CISE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

NSF 00-5

DIRECTORATE FOR COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

DEADLINE DATE:
   JANUARY 25, 2000;
   SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS WILL HAVE A DUE DATE ON THE THIRD MONDAY IN OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR (2000 AND AFTER)

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SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Name: CISE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Short Description/Synopsis of Program:

The CISE (Computer and Information Science and Engineering) Research Infrastructure Program provides support to aid in the establishment, enhancement, and operation of major experimental facilities planned to support all of the research areas in the CISE Directorate. It may also assist activities for integration of research and education. The Research Infrastructure Program recognizes the emergence of research groups requiring strengthening of experimental facilities in a variety of environments - those solely within a single academic department, those drawing from several departments in a single institution, and those spanning several different institutions. The areas of research supported by this program are those supported by the CISE Directorate as described in the NSF Guide to Programs.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):   Dr. Dragana Brzakovic, Program Director, Room 1160, Division of Experimental and Integrative Activities, telephone (703) 306-1981, e-mail: dbrzakov@nsf.gov.

Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.: 47.070 — Computer and Information Science and Engineering.

ELIGIBILITY

♦   Limitation on the categories of organizations that are eligible to submit proposals:

Proposals may be submitted by US universities in support of individual investigators or small groups. Universities must have PhD degree granting programs in one or more areas of CISE research.

♦   PI eligibility limitations: **None**

♦   Limitation on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an organization: **Only one proposal may be submitted for a project at a single university. Consortium or multi-institution projects may also be submitted and are not limited in number.**

AWARD INFORMATION

♦   Type of award anticipated: **Continuing Grant**

♦   Number of awards anticipated in FY 2000: **6-8 awards in each competition.**

♦ Amount of funds available: **Approximately $8 million including outyear funding will be available for this initiative in each fiscal year, subject to availability of funds.**

♦ Anticipated date of award: **June of each year (July in 2000).**

PROPOSAL PREPARATION & SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

♦ **Proposal Preparation Instructions**

- Letter of Intent requirements: **Letters of intent are requested to be sent to the cognizant program officer, by email to the address listed above, one month before the deadline. Letters should briefly describe the areas of research the proposed infrastructure will support and give the names and affiliations of participating scientists. These letters are not required.**

- Preproposal requirements: **None**

- Proposal preparation instructions: **Standard NSF Grant Proposal Guide instructions with additional material as described in this announcement.**

- Supplemental proposal preparation instructions: **None**

- Deviations from standard (GPG) proposal preparation instructions: **See Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions in this announcement. Additional pages are allowed as described in the full announcement.**

♦ **Budgetary Information**

- Cost sharing/matching requirements: **Cost sharing at a level of one-third of the amount requested from the NSF is required for all proposals submitted in response to this announcement. The proposed cost sharing must be shown on line M on the proposal budget (NSF Form 1030.)**

- Indirect cost (F&A) limitations: **None**

- Other budgetary limitations: **Award amounts of $800,000 up to $2 million cumulative for five years for proposals submitted in response to this announcement**

♦ **FastLane Requirements**

- FastLane proposal preparation requirements: **FastLane use is required.**

- FastLane point of contact: Helen Walston, (703) 306-1981, hwalston@nsf.gov

♦ **Deadline/Target Dates**

- Letter of Intent Deadline (not required)

   December 17, 1999 for FY 2000 competition

   Third Monday in September for later competitions

- Full Proposal Deadline

   5:00 PM, local time, January 25, 2000 (FastLane)

   5:00 PM, local time, Third Monday in October in 2000 and later years (FastLane)

PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

♦ Merit Review Criteria: **Standard National Science Board approved criteria and additional criteria listed in the full announcement.**

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

♦ Grant Award Conditions: **GC-1 or FDP III**

♦ Special grant conditions anticipated: **Grantees are expected to participate in an annual Grantee Workshop**

♦ Special reporting requirements anticipated: **None**

INTRODUCTION

The CISE (Computer and Information Science and Engineering) Research Infrastructure (RI) Program provides support to aid in the establishment, enhancement, and operation of major experimental facilities planned to support all of the research areas in the CISE Directorate. Projects may include activities for integration of research and education. The CISE Research Infrastructure Program recognizes the emergence of research groups requiring strengthening of experimental facilities in a variety of environments - those solely within a single academic department, those drawing from several departments in a single institution, and those spanning several different institutions. The areas of research supported by this program are those supported by the CISE Directorate as described in the NSF Guide to Programs.

A primary objective of the RI program is to stimulate experimental work in CISE-research, as measured by increased scientific activity and increased participation in research of both faculty and graduate students. It also provides assistance to activities for integration of research and education.

The NSF encourages proposers to address the full participation of women, minorities and persons with disabilities (hereinafter referred to as underrepresented groups) in research activities. Examples of activities appropriate to the RI program include: a departmental effort to recruit female graduate students, a research collaboration with a minority institution, or a project that is focused on designing a system to provide systems access to persons with a visual disorder.

The CISE Directorate is particularly interested in balancing support for institutions that have not had prior RI awards with support for those that have had prior RI awards.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The CISE Research Infrastructure program provides support for experimental facilities in universities that enable increased experimental research. Projects supported under the program are expected to demonstrate synergy among the supported projects and researchers; thus general departmental support, such as workstation upgrades, is not appropriate to the program.

The CISE Research Infrastructure Program will be abbreviated as "RI"; this designation will also include predecessors of the program: the Coordinated Experimental Research (CER) program, the Institutional Infrastructure - Large Scale program, and the Institutional Infrastructure - Small Scale program. Similarly, the statement "all of the research areas supported in the CISE Directorate" will be abbreviated as "CISE-research".

To qualify for an RI grant, the proposing research group should have an existing core of active researchers and research projects in CISE-research. The RI program is open to all core CISE disciplines listed in the NSF Guide to Programs. The RI program is interested in promoting multidisciplinary applications in areas funded by other NSF Directorates. *However, a competitive, multidisciplinary RI proposal must contain a significant component in core CISE-research.*

The RI program provides support for acquisition of experimental facilities not normally available under individual research grants. Before applying for an RI grant, the proposing group is asked to consider whether individual research or equipment grants would be more appropriate. An important consideration in evaluating RI proposals is whether the provided experimental facilities will enable the researchers to undertake important work that otherwise would not be possible under individual awards.

Another important criterion is whether the provided support will likely result in more or better results than would separate support for the individual research projects at the same total funding level. Thus, RI proposals are expected to have strong synergism among researchers and among projects that requires the coordinated RI funding. The synergism present in an RI proposal should also be evidenced by enabling new sources of research support, appropriate recognition in the host(s) university, participation in new partnerships, or other ways.

The RI program provides support for the acquisition of major experimental facilities in CISE-research. Eligible project costs are equipment, software, maintenance and appropriate technical support. Appropriate technical support refers to technical personnel and associated indirect costs that are necessary for the operation and maintenance of the

experimental facilities. Travel expenses necessary for training technical support staff in the operation and maintenance of the experimental facilities may be eligible project costs if appropriate justification for training is presented.

Students, research assistants, postdoctoral research associates, secretarial and clerical personnel are not eligible project costs. Faculty salaries are eligible project costs only in the case of the project director when one month per year of salary and associated indirect costs may be allowable if the requested experimental facilities are sufficiently complex and appropriate justification is presented.

There should be strong existing institutional or multi-institutional support through cost sharing for the RI projects. The institution(s) must be prepared to provide substantial cost sharing for the proposed project equal to at least one third of the amount requested from NSF. The RI program requires that the institution(s) assume an increasing share of the maintenance and technical support personnel costs each year throughout the grant period as part of their cost share. See the Budgetary Information section below for more information on cost sharing.

Industrial supporting letters may be included with the budget justification or included with the cover sheet and certifications page that are mailed to the NSF (see PROPOSAL PREPARATION & SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS below).

ELIGIBILITY

Proposals requesting support for acquisition of experimental facilities in CISE-research will be accepted from research groups associated with PhD degree-granting departments that have research programs in any one or more areas of CISE-research. CoPI's from other departments are encouraged to be part of proposals, but the lead PI should be from a department conducting CISE research. Proposals must be from US universities. Only one proposal per institution will be accepted in any one year. Consortium or multi-institution projects may also be submitted and are not limited in number. All proposals should have at least one CISE research area, PhD granting department associated with the project as a major participant.

AWARD INFORMATION

Awards generally range from $800,000 to $2,000,000 over a five-year period. In most cases, five-year continuing grants are awarded under the program but shorter term awards may be recommended if appropriate. NSF anticipates 6-8 awards in the program subject to available funding and quality of proposals. Awards are anticipated in June of each year.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION & SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions.

Proposals submitted in response to this program announcement should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG), NSF 00-2. The complete text of the GPG (including electronic forms) is available electronically on the NSF Web site at: <http://www.nsf.gov/>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program announcement number (NSF 00-5) in the program announcement/solicitation block on the NSF Form 1207, "*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.

CISE Research Infrastructure Proposal Format:

The 15 page limit for proposals is waived for this program. A strict format and page limits, specified in this section, is imposed on RI proposals. Research proposals not meeting these limits will be returned as inappropriate for the program.

Introductory Material:

The following parts should be submitted as directed in the FastLane Instructions.

Cover page

Up to five investigators may be listed as PI's and CoPI's. Additional participating scientists for the project should provide biographical sketches and results from prior awards as described below.

Proposal Summary (Eighteen page limit):

The Project Summary should consist of the following sections: Executive Summary, Research Infrastructure Description, Resource Allocation, Management Structure, Multi-Institutional Agreements and Results from Prior Awards. The total limit for the Proposal Summary section will be 18 pages with section limits as indicated.

❧ Executive Summary (Three page limit)

This should consist of a summary of the remaining sections in the proposal.

❧ Research Infrastructure Description (Five page limit)

Include a summary description of the requested experimental facilities and an indication of how the research infrastructure will be developed over the five year period of the grant.

❧ Resource Allocation (Five page limit)

Describe the way in which the requested funds will be used to acquire the experimental facilities needed to support the research projects, including:

1.   The research equipment and computing facilities currently in the department or available to it for research.

2.   A description of the equipment, software, maintenance and technical support requested for each year, including for equipment a representative manufacturer and model number if possible, with itemized costs and total cost.

3.   Rationale for the requested equipment, software, maintenance and technical support.

4.   Equipment and software maintenance costs per year, with method of computation. Equipment and software costs should be shown at discounts appropriate for the proposing institution.

5.   A description of how the equipment will be accessed by the users, including details of the network and communication system for remote users.

6.   A description of any space renovation needed to accommodate the requested equipment. Indicate the source of funds for the renovation, since RI funding is not normally granted for this purpose.

7.   A summary description of the institutional cost sharing.

❧ Management Structure (One page limit)

A proposed management structure for managing the experimental facilities is to be included here. The plan should indicate not only how the proposed facilities would be managed but also how this research infrastructure would fit into and be integrated with the existing infrastructure in the unit.

❧ Multi-Institutional Agreements (One page limit)

Proposals involving inter-institutional sharing arrangements must include a copy of the arrangement. This must detail the administrative and financial responsibility of each institution, and it must be formally approved by appropriate scientific and administrative officers of each institution

❧ Results from Prior Awards: (Three page limit):

If an institution has received RI, CISE Instrumentation, or CISE Minority Institutions Infrastructure award funding in the past five years, whether an initial award or continuing award, a summary of that project including a compilation of the significant research results and impacts with a listing of the most pertinent publications, is to be included. Principal participants in the project should also provide results from prior awards that are most relevant to the proposed research.

Budget: (No page limits)

1. Prepare appropriately labeled copies of NSF Form 1030, one for each year of the grant and one for the total for all years (generally five years), for the requested NSF budget.
2. For the budget justification, a detailed supplemental budget spreadsheet is required. In the left-most column list detailed description of items (equipment items, maintenance, staff positions) requested, followed by six columns – one for each year of the grant and one for the five year total. Columns will indicate the costs of the items. The total costs are summed in the sixth column. Each of these six columns is divided into subcolumns for the amounts requested from NSF, the institutional cost sharing, and other support (two-page limit).
3. In the case of a multi-institution project (a single proposal with subcontracts), the budget information should be provided for each member institution. Consortium projects (separately submitted proposals for a single project should indicate budget information for each institution in its own proposal.

Research Description (Fifteen page limit):

Provide a description and explanation of the proposed associated research with appropriate scientific justification and literature references. This should demonstrate how the research depends upon both the experimental facilities proposed and the requested level of support with particular emphasis given to identifying new directions, expansions and extensions not possible without such support. The scientific merit of the research made possible by the requested support is a particularly important selection criterion. The synergism of the research projects should be explained. Project components for increasing participation of under-represented groups should be described. Criteria for measuring success of the project and the expected impact to the departments, institutions and CISE community should be provided. The proposed facilities may also be used in support of activities for integrating research and education. All proposals must contain sufficient detail for an evaluation of the intrinsic scientific merit of the proposed research. When sub-projects are described, the investigators participating in those subprojects should be identified.

The intention is that this section of the proposal be structured by the proposing institution so as to present its case in the best possible light. Therefore, the structure and sub-sections within this section are not specified.

All diagrams, etc. are included in the 15 page limit. No appendices will be accepted.

References:

References are in a separate section of the proposal.

Biographical Sketches:

In no more than two pages each, include the current curriculum vitae and a brief summary of their research accomplishments over the past five years for each faculty member who will be directly involved in the use, development or formation of the research facility, or in the research projects. Biographical sketches should be provided for each listed investigator as well as other participating scientists. These sketches should include the name of the investigators' thesis advisor, names and institutions of past PhD students, and names and institutions of current collaborators.

If there are other senior personnel who will be responsible for the purchasing, management or operations of the requested equipment, provide their names and recent accomplishments in one page for each person.

Current and Pending Support Forms:

Supply the information requested in Form 1239 of the Grant Proposal Guide (NSF 00-2) i.e., indicate all current and pending research support for each investigator listed in the Biographical Sketches section above.

B.   Budgetary Information

   Cost Sharing Requirements.

Cost sharing at a level of one-third of the total amount requested from NSF is required for all proposals submitted in response to this announcement. The proposed cost sharing must be shown on line M on the proposal budget (NSF Form 1030.)

The amount of cost sharing must be shown in the proposal in enough detail to allow NSF to determine its impact on the proposed project. Documentation of availability of cost sharing must be included in the proposal.

Only items which would be allowable under the applicable cost principles, if charged to the project, may be included as the grantee's contribution to cost sharing. Contributions may be made from any non-Federal source, including non-Federal grants or contracts, and may be cash or in-kind (see OMB Circular A-110, Section 23). It should be noted that contributions counted as cost-sharing toward projects of another Federal agency may not be counted towards meeting the specific cost-sharing requirements of the NSF grant.

All cost-sharing amounts are subject to audit. Failure to provide the level of cost-sharing reflected in the approved grant budget may result in termination of the NSF grant, disallowance of grant costs and/or refund of grant funds to NSF.

C.   Proposal Due Dates.

FastLane (electronic) proposals **MUST** be submitted by 5:00 PM local time, January 25, 2000. Copies of the signed proposal cover sheet must be submitted in accordance with the instructions identified below. In October 2000 and following years, proposals are due 5:00 PM local time on the third Monday in October of each year.

Submission of Signed Cover Sheets. The signed proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207) should be forwarded to the following address and received by NSF within five working days after the proposal due date.

National Science Foundation
CISE Research Infrastructure Program
Room 1160N
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230

A proposal may not be processed until the complete proposal (including signed Cover Sheet) has been received by NSF.

D.   FastLane Requirements.

Proposers are required to prepare and submit proposals using the NSF FastLane system. Detailed instructions for proposal preparation and submission via FastLane are available at https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm.

Submission of Signed Cover Sheets. The signed paper copy of the proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207) should be forwarded to NSF within five working days following proposal submission in accordance with FastLane proposal preparation and submission instructions referenced above.

PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. <u>Merit Review Criteria.</u>

Reviews of proposals submitted to NSF are solicited from peers with expertise in the substantive area of the proposed research or education project. These reviewers are selected by Program officers charged with the oversight of the review process. NSF invites the proposer to suggest, at the time of submission, the names of appropriate or inappropriate reviewers. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts with the proposer. Special efforts are made to recruit reviewers from non-academic institutions, minority serving institutions or adjacent disciplines to that principally addressed in the proposal.

Proposals will be reviewed against the following general merit review criteria established by the National Science Board. Following each criterion are potential considerations that the reviewer may employ in the evaluation. These are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. Each reviewer will be asked to address only those that are relevant to the proposal and for which he/she is qualified to make judgments.

What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

PIs should address the following elements in their proposal to provide reviewers with the information necessary to respond fully to both NSF merit review criteria. NSF staff will give these factors careful consideration in making funding decisions.

Integration of Research and Education

One of the principal strategies in support of NSF's goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learner perspectives.

Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities

Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens -- women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities -- are 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.

Additional considerations in evaluating these proposals include:
- Whether the provided experimental facilities will enable the researchers to undertake important work that otherwise would not be possible under individual awards.
- The leverage provided by NSF funded infrastructure to enable additional research funding, university support for experimental computer science, and industry participation.
- Whether the provided support will likely result in more or better results than would separate support for the individual research projects at the same total funding level.
- Whether there is a strong synergism present in an RI proposal that would not be found in individual research grants.

B. Review Protocol and Associated Customer Service Standard

All proposals are carefully reviewed by at least three other persons outside NSF who are experts in the particular field represented by the proposal. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement will be reviewed by an initial panel; at that point some will be declined and some will be asked to participate in site reviews. After site reviews, award decisions will be made by NSF staff or a panel.

Reviewers will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. A program officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation. In most cases, proposers will be contacted by the program officer after his or her recommendation to award or decline funding has been approved by his or her supervisor, the division director. This informal notification is not a guarantee of an eventual award. NSF will be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months for 95 percent of proposals. The time interval begins on the proposal deadline or target date or from the date of receipt, if deadlines or target dates are not used by the program. The interval ends when the division director accepts the program officer's recommendation.

In all cases, 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 and the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants 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 an 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 Officer does so at its own risk.

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 (DGA). Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program Division administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator.

B. Grant Award Conditions.

An NSF grant consists of: (1) the award letter, which includes any special provisions applicable to the grant 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 letter; (4) the applicable grant conditions, such as Grant General Conditions

(NSF GC-1)* or Federal Demonstration Partnership Phase III (FDP) Terms and Conditions* and (5) any NSF brochure, program guide, announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Electronic mail notification is the preferred way to transmit NSF grants to organizations that have electronic mail capabilities and have requested such notification from the Division of Grants and Agreements.

* These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Web site at: <http://www.nsf.gov/>. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions is contained in the NSF *Grant Policy Manual* (GPM) Chapter II, (NSF 95-26) available electronically on the NSF Web site. The GPM also is available in paper copy by subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The GPM may be ordered through the GPO Web site at: <http://www.gpo.gov>. The telephone number at GPO for subscription information is (202) 512-1800.

C.   Reporting Requirements.

For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the PI must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer at least 90 days before the end of the current budget period.

Within 90 days after expiration of a grant, the PI also is required to submit a final project report. Approximately 30 days before expiration, NSF will send a notice to remind the PI of the requirement to file the final project report. Failure to provide final technical reports delays NSF review and processing of pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

NSF has implemented a new electronic project reporting system, available through FastLane, which permits electronic submission and updating of project reports, including information on: project participants (individual and organizational); activities and findings; publications; and, other specific products and contributions. Reports will continue to be required annually and after the expiration of the grant, but PIs will not need to re-enter information previously provided, either with the proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system.

Effective October 1, 1999, PIs are required to use the new reporting system for submission of annual and final project reports.

D.   New Awardee Information.

If the submitting organization has never received an NSF award, it is recommended that the organization's appropriate administrative officials become familiar with the policies and procedures in the NSF *Grant Policy Manual* which are applicable to most NSF awards. The "Prospective New Awardee Guide" (NSF 99-78) includes information on: Administrative and Management Information; Accounting System Requirements and Auditing Information; and Payments to Organizations with NSF Awards. This information will assist an organization in preparing documents that NSF requires to conduct administrative and financial reviews of an organization. The guide also serves as a means of highlighting the accountability requirements associated with Federal awards. This document is available electronically on NSF's Web site at: <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf9978>.

CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General inquiries should be made to the **CISE Research Infrastructure program**, Dr. Dragana Brzakovic, Program Officer, Room 1160, Division of Experimental and Integrative Activities, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230, telephone (703) 306-1981, e-mail: dbrzakov@nsf.gov. For questions related to use of FastLane, contact Helen Walston, (703) 306-1981, hwalston@nsf.gov.

OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The NSF Guide to Programs is a compilation of funding for research and education in science, mathematics, and engineering. General descriptions of NSF programs, research areas, and eligibility information for proposal submission are provided in each chapter. Many NSF programs offer announcements concerning specific proposal requirements. To obtain additional information about these requirements, contact the appropriate NSF program offices listed in Appendix A of the GPG. Any changes in NSF's fiscal year programs occurring after press time for the Guide to Programs will be announced in the NSF Bulletin, available monthly (except July and August), and in individual program announcements. The Bulletin is available electronically via the NSF Web Site at http://www.nsf.gov.   The   direct   URL   for   recent   issues   of   the   Bulletin   is http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/news/publicat/bulletin/bulletin.htm Subscribers can also sign up for NSF's Custom News Service to find out what funding opportunities are available.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Grantees are wholly responsible for conducting their project activities and preparing the results for publication. Thus, the Foundation does not assume responsibility for such findings or their interpretation.

NSF welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists, engineers and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to compete fully in its programs. In accordance with federal statutes, regulations, and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NSF (unless otherwise specified in the eligibility requirements for a particular program).

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF-supported projects. See the program announcement or contact the program coordinator at (703) 306-1636.

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation regarding NSF programs, employment, or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 292-5090 or (800) 281-8749 or through FIRS on 1-800-877-8339.

We want all of our communications to be clear and understandable. If you have suggestions on how we can improve this document or other NSF publications, please email us at `plainlanguage@nsf.gov`.

PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; project reports submitted by awardees will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the review process; to applicant institutions/grantees to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies needing information as part of the review process or in order to coordinate programs; and to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates

to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See Systems of Records, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 267 (January 5, 1998), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 268 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Reports Clearance Officer; Information Dissemination Branch, DAS; National Science Foundation; Arlington, VA 22230.

YEAR 2000 REMINDER

In accordance with Important Notice No. 120 dated June 27, 1997, Subject: Year 2000 Computer Problem, NSF awardees are reminded of their responsibility to take appropriate actions to ensure that the NSF activity being supported is not adversely affected by the Year 2000 problem. Potentially affected items include: computer systems, databases, and equipment. The National Science Foundation should be notified if an awardee concludes that the Year 2000 will have a significant impact on its ability to carry out an NSF funded activity. Information concerning Year 2000 activities can be found on the NSF web site at http://www.nsf.gov/oirm/y2k/start.htm.

Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.: 47.070 – Computer and Information Science and Engineering Grants
OMB No.: 3145-0058

Replaces NSF 98-159
(Electronic Dissemination Only)