instructions from the NSF PAPPG or Grants.gov Application Guide.
7. Biographical Sketches (two-page limit per person). Biographical sketches are required for all key project personnel (lead PI, each co-PI, senior personnel, or their equivalent). Follow instructions provided in the NSF PAPPG. Copies of publications should not be included or sent to NSF.
8. Information pertaining to "Current and Pending Support" is required for full proposals. Follow the instructions in the NSF PAPPG.
9. Information pertaining to "Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources" is required for full proposals. Follow the instructions in the NSF PAPPG.
10. Special Information and Required Supplementary Documents (required information to be entered in the Supplementary Documents section of FastLane or Grants.gov except for collaborative proposals, where **only** the lead institution should provide the information described below).

(10.a) Lists of Partner Institutions and Project Personnel. Provide current, accurate information for the two required lists described below. This information provides NSF and reviewers with a comprehensive list of personnel and institutions involved in the *Expeditions* project, and will be used to find reviewers.

Partner Institutions. List all institutions and organizations for which there are corresponding project personnel. List all partner organizations at the time of submission of the full proposal. Organize the list of institutions involved in the *Expeditions* project into the following categories, as applicable: Academic Institutions (colleges, universities), National Laboratories, Federal Government, Industry, Non-Governmental Organizations, State and Local Government, International, and Other. For each category, list the partner institutions for that category in alphabetical order.

Project Personnel. List all project personnel who have a role in the management, research, education, outreach, and knowledge transfer components of the *Expeditions* project. Use the following format:

first name, last name, institution/organization.

(10.b) Results of Prior Support (2 pages for each PI, co-PI, and senior personnel). Provide information only for each PI, co-PI, and senior personnel, for contributions to research and education in science and engineering over the past five years (from any funding source). Include a brief statement of results of funded projects.

(10.c) Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan (one-page limit). Each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include, as a supplementary document, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals (See Chapter II.C.2.j of the NSF PAPPG).

(10.d) Data Management Plan (see Chapter II.C.2.j of the NSF PAPPG for further information about this requirement, and also https://www.nsf.gov/cise/cise_dmp.jsp for specific guidance for Data Management Plans submitted to CISE directorate).

11. Required information to be submitted to NSF via the FastLane Single Copy Documents Section as a PDF file/document, except for collaborative proposals, where **only** the lead institution should provide the information described below.

Collaborators and Other Affiliations Information:

For this solicitation, the Collaborators & Other Affiliations (COA) information specified in the PAPPG Chapter II.C.1.e should be submitted using the spreadsheet template found at <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/coa.jsp>. For each proposal, a completed spreadsheet for each project participant, including PI, co-PIs, and Senior Personnel, should be uploaded directly into Fastlane in .xls or .xlsx format as a "Collaborator and Other Affiliations" Single Copy Document. NSF will require the use of the spreadsheet for identifying COA information; the spreadsheet will ensure the COA information has a common, searchable format. *Submitters using Grants.gov may upload this document as a PDF.*

Note the distinction to item 10, above, for Special Information and Required Supplementary Documents: the listing of all project participants is collected by the project lead and entered as a Supplementary Document, which is then automatically included with all proposals in a project. The Collaborators and Other Affiliations are entered for each participant within each proposal, including subawardee participants, and, as Single Copy Documents, are available only to NSF staff. Collaborators and Other Affiliations due to participants listed on Supplementary Document (item 10) who are not PIs, co-PIs, or Senior Personnel can be uploaded under Additional Single Copy Documents using Transfer File.

Information to be submitted to NSF via email:

Lead Proposers are encouraged to contact the cognizant Program Director via email to mbasu@nsf.gov one week prior to submission with a list of prospective project personnel.

In addition, the proposers must send the following document via email immediately after submission of their proposal. After receipt of the proposal number from FastLane, send an email to: mbasu@nsf.gov. The subject heading of the email should note the proposal number and the lead institution. Attach the following document.

A single PowerPoint slide summarizing the vision of your Expeditions proposal.

This slide will be used during review panel discussions. Remember to email this PowerPoint slide to: mbasu@nsf.gov; do not use FastLane.

For InTrans Full Proposals:

Proposals must be prepared in accordance with the NSF [Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\)](#) or [Grants.gov Application Guide](#) and submitted electronically via FastLane or Grants.gov.

Proposers must use the following guidelines in preparation of InTrans proposals:

- For InTrans proposals: titles must begin with "InTrans", followed by a colon, then the title of the project.
- Each Expeditions or Frontier project team is limited to the submission of two *InTrans* proposals.
- A proposal may include a subset of the original PIs and/or institutions and may add new investigators and/or institutions, if needed.
- Research is expected to build on innovations developed within the Expedition or Frontier project. The proposal must include a collaboration plan detailing close coordination with the industry partner(s). The fundamental research results of the Expedition or Frontier must drive more applied research with the potential to enable the industry partner(s) to develop technological innovations with concrete and tangible positive impacts for society. The collaboration must also provide students opportunities to work closely with industry researchers.
- The total of NSF funding for all InTrans awards to any one Expedition or Frontier project team must not exceed \$1.5 million. For a single InTrans proposal, the NSF budget(s) must not (in total in the case of multi-institution collaborations) exceed one-third of the total co-funding support provided by industry (excluding in-kind contributions such as collaboration of industry personnel). In addition, the yearly budget total of the NSF *InTrans* proposal cannot exceed the yearly co-funding from the industry partner(s). As an example, if an industry partner commits \$4.2 million total, the NSF *InTrans* award(s) cannot exceed \$1.4 million total for a combined total of \$5.6 million.
- Each *InTrans* proposal must include, as a supplementary document, a letter of commitment from each industry partner. Each letter should describe the collaboration of the industry partner and/or affirm the collaboration plan provided by the proposer, provide details regarding disposition of intellectual property, and specify the total funding anticipated to be provided. The letter must be signed by an authorized representative of the industry partner. The duration of an NSF *InTrans* award is intended to be two years.
- Industry contributions should be specifically for the purpose of research needed for transitioning Expeditions or Frontier project results to practice, and the accompanying letter of collaboration from the industry partner(s) should clearly state that. For example, *InTrans* will NOT entertain a request to cover the matching portion of any membership fee that an industry partner pays to join a consortium or industry advisory board.
- The *InTrans* project may be reviewed via a site visit or reverse site visit at the end of the first year as deemed necessary by NSF.

B. Budgetary Information

Cost Sharing:

Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.

C. Due Dates

- **Preliminary Proposal Due Date(s) (required)** (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):

April 25, 2018

Expeditions

April 22, 2020

Expeditions

- **Full Proposal Deadline(s)** (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):

January 16, 2019

Expeditions

January 20, 2021

Expeditions

- **Submission Window Date(s)** (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):

April 25, 2018 - April 24, 2019

InTrans

April 24, 2019 - April 23, 2020

April 24 - April 23, Annually Thereafter

D. FastLane/Research.gov/Grants.gov Requirements

For Proposals Submitted Via FastLane or Research.gov:

To prepare and submit a proposal via FastLane, see detailed technical instructions available at: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>. To prepare and submit a proposal via Research.gov, see detailed technical instructions available at: https://www.research.gov/research-portal/appmanager/base/desktop?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=research_node_display&_nodePath=/researchGov/Service/Desktop/ProposalPreparationandSubmission.html. For FastLane or Research.gov user support, call the FastLane and Research.gov Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail fastlane@nsf.gov or rgov@nsf.gov. The FastLane and Research.gov Help Desk answers general technical questions related to the use of the FastLane and Research.gov systems. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this funding opportunity.

For Proposals Submitted Via Grants.gov:

Before using Grants.gov for the first time, each organization must register to create an institutional profile. Once registered, the applicant's organization can then apply for any federal grant on the Grants.gov website. Comprehensive information about using Grants.gov is available on the Grants.gov Applicant Resources webpage: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html>. In addition, the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide (see link in Section V.A) provides instructions regarding the technical preparation of proposals via Grants.gov. For Grants.gov user support, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or by email: support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Contact Center answers general technical questions related to the use of Grants.gov. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this solicitation.

Submitting the Proposal: Once all documents have been completed, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must submit the application to Grants.gov and verify the desired funding opportunity and agency to which the application is submitted. The AOR must then sign and submit the application to Grants.gov. The completed application will be transferred to the NSF FastLane system for further processing.

Proposers that submitted via FastLane or Research.gov may use Research.gov to verify the status of their submission to NSF. For proposers that submitted via Grants.gov, until an application has been received and validated by NSF, the Authorized Organizational Representative may check the status of an application on Grants.gov. After proposers have received an e-mail notification from NSF, Research.gov should be used to check the status of an application.

VI. NSF PROPOSAL PROCESSING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

Proposals received by NSF are assigned to the appropriate NSF program for acknowledgement and, if they meet NSF requirements, for review. All proposals are carefully reviewed by a scientist, engineer, or educator serving as an NSF Program Officer, and usually by three to ten other persons outside NSF either as *ad hoc* reviewers, panelists, or both, who are experts in the particular fields represented by the proposal. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with oversight of the review process. Proposers are invited to suggest names of persons they believe are especially well qualified to review the proposal and/or persons they would prefer not review the proposal. These suggestions may serve as one source in the reviewer selection process at the Program Officer's discretion. Submission of such names, however, is optional. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts of interest with the proposal. In addition, Program Officers may obtain comments from site visits before recommending final action on proposals. Senior NSF staff further review recommendations for awards. A flowchart that depicts the entire NSF proposal and award process (and associated timeline) is included in PAPPG Exhibit III-1.

A comprehensive description of the Foundation's merit review process is available on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/.

Proposers should also be aware of core strategies that are essential to the fulfillment of NSF's mission, as articulated in *Building the Future: Investing in Discovery and Innovation - NSF Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 2018 – 2022*. These strategies are integrated in the program planning and implementation process, of which proposal review is one part. NSF's mission is particularly well-implemented through the integration of research and education and broadening participation in NSF programs, projects, and activities.

One of the strategic objectives in support of NSF's mission is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions must recruit, train, and prepare a diverse STEM workforce to advance the frontiers of science and participate in the U.S. technology-based economy. NSF's contribution to the national innovation ecosystem is to provide cutting-edge research under the guidance of the Nation's most creative scientists and engineers. NSF also supports development of a strong science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce by investing in building the knowledge that informs improvements in STEM teaching and learning.

NSF's mission calls for the broadening of opportunities and expanding participation of groups, institutions, and geographic regions that are underrepresented in STEM disciplines, which is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

A. Merit Review Principles and Criteria

The National Science Foundation strives to invest in a robust and diverse portfolio of projects that creates new knowledge and enables breakthroughs in understanding across all areas of science and engineering research and education. To identify which projects to support, NSF relies on a merit review process that incorporates consideration of both the technical aspects of a proposed project and its potential to contribute more broadly to advancing NSF's mission "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense; and for other purposes." NSF makes every effort to conduct a fair, competitive, transparent merit review process for the selection of projects.

1. Merit Review Principles

These principles are to be given due diligence by PIs and organizations when preparing proposals and managing projects, by reviewers when reading and evaluating proposals, and by NSF program staff when determining whether or not to recommend proposals for funding and while overseeing awards. Given that NSF is the primary federal agency charged with nurturing and supporting excellence in basic research and education, the following three principles apply:

- All NSF projects should be of the highest quality and have the potential to advance, if not transform, the frontiers of knowledge.
- NSF projects, in the aggregate, should contribute more broadly to achieving societal goals. These "Broader Impacts" may be accomplished through the research itself, through activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project. The project activities may be based on previously established and/or innovative methods and approaches, but in either case must be well justified.
- Meaningful assessment and evaluation of NSF funded projects should be based on appropriate metrics, keeping in mind the likely correlation between the effect of broader impacts and the resources provided to implement projects. If the size of the activity is limited, evaluation of that activity in isolation is not likely to be meaningful. Thus, assessing the effectiveness of these activities may best be done at a higher, more aggregated, level than the individual project.

With respect to the third principle, even if assessment of Broader Impacts outcomes for particular projects is done at an aggregated level, PIs are expected to be accountable for carrying out the activities described in the funded project. Thus, individual projects should include clearly stated goals, specific descriptions of the activities that the PI intends to do, and a plan in place to document the outputs of those activities.

These three merit review principles provide the basis for the merit review criteria, as well as a context within which the users of the criteria can better understand their intent.

2. Merit Review Criteria

All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of the two National Science Board approved merit review criteria. In some instances, however, NSF will employ additional criteria as required to highlight the specific objectives of certain programs and activities.

The two merit review criteria are listed below. **Both** criteria are to be given **full consideration** during the review and decision-making processes; each criterion is necessary but neither, by itself, is sufficient. Therefore, proposers must fully address both criteria. (PAPPG Chapter II.C.2.d(i), contains additional information for use by proposers in development of the Project Description section of the proposal). Reviewers are strongly encouraged to review the criteria, including PAPPG Chapter II.C.2.d(i), prior to the review of a proposal.

When evaluating NSF proposals, reviewers will be asked to consider what the proposers want to do, why they want to do it, how they plan to do it, how they will know if they succeed, and what benefits could accrue if the project is successful. These issues apply both to the technical aspects of the proposal and the way in which the project may make broader contributions. To that end, reviewers will be asked to evaluate all proposals against two criteria:

- **Intellectual Merit:** The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge; and
- **Broader Impacts:** The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

The following elements should be considered in the review for both criteria:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to
 - a. Advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
 - b. Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

Broader impacts may be accomplished through the research itself, through the activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project. NSF values the advancement of scientific knowledge and activities that contribute to achievement of societally relevant outcomes. Such outcomes include, but are not limited to: full participation of women, persons with disabilities, and underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); improved STEM education and educator development at any level; increased public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology; improved well-being of individuals in society; development of a diverse, globally competitive STEM workforce; increased partnerships between academia, industry, and others; improved national security; increased economic competitiveness of the United States; and enhanced infrastructure for research and education.

Proposers are reminded that reviewers will also be asked to review the Data Management Plan and the Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan, as appropriate.

Additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria

Value-added of funding the activity as an Expeditions project:

- Are the identified research and education goals of sufficient import, scale, and/or complexity to justify this type of investment?
- Will the proposed activity contribute to realization of the *Expeditions in Computing* program goals and is it likely to demonstrate the characteristics described in the solicitation? Note, the three program goals are to (1) catalyze far-reaching research explorations motivated by deep scientific questions or hard problems in the computer and information science and engineering fields, and/or by compelling applications that promise significant societal benefits; (2) inspire current and future generations of Americans, especially those from underrepresented groups, to pursue rewarding careers in computer and information science and engineering; and (3) stimulate significant research and education outcomes that, through effective knowledge transfer mechanisms, promise scientific, economic, and/or other societal benefits.
- As appropriate, comment on the value of the experimental systems or shared experimental facilities proposed.

Leadership and Collaboration Plan:

- Does the leadership team convincingly demonstrate the goals, experience, and capacity to manage a complex, multi-faceted, and innovative research, education, and knowledge transfer enterprise?
- What is the likely effectiveness of the proposed leadership and collaboration plan?
- Is there documentation of institutional and other commitments to the proposed activity?
- Is the requested budget appropriate for the scope and complexity of the research, education and knowledge transfer projects proposed?
- Does the proposed collaboration approach promise significant value added?

B. Review and Selection Process

Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation will be reviewed by Ad hoc Review and/or Panel Review, Reverse Site Review, or Additional Review Criteria.

As an elaboration of the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts criteria, reviewers will be asked to consider the following guidance when evaluating both preliminary and full proposals.

1. Value-added of funding the activity as an *Expeditions* project: Are the identified research and education goals of sufficient import, scale, and/or complexity to justify this type of investment? Will the proposed activity contribute to realization of the *Expeditions in Computing* program goals and is it likely to demonstrate the characteristics described in the solicitation? Does the project description make a convincing case that the collaborative contributions of the project team will be greater than the sum of each of their individual contributions? Where necessary, comment on the value of the experimental systems or shared experimental facilities proposed.
2. Leadership and Collaboration Plan: Does the leadership team convincingly demonstrate the goals, experience, and capacity to manage a complex, multi-faceted, and innovative research, education, and knowledge transfer enterprise? What is the likely effectiveness of the proposed leadership and collaboration plan? Is there documentation of institutional and other commitments to the proposed activity? Is the requested budget appropriate for the scope and complexity of the research, education and knowledge transfer projects proposed? Does the proposed collaboration approach promise significant value added?
3. New proposals from current *Expeditions* awardees will be evaluated in an open competition with other new proposals. All *Expeditions* proposals must introduce substantially new research topics and undertake innovative research, which will be evaluated through NSF's two review criteria. All *Expeditions* proposals are expected to articulate prior research outcomes for project staff, which are also part of the review. It is expected that re-competing projects will demonstrate research excellence, significant achievements, noteworthy impacts, outreach success, and collaborations with industry and/or other partners, as appropriate, based on the current *Expeditions* project.

Reviewers will be asked to evaluate proposals using two National Science Board approved merit review criteria and, if applicable, additional program specific criteria. A summary rating and accompanying narrative will generally be completed and submitted by each reviewer and/or panel. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.

After scientific, technical and programmatic review and consideration of appropriate factors, the NSF Program Officer recommends to the cognizant Division Director whether the proposal should be declined or recommended for award. NSF strives to be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months. Large or particularly complex proposals or proposals from new awardees may require additional review and processing time. The time interval begins on the deadline or target date, or receipt date, whichever is later. The interval ends when the Division Director acts upon the Program Officer's recommendation.

After programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements for review of business, financial, and policy implications. After an administrative review has occurred, Grants and Agreements Officers perform the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with a NSF Program Officer. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the NSF Grants and Agreements Officer does so at their own risk.

Once an award or declination decision has been made, Principal Investigators are provided feedback about their proposals. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers or any reviewer-identifying information, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Officer. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Notification of the Award

Notification of the award is made to *the submitting organization* by a Grants Officer in the Division of Grants and Agreements. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator. (See Section VI.B. for additional information on the review process.)

B. Award Conditions

An NSF award consists of: (1) the award notice, which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (2) the budget, which indicates the amounts, by categories of expense, on which NSF has based its support (or otherwise communicates any specific approvals or disapprovals of proposed expenditures); (3) the proposal referenced in the award notice; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (GC-1)*; or Research Terms and Conditions* and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award notice. Cooperative agreements also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Financial and Administrative Terms and Conditions (CA-FATC) and the applicable Programmatic Terms and Conditions. NSF awards are electronically signed by an NSF Grants and Agreements Officer and transmitted electronically to the organization via e-mail.

*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Website at https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/award_conditions.jsp?org=NSF. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-8134 or by e-mail from nsfpubs@nsf.gov.

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the NSF *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) Chapter VII, available electronically on the NSF Website at https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg.

Special Award Conditions:

It is anticipated that each *Expeditions* project will be merit reviewed in a site visit conducted at the end of Year 2 to assess project progress and to determine if the project warrants continued support in Years 3 through 5.

In addition to the site visit at the end of 2nd year, an *Expeditions* project may be site reviewed at the end of 4th year as deemed necessary by the CISE directorate.

InTrans awards will be made as continuing grants with Year 1 funding contingent upon receipt of industry funding in Year 1, and Year 2 funding contingent upon receipt of a letter of commitment from the industry partner(s) documenting funding for Years 2 and 3.

C. Reporting Requirements

For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the Principal Investigator must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer no later than 90 days prior to the end of the current budget period. (Some programs or awards require submission of more frequent project reports). No later than 120 days following expiration of a grant, the PI also is required to submit a final project report, and a project outcomes report for the general public.

Failure to provide the required annual or final project reports, or the project outcomes report, will delay NSF review and processing of any future funding increments as well as any pending proposals for all identified PIs and co-PIs on a given award. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

PIs are required to use NSF's electronic project-reporting system, available through Research.gov, for preparation and submission of annual and final project reports. Such reports provide information on accomplishments, project participants (individual and organizational), publications, and other specific products and impacts of the project. Submission of the report via Research.gov constitutes certification by the PI that the contents of the report are accurate and complete. The project outcomes report also must be prepared and submitted using Research.gov. This report serves as a brief summary, prepared specifically for the public, of the nature and outcomes of the project. This report will be posted on the NSF website exactly as it is submitted by the PI.

More comprehensive information on NSF Reporting Requirements and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) Chapter VII, available electronically on the NSF Website at https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg.

In addition, *Expeditions* awardees must:

- produce one project outcome "highlights" annually for Years 3 through 5, that are prepared for a lay audience; these highlights will be used in NSF reporting and outreach;
- create and maintain an active project web site that shares information about the project; and
- attend PI meetings to share information about the project. Make provision for travel fund for at least two PIs and one student to attend one PI meeting during the life of the project.

VIII. AGENCY CONTACTS

Please note that the program contact information is current at the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

General inquiries regarding this program should be made to:

- Mitra Basu, Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-8910, email: mbasu@nsf.gov

For questions related to the use of FastLane or Research.gov, contact:

- FastLane and Research.gov Help Desk: 1-800-673-6188

FastLane Help Desk e-mail: fastlane@nsf.gov.

Research.gov Help Desk e-mail: rgov@nsf.gov

For questions relating to Grants.gov contact:

- Grants.gov Contact Center: If the Authorized Organizational Representatives (AOR) has not received a confirmation message from Grants.gov within 48 hours of submission of application, please contact via telephone: 1-800-518-4726; e-mail: support@grants.gov.

IX. OTHER INFORMATION

The NSF website provides the most comprehensive source of information on NSF Directorates (including contact information), programs and funding opportunities. Use of this website by potential proposers is strongly encouraged. In addition, "NSF Update" is an information-delivery system designed to keep potential proposers and other interested parties apprised of new NSF funding opportunities and publications, important changes in proposal and award policies and procedures, and upcoming NSF [Grants Conferences](#). Subscribers are informed through e-mail or the user's Web browser each time new publications are issued that match their identified interests. "NSF Update" also is available on [NSF's website](#).

Grants.gov provides an additional electronic capability to search for Federal government-wide grant opportunities. NSF funding opportunities may be accessed via this mechanism. Further information on Grants.gov may be obtained at <https://www.grants.gov>.

The *Expeditions* program provides CISE investigators with access to a diverse set of CISE funding opportunities. CISE core programs provide funding for projects ranging from modest single-investigator activities through larger multi-investigator efforts funded at levels of approximately \$1,000,000 per year. *Expeditions* complement these investments, supporting ambitious, multi-investigator projects requiring annual investments up to \$2,000,000. For research and education projects with scopes that require even larger funding levels,

PIs are encouraged to consider the opportunities provided by NSF's Engineering Research Center (ERC) and Science and Technology Center (STC) programs.

Innovation Transition awards

Additional funding opportunities are available for all *Expeditions* project teams in their 4th or 5th years of the original funding in the form of *Innovation Transition (InTrans)* awards.

The goal of *InTrans* is to continue the long-term vision and objectives of the project team, to mature and deploy successful research and innovation results in industries, and to facilitate the transition of the innovations to support from industrial sponsors along with the potential to develop new technologies.

Questions regarding the *InTrans* funding opportunity should be addressed to Mitra Basu, Program Director, CISE/CCF, by email to mbasu@nsf.gov, or by phone at 703-292-8910.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent Federal agency created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 USC 1861-75). The Act states the purpose of the NSF is "to promote the progress of science; [and] to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare by supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering."

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