

Attachment C

Brochure

What questions will I be asked?

The survey will collect R&D and other innovation-related data from small, independent U.S. businesses. In addition to general information -- the survey will collect the following.

- business data on R&D activity and funding,
- number of employees and R&D employees,
- sales of goods and services,
- operating agreements and licensing activities with universities, other businesses, and government agencies (federal, state, and local),
- experience with several forms of technology transfer,
- use and importance of patents and other forms of intellectual property, and
- data on business strategies to serve and expand markets.



About The Survey

The National Center of Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), a statistical agency within the National Science Foundation (NSF), has long sponsored surveys of businesses. However, limited data are available on the smallest businesses—those with fewer than five employees. MIST is a new survey of these businesses.

This survey is a pilot version of the full survey, and is going to several thousand businesses across the U.S. The survey is being conducted by Westat, an independent research firm, under contract to the National Science Foundation. All information you provide in the survey will be considered private and only aggregate data will be used when producing reports. Your participation and responses will be kept confidential. The survey may be completed either online or by mailing or faxing your responses.

About NSF



The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 “to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense...” NSF is the only federal agency whose mission includes support for all fields of fundamental science and engineering. NSF through NCSES is tasked to collect statistical data on the U.S. competitiveness in Science, Engineering, Technology and Research and Development.

For additional information, contact
Westat at (888) 204-4859 or NSF at (703) 292-2332.

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2013 Microbusiness Innovation Science and Technology Survey (MIST)

MIST 2013



Importance of the Study

Small businesses are a vital but often neglected part of the economy. Sometimes they are major innovators, being the first to bring new technology to our economy. Other times, they help with meeting life's day-to-day needs. Often they are flexible and change more readily than larger corporations. They frequently operate differently than larger companies, sometimes using volunteers or family members to do some of the work, and hiring other companies to perform part of their work.

While larger businesses are regularly studied, relatively little is known about the smallest businesses—those with fewer than five employees. Yet such businesses form 88 percent of all businesses in the United States. Federal policymakers need to know more to know when or how to assist and when to stay out of the way. You also may benefit by knowing more about how companies like you operate.

How Will the Data be Used?

The MIST survey will provide detailed statistics on domestic R&D expenses of U.S. small businesses as well as statistics on their workforce, intellectual property, technology transfer activities and innovation. The MIST data will be used by policy makers for a variety of purposes including the following.

- Better understand the relationship between R&D funding and other economic variables.
- Assess the role of the Federal government in promoting economic growth in their decision-making processes since R&D and innovation results affect technological and economic progress.

A report on the findings from the full survey will be publicly available on NSF's website.

Who will use the data from the survey?

Because Research and Development (R&D) and innovation are so important to competitiveness in today's economy, many companies and organizations are very interested in analyzing data from this survey. Small businesses, in particular, are commonly acknowledged as the Nation's "engines for growth." Some of these data users may include.

- **The White House.** In 2006 The White House issued the American Competitiveness Initiative to "increase investments in research and development, strengthen education, and encourage entrepreneurship." Data on innovation, R&D and competitiveness are delivered to The White House and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) for policy uses.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF).** NSF produces a series of publications containing R&D and related data. These include the biennial National Science Board report, Science and Engineering Indicators which provides a summary of how well our nation is performing in science and engineering and global competitiveness.
- **Congress.** Members of congress use these data to inform their decisions on policies intended to influence investment in innovation such as the R&D tax credit.
- **Trade and professional organizations.** A wide range of organizations use business economic data to analyze trends in their industries, benchmark the performance of their members, develop forecasts, and evaluate public policy.
- **Media.** The media use these data for news reports and background information on the state of science and technology in the economy.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I participate?

Your answers will help policymakers address issues such as how small businesses are affected by the rapid changes in our economy and what the smallest businesses are doing to be competitive.

How long will it take to complete the survey?

We estimate that it will take approximately 20 minutes to complete the survey.

My company isn't involved in research. Why am I getting this survey?

We want to understand how different types of companies operate, regardless of whether they are involved in research.

Is the information I provide really private?

Yes. Your participation in the study, your responses, company name and your name will be kept entirely private to the extent allowed by law. Only Westat researchers and NSF staff assigned to the project will see this information.

