

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION
SUBMISSION, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
OMB APPROVAL NO. 3145-0080)**

A. Justification for Collection of Data

1. CIRCUMSTANCES MAKING COLLECTION OF INFORMATION NECESSARY

The Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Subpart 15.2 – “Solicitation and Receipt of Proposals and Information” prescribes policies and procedures for preparing and issuing Requests for Proposals. The FAR System has been developed in accordance with the requirement of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act of 1974, as amended.

2. HOW, BY WHOM, AND PURPOSE FOR WHICH INFORMATION IS TO BE USED

Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are used to competitively solicit proposals in response to NSF needs for services. Impact will be on those individuals or organizations who elect to submit proposals in response to an RFP. Information gathered will be evaluated in light of NSF procurement requirements to determine who will be awarded a contract. The NSF Act of 1950, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1870, Sec. II, states that NSF has the authority to:

“(c) enter into contracts or other arrangements, or modifications thereof, for the carrying on, by organizations or individuals in the United States and foreign countries, including other government agencies of the United States and of foreign countries, of such scientific or engineering activities as the Foundation deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, and, at the request of the Secretary of Defense, specific scientific or engineering activities in connection with matter relating to international cooperation or national security, and, when deemed appropriate by the Foundation, such contracts or other arrangements or modifications thereof, may be entered into without legal consideration, without performance or other bonds and without regard to section 5 of title 41, U.S.C.”

Where contracts are prescribed by the FAR, NSF must receive and evaluate proposals to support NSF’s program requirements.

3. USE OF AUTOMATION

NSF is experimenting with the use of Electronic Transmission for its basic research activities. Any success would be utilized, where feasible, for contacts. There are no known legal obstacles to reducing the reporting burden.

4. EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DUPLICATION

All RFPs are centrally controlled by one unit at NSF (Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support) located on one floor. RFPs are generated in response from requirements by program areas. This virtually eliminates duplication.

5. SMALL BUSINESS CONSIDERATIONS

NSF follows the requirements of the FAR. By not issuing implementing or supplemental regulations, except to designate individuals responsible for any deviations to the FAR (as of this writing, there are none), NSF assures minimum burden to Small Business firms as well as for all other proposers to RFPs.

6. CONSEQUENCES OF LESS FREQUENT COLLECTION

Responses must be made in accordance with specific requirements of the RFP. Therefore, there is no similar information existing.

7. COLLECTION INCONSISTENT WITH GUIDELINES IN 5 CFR 1320.6

Collections are consistent with the guidelines.

8. FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE

The agency's notice for public comment was published in the Federal Register January 20, 2012 (77 FR 3009). We received no comments from the public.

9. GIFTS OR REMUNERATION

Not applicable.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY PROVIDED TO RESPONDENTS

FAR Subpart 15- 403-3(b) requires confidentiality of information/responses to RFPs and FAR Subpart 24.2 provides a specific reference to the FOIA/Privacy Act restriction on release.

11. ESTIMATE OF BURDEN

It has been estimated that an average of approximately 558 hours per respondent are expended by the public for each proposal submitted. We also estimate 75 respondents, for a burden total of 41,850.

ANNUALIZED COST TO RESPONDENTS

Not applicable.

12. CAPITAL/STARTUP COSTS

Not applicable.

13. ANNUALIZED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Since the function of the agency is to support science and engineering research, an estimated cost to the Federal government has not been established.

14. CHANGES IN BURDEN

Not applicable.

15. PUBLICATION OF COLLECTION

Not applicable.

16. SEEKING APPROVAL TO NOT DISPLAY OMB EXPIRATION DATE

Not applicable.

17. EXCEPTION(S) TO THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT (19) ON OMB 83-I

No exceptions.

B. STATISTICAL METHODS

Not applicable.