

attend the meeting must contact the Defense Business Board no later than Wednesday, January 7 for further information about admission as seating is limited. Additionally, those who wish to make oral comments or deliver written comments should also request to be scheduled, and submit a written text of the comments by Monday, January 5 to allow time for distribution to the Board members prior to the meeting. Individual oral comments will be limited to five minutes, with the total oral comment period not exceeding thirty minutes.

The DBB may be contacted at: Defense Business Board, 1100 Defense Pentagon, Room 2E314, Washington, DC 20301–1100, via e-mail at *DBB@osd.pentagon.mil*, or via phone at (703) 695–0499.

Dated: December 9, 2003.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 04–289 Filed 1–5–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 8, 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection,

grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: December 30, 2003.

Jeanne Van Vlandren,

Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Institute of Education Sciences

Type of Review: New.

Title: Early Reading First National Evaluation-Enrollment and Consent.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: Individuals or household; businesses or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; State, local, or tribal gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 765. Burden Hours: 191.

Abstract: The purpose of the national evaluation is to determine the overall impact of Early Reading First (ERF) programs, including whether participants improve their skills in oral language, phonological awareness, print awareness, and alphabet knowledge compared to non-participants. The evaluation is also designed to address whether program participants improve their outcomes in areas other than language and literacy relative to nonparticipants, for which children ERF is most effective, and which program characteristics are associated with more optimal outcomes.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2437. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should

be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202–4651 or to the e-mail address *vivian_reese@ed.gov*. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address *OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov* or faxed to 202–708–9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joe Schubart at his e-mail address, *Joe.Schubart@ed.gov*. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

[FR Doc. 04–149 Filed 1–5–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice DE–FG01–04ER04–08; Scientific Discovery Through Advanced Computing: Climate Change Prediction Program

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications for research grants in the Climate Change Prediction Program (CCPP), which is a component of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). Applications should describe research projects supporting the development of simulation models (computer programs) for prediction of climate decades to centuries in the future, and should clearly describe how that research will contribute to a measurably improved ability to use terascale computing to predict climatic change. All applications submitted in response to this notice must explicitly state how the proposed research will support accomplishment of the BER Climate Change Research Division's (CCRD's) Long Term Measure of Scientific Advancement to deliver improved data and models for policy makers to determine acceptable levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

DATES: Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to submit a 1–2 page preapplication for programmatic review. There is no deadline for the

preapplication, but early submission of preapplications is encouraged to allow time for meaningful discussions.

Formal applications submitted in response to this notice must be received by 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., March 15, 2004, to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 2004.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-08 should be sent to Dr. Jeffrey S. Amthor, CCPP Program Manager, via e-mail to: jeff.amthor@science.doe.gov. Please include "Preapplication Program Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-08" in the E-mail subject field.

Formal applications referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-08, must be sent electronically by an authorized institutional business official through DOE's Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at: <http://e-center.doe.gov/>. IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS, your business official will need to register at the IIPS website. IIPS offers the option of using multiple files, please limit submissions to one volume and one file if possible, with a maximum of no more than four PDF files. The Office of Science will include attachments as part of this notice that provide the appropriate forms in PDF fillable format that are to be submitted through IIPS. Color images should be submitted in IIPS as a separate file in PDF format and identified as such. These images should be kept to a minimum due to the limitations of reproducing them. They should be numbered and referred to in the body of the technical scientific grant application as Color image 1, Color image 2, etc. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be E-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at:

HelpDesk@pr.doe.gov, or you may call the help desk at: (800) 683-0751.

Further information on the use of IIPS by the Office of Science is available at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

If you are unable to submit an application through IIPS, please contact the Grants and Contracts Division, Office of Science at: (301) 903-5212 or (301) 903-3604, in order to gain assistance for submission through IIPS or to receive special approval and instructions on how to submit printed applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jeffrey S. Amthor, phone: (301) 903-2507; e-mail: jeff.amthor@science.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: Scientific Discovery Through Advanced Computing Program and the Climate Change Prediction Program

Accurate prediction of future climate on decadal to centennial time scales is a major scientific objective of the BER CCRD. The CCPP represents the current phase of BER's long-standing climate modeling and simulation research agenda. The CCPP is focused on developing, testing, and applying climate simulation and prediction models (computer programs) that stay at the leading edge of scientific knowledge and computational technology. The CCPP will continue to develop models based on more definitive theoretical foundations and improved computational methods that will run efficiently on current and future high-performance supercomputers. The intent is to increase dramatically both the accuracy and throughput of computer programs designed to predict effects of increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere on the climatic system. Specifically, the CCPP will measurably advance models used to predict climatic variability and change decades to centuries in the future under a variety of forcing scenarios. Such advancements will be associated with, but not limited to, improving component model performance and accuracy, implementing efficient strategies to couple model components, and maximizing throughput on computers capable of peak speeds of 10–50 trillion Operations Per Second (10–50 teraOPS).

A portion of the current CCPP is funded by the DOE SC Scientific Discovery Through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) program. It is anticipated that applications to this Notice that are selected for support will be funded by the SciDAC portion of the CCPP. The goal of SciDAC is to develop the scientific computing software and hardware infrastructure needed to use terascale computers to advance research programs in Basic Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental (including climatic) Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, and High Energy Physics, and Nuclear Physics. SciDAC creates a scientific computing software infrastructure that bridges the gap between the advanced computing technologies being developed by the computer industry and the scientific research programs sponsored by the DOE SC. All applications chosen for funding in response to this Notice will therefore explicitly state how the proposed research will contribute to a

measurably improved ability to use terascale computing to address important climatic change prediction issues.

Through SciDAC, the CCPP is presently supporting the Community Climate System Model (CCSM) Consortium Project at six DOE National Laboratories (Argonne, Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Pacific Northwest). The CCSM Consortium Project includes collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Data Assimilation Office and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Software engineering is a key focus of the Project, and throughput has increased for the atmospheric, land surface, oceanic, and sea ice components of the CCSM as a result of Project activities. Other Project accomplishments include completion and release of a new version of the Parallel Ocean Program (POP), including improved performance on vector machines; development of the new hybrid vertical-coordinate version of POP, called HYPOP; and improvement of the dynamic core of the Community Sea Ice Model (CSIM). In addition, portability of the CCSM has been significantly enhanced by the Project. Where appropriate, applications to this notice are encouraged to include collaboration with the ongoing DOE CCSM Consortium Project.

Request for Grant Applications

This notice requests applications for grants for one of the three following activities, all of which are to be directed at development of simulation models (computer programs) for prediction of climate decades to centuries in the future *and* contribute to an enhanced ability to use terascale computing to implement such models:

(1) Renewal of projects presently funded by the CCPP. Applications for renewal funding should include clear descriptions of progress made with present CCPP support. Such descriptions should be part of the technical portion of the application (see below).

(2) Development of improved representation of key climatic processes (surface processes, convective transport processes, etc.,) that accurately simulate these processes in general circulation models (GCMs) used to study potential decadal-to-centennial climatic variability and change with subcontinental spatial accuracy, and which are executed on supercomputers.

(3) Development of improved or new mathematical techniques, model formulations, and computer algorithms

for atmosphere, ocean, and coupled atmosphere-ocean GCMs that more accurately and efficiently describe and predict global climatic system behavior on decadal to centennial time scales and on subcontinental space scales, and which are executed on supercomputers.

All applications submitted in response to this notice must explicitly state how the proposed research will support accomplishment of the BER CCRD's Long Term Measure of Scientific Advancement to deliver improved data and models for policy makers to determine acceptable levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. All applications should also state clearly how the proposed research would contribute to a measurably enhanced ability to use terascale computing to address critical climatic change prediction issues.

Applicants seeking renewal of present grants should demonstrate, in their application, (a) the continued relevance of their work to the goal of advancing the science of decade-to-multi-century climatic change prediction and the contribution their work makes to an improved ability to use terascale computing to address climatic change issues; (b) the quality and relevance of work conducted under previous support to these goals, including a listing of publications and presentations; and (c) relevant contributions to the development of DOE climate modeling programs, including participation in the organization of meetings and workshops and collaborations with other DOE-supported investigators. The technical portion of applications should include a section titled "Accomplishments under Previous Support" that addresses items (b) and (c) above. Applicants should be prepared to provide, on short notice, complete legible copies of all publications, reports, etc., listed in this section, should they be required for the review process.

Applicants seeking funds to develop improved representation of key climatic processes for inclusion in GCMs should focus their applications on efforts to more accurately describe and include such processes, and their interactions with other aspects of the simulated climatic system, in GCMs. These projects might explore opportunities, methods, and collaborations for incorporating the results of the CCSP's observational and experimental programs (such as the DOE Atmospheric Radiation Measurement [ARM] program) into model components that accurately describe climatic system processes at the temporal and spatial scales typically used for decade-to-multi-century climatic change

prediction. Applications for such activities must include a clear plan for the dissemination of any developed model code, and necessary documentation, to the climate modeling community.

Applicants seeking funds to develop improved or new mathematical techniques and numerical algorithms should target their applications toward methods that can be incorporated into GCMs running on computers capable of performing over 10 teraOPS. Applicants must demonstrate the role of their proposed research in improving the accuracy and/or computational efficiency of GCMs envisioned for use in making forecasts of long-term climatic change. Foci of the applications might include, but need not be limited to, atmospheric and oceanic dynamics and transport, surface energy and mass exchanges, atmospheric radiative transfer, ocean convection, and sea-ice dynamics and thermodynamics. Applications for such activities must include a clear plan for the dissemination of any developed model code, and necessary documentation, to the climate modeling community.

To ensure that the CCPP meets both the broad needs of the climate modeling research community and the specific needs of the CCRD, successful applicants will participate as members of the CCPP Science Team along with scientists from related CCRD and SC programs. Costs for participation in Science Team meetings and workshops should be included in each application. Yearly estimates for Science Team travel should be based on one trip of five days to Washington, DC, one trip of five days to San Francisco, CA, and one trip of five days to Denver, CO.

Program Funding

It is anticipated that about \$4,000,000 will be available for awards in Fiscal Year 2004, contingent on the availability of appropriated funds. Project start dates of about September 15, 2004, are expected. Applications may request project support up to three years, with out-year support contingent on availability of appropriated funds, progress of the research, and programmatic needs. It is anticipated that a substantial fraction of available funds will be used to support renewal of existing research projects under (1) above. The allocation of funds within the other two research areas will depend on the quality of applications received. Typical awards are expected to be about \$200,000 per year, but individual awards may deviate from this amount based on variation in the scope of work proposed in the applications. DOE is

under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications if an award is not made.

Preapplications

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a brief (1-2 pages of narrative), concise, and clear preapplication describing the proposed research project objectives and methods. These will be reviewed relative to the terms of this notice. Principal investigator name, organization, telephone number, and e-mail address are essential parts of the preapplication. A response to each preapplication, discussing the potential program relevance of a formal application, generally will be communicated within 30 days of receipt. There is no deadline for the submission of preapplications, but applicants should allow sufficient time to meet the application deadline of March 15, 2004. SC's preapplication policy is on its Grants and Contracts Web Site at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/preapp.html>.

Merit Review

Applications will be subjected to formal merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria which are listed in descending order of importance codified at 10 CFR 605.10(d):

1. Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project;
2. Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach;
3. Competency of Applicant's personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources;
4. Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

For renewals, progress on previous funded research will be an important criterion for evaluation. The evaluation will include program policy factors such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the announcement and an agency's programmatic needs. Note, external peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-federal reviewers will often be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

Submission Information

Information about the development, submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation, the selection process, and other policies and procedures may be found in 10 CFR part

605, and in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program. Electronic access to SC's Financial Assistance Application Guide is possible via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

In addition, for this notice, the research description must be 20 pages or less, exclusive of attachments, and must contain an abstract or summary of the proposed research, on a separate page with the name of the applicant, mailing address, phone, Fax and e-mail listed.

Applicants who have had prior support must include a Progress Section with a brief description of results and a list of publications derived from that funding. Attachments should include short (2 pages) curriculum vitae, a listing of all current and pending Federal support and letters of intent when collaborations are part of the proposed research.

Curriculum vitae should be submitted in a form similar to that of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the National Science Foundation (NSF) (two to three pages).

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR part 605.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 23, 2003.

John Rodney Clark,
Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 04-201 Filed 1-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-07; Microbial Genome Program

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications for research in support of the Microbial Genome Program (MGP), focused on microbes of interest to the DOE, e.g., those involved in environmental processes, including waste remediation, carbon management, biomass conversion, and energy production. This announcement is focused on: (1) Whole genome-based systems or functional biology of DOE mission relevant microorganisms; (2) bioinformatics tools for high-throughput microbial genome annotation focused on currently

unannotated genes and sequences, and pathway/function modeling; and (3) technologies and approaches to assess consortia and environmental diversity of hard-to-culture microbes. Under this announcement, applications to carry out sequencing of microbial genomes will be ineligible. A separate process is available for the nomination and prioritization of sequencing candidates for the DOE Joint Genome Institute. This announcement emphasizes the use of already sequenced genomes that address DOE mission needs.

DATES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-07, should be received by January 29, 2004.

Formal applications in response to this notice should be received by 4:30 p.m., e.d.t., April 15, 2004, to be accepted for merit review and funding in Fiscal Year 2004.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-07, should be sent to Dr. Daniel W. Drell, SC-72/Germantown Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290. E-mail is strongly encouraged for submitting preapplications using the following address: kim.laing@science.doe.gov.

Formal applications referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-07, must be sent electronically by an authorized institutional business official through DOE's Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at: <http://e-center.doe.gov/>. IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS, your business official will need to register at the IIPS Web site. IIPS offers the option of using multiple files; please limit submissions to one volume and one file if possible, with a maximum of no more than four PDF files. The Office of Science will include attachments as part of this notice that provide the appropriate forms in PDF fillable format that are to be submitted through IIPS. Color images should be submitted in IIPS as a separate file in PDF format and identified as such. These images should be kept to a minimum due to the limitations of reproducing them. They should be numbered and referred to in the body of the technical scientific grant application as Color image 1, Color image 2, etc. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be e-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at:

HelpDesk@pr.doe.gov, or you may call the help desk at: (800) 683-0751. Further information on the use of IIPS by the Office of Science is available at:

<http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

If you are unable to submit an application through IIPS, please contact the Grants and Contracts Division, Office of Science at: (301) 903-5212 or (301) 903-3604, in order to gain assistance for submission through IIPS or to receive special approval and instructions on how to submit printed applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Daniel W. Drell, SC-72/Germantown Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290, telephone: (301) 903-4742, Email: daniel.drell@science.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Microbial Genome Program (MGP), a key element of the DOE Genomes to Life Program (<http://doegenomestolife.org>) supports key DOE missions by leveraging microbial DNA sequence information to further the understanding and application of microbiology relating to environmental processes, including waste remediation, carbon management, biomass conversion, and energy production. The determination of microbial genome sequences is a mission of the DOE Joint Genome Institute (JGI) and follows a separate process independent of this solicitation. Over the last nine years, sequencing of microorganisms that live in a variety of environments has provided a considerable information base for scientific research related not only to DOE missions but also to other Federal agency missions and U.S. industry. Applications are now being sought in three complementary areas: Whole-genome based systems and functional analyses; bioinformatics applied to extracting additional information from microbial genome sequences; and the characterization of the diversity of microbial consortia and/or hard-to-culture microbes that mediate processes of relevance to the DOE. Each application must clearly state which area is being addressed; if an applicant wishes to address more than one area, the application must clearly describe the expected advantages of an integrated approach.

Candidate microorganisms for study can comprise archaea, bacteria, algae or fungi or communities made up of bacteria, archaea, algae and/or fungi that mediate or catalyze metabolic events of energy or environmental importance. Preference will be given to those applicants using microbes, for which complete or near-complete genomic sequencing information in the public domain exists. (See <http://>