

- Programs that provide a source of information for policy formulation; and
- Other activities to promote these ends.

Over the years, NSF's statutory authority has been modified in a number of significant ways. In 1968, authority to support applied research was added to the Organic Act. In 1980, The Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act gave NSF standing authority to support activities to improve the participation of women and minorities in science and engineering.

Another major change occurred in 1986, when engineering was accorded equal status with science in the Organic Act. NSF has always dedicated itself to providing the leadership and vision needed to keep the words and ideas embedded in its mission statement fresh and up-to-date. Even in today's rapidly changing environment, NSF's core purpose resonates clearly in everything it does: Promoting achievement and progress in science and engineering and enhancing the potential for research and education to contribute to the Nation. While NSF's vision of the future and the mechanisms it uses to carry out its charges have evolved significantly over the last four decades, its ultimate mission remains the same.

*Use of the Information:* The regular submission of proposals to the Foundation is part of the collection of information and is used to help NSF fulfill this responsibility by initiating and supporting merit-selected research and education projects in all the scientific and engineering disciplines. NSF receives more than 50,000 proposals annually for new projects, and makes approximately 11,000 new awards.

Support is made primarily through grants, contracts, and other agreements awarded to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, academic consortia, nonprofit institutions, and small businesses. The awards are based mainly on evaluations of proposal merit submitted to the Foundation.

The Foundation has a continuing commitment to monitor the operations of its information collection to identify and address excessive reporting burdens as well as to identify any real or apparent inequities based on gender, race, ethnicity, or disability of the proposed principal investigator(s)/project director(s) or the co-principal investigator(s)/co-project director(s).

*Burden on the Public:* The Foundation estimates that an average of 120 hours is expended for each proposal submitted. An estimated 50,000 proposals are expected during the course of one year for a total of

6,000,000 public burden hours annually.

Dated: February 3, 2015.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 2015-02386 Filed 2-5-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request; Engineering IIP Program Monitoring Clearance

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), and as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the National Science Foundation invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this information collection. This is the second notice for public comment; the first was published in the **Federal Register** at 79 FR 9485 and no comments were received. NSF is forwarding the proposed submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance simultaneously with the publication of this second notice. The full submission may be found at: <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

**DATES:** Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by OMB within March 9, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding the information collection and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Rm. 1265, Arlington, VA 22230, or by email to [splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto:splimpto@nsf.gov). Copies of the submission may be obtained by calling (703) 292-7556.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Contact Suzanne Plimpton, the NSF Reports Clearance Officer, phone (703) 292-7556, or send email to [splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto:splimpto@nsf.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including federal holidays).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information

unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Collection:* Engineering IIP Program; Monitoring Data Collections.

*OMB Number:* 3145-NEW.

*Type of Request:* Intent to seek approval to establish specific collections for 5 IIP programs for post-award output and outcome monitoring.

#### Abstract

*Proposed Project:* NSF provides nearly 20 percent of federal funding for basic research to academic institutions.<sup>1</sup> Within NSF, the Directorate for Engineering (ENG) has primary responsibility for promoting the progress of engineering in the United States in order to enable the Nation's capacity to perform. Its investments in engineering research and education aim to build and strengthen a national capacity for innovation that can lead over time to the creation of new shared wealth and a better quality of life. Most NSF programs in engineering are funded through the Directorate for Engineering, which also sponsors the NSF's Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) Division. To these ends, ENG provides support for research and implementation activities that may meet national needs. While scientists seek to discover what is not yet known, engineers apply fundamental science to design and develop new devices and engineered systems to solve societal problems. ENG also focuses on broadening participation in engineering research and careers, particularly among those individuals traditionally underrepresented and underemployed in the STEM workforce, including but not limited to, women, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities.

This request seeks approval for a group of information collections intended to monitor outputs, short-term, intermediate and long-term outcomes of NSF-ENG investments in research and innovation in the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP). IIP programs serve the entire foundation by fostering partnerships to advance technological innovation and plays an important role in the public-private

<sup>1</sup>National Science Foundation. (2012). *NSF at a glance*. Retrieved from <http://www.nsf.gov/about/glance.jsp>.

innovation partnership enterprise by investing in science and engineering research across all disciplines that have the potential for high impact in meeting national and societal needs. IIP focuses on leveraging federal, small business, industrial, university, state and community college resources.

Genuine partnerships between academe and industry are an important aspect of IIP programs and should facilitate the types of infrastructure that can sustain and nurture the spread of innovative activity.

Innovation infrastructures educate and train human capital for the research enterprise and the entrepreneurial aspects of innovation; develop social networks characterized by shared commitment and trust; and build a base of operational support without which sustainable partnerships cannot exist. This support includes a diversified base of private investment, a physical place to provide a context for incubation, technical, management, and administrative support, laboratories, communications services, and reliable sources of capital. One end of the innovation spectrum within the division includes unsolicited research proposals generated by the academic community. On the other end of the innovation spectrum, IIP supports small business research proposals aimed at pursuing

opportunities to commercialize products and services.

IIP is home to the two Congressionally mandated small business research programs, the *Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program* and the *Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program*. IIP also manages the *Partnerships for Innovation: Accelerating Innovation Research (PFI:AIR)* as well as the *Partnerships for Innovation: Building Innovation Capacity (PFI:BIC)* program, which stimulate innovation by building partnerships across the scientific, engineering, and business community. In addition, the IIP leverages industrial support through the *Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRC)* program. The division also actively participates in NSF-wide programs, such as the *Grants Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)* program. Another NSF-wide program in which IIP actively participates is the Innovation Corps program (*I-Corps*), which equips scientists with the entrepreneurial tools needed to transform discoveries with commercial realization potential into innovative technologies.<sup>2</sup> ENG-funded projects could include research opportunities and mentoring for educators, scholars, small businesses and university students.

These survey questionnaires, individually tailored to measure outputs and outcomes for different programs, will provide essential information for program monitoring purposes. Data collected by ENG IIP program monitoring collections will be used for program planning, management, and evaluation. Summaries of monitoring data are used to respond to queries from Congress, the public, NSF's external merit reviewers who serve as advisors, including Committees of Visitors (COVs), and NSF's Office of the Inspector General. These data are needed for effective administration, program and project monitoring, evaluation, and for measuring attainment of NSF's program and strategic goals, as identified by the President's Accountable Government Initiative, the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Modernization Act of 2010, and NSF's Strategic Plan.

The seven (7) program-specific collections included in this request are designed to assist in management of specific programs and to serve as data resources for current and future program evaluations. As such, expected outcomes could vary according to the nature of the program funding, field of study, and other program characteristics.

| Office   | Programs   |
|--|--|
| Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) ..... | Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI).<br>Innovation Corps (I-Corps).<br>Partnerships For Innovation: Accelerating Innovation Research (PFI:AIR).<br>Partnerships For Innovation: building Innovation Capacity (PFI:BIC).<br>Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR). |

This data collection effort will enable program officers to longitudinally monitor outputs and outcomes given the unique goals and purpose of their programs. This is very important to enable appropriate and accurate evidence-based management of the programs and to determine whether or not the specific goals of the programs are being met.

Grantees will be invited to submit this information on a periodic basis via data collection methods that include but are not limited to online surveys, interviews, phone interviews, etc. These

indicators are both quantitative and descriptive and may include, for example, the characteristics of project personnel and students; sources of complementary cash and in-kind support to the ENG project; characteristics of industrial and/or other sector participation; research activities; education activities; knowledge transfer activities; patents, licenses; publications; descriptions of significant advances and other outcomes of the ENG-funded effort.

*Use of the Information:* The data collected will be used for NSF internal

reports, historical data, program level studies and evaluations, and for securing future funding for the ENG program maintenance and growth. These data could be used for program evaluation purposes if deemed necessary for a particular program. Evaluation designs could make use of metadata associated with the award, and other characteristics to identify a comparison group to evaluate the impact of the program funding and other interesting research questions.

<sup>2</sup> National Science Foundation. (2014) *About IIP*. Retrieved from <http://www.nsf.gov/eng/iip/about.jsp>.

ESTIMATE OF BURDEN

| Collection title  | Number of respondents | Annual number of hours/ respondents | Annual hour burden |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) .....          | 200                   | 2                                   | 400                |
| Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Longitudinal Collection .....                      | 800                   | .25                                 | 200                |
| Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Pre-Course Survey Questionnaire .....              | 150                   | .25                                 | 37.5               |
| Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Post-Course Survey Questionnaire .....             | 150                   | .25                                 | 37.5               |
| Partnerships for Innovation: Accelerating Innovation Research (PFI:AIR) ..... | 200                   | 2                                   | 400                |
| Partnerships for Innovation: Building Innovation Capacity (PFI:BIC) .....     | 30                    | 2                                   | 60                 |
| Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) .....                               | 1,100                 | 2                                   | 2,200              |
| <b>Total .....</b>  | <b>2,630</b>          | <b>8.75</b>                         | <b>3,335</b>       |

Below is an example that shows how the hour burden was estimated for the monitoring system.

The estimated average number of annual respondents is 2,630, with an estimated annual response burden of 3,335 hours. For post-award monitoring systems, IIP expects to collect data at 1, 2, 5, and 10 years post-award, in order to have the best chance of capturing the more immediate outcomes expected by 1–2 years post-award, intermediate outcomes at 5 years post-award, and long-term outcomes/impacts at 10 years post award. These seven (7) data collections spread over the span of 10 years; this averages to 0.25 data collections/year. For the IIP division, many awards are made in translational research, such that we might expect a shorter and more condensed timeline of outcomes and impacts. Thus, some

programs may wish to collect data quarterly for the first two years of the award, and then once annually at 5 and 10 years post-award. The annual number of responses for the first 2 years post award is included in this table.

For life-of-award monitoring, the data collection burden to awardees will be limited to no more than 2 hours of the respondents' time in each instance.

*Respondents:* The respondents are PIs, partners or students. For some programs (I-Corps) the burden already includes a response from 3 members of the team in the pre and post surveys. For all others, one PI or assignee per award completes the questionnaire.

**Estimates of Annualized Cost to Respondents for the Hour**

*Burdens:* The overall annualized cost to the respondents is estimated to be

\$215,660. The following table shows the annualized estimate of costs to PI/ program coordinator respondents, who are generally university professors. This estimated hourly rate is based on a report from the American Association of University Professors, "Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession, 2011–12," *Academe*, March–April 2012, Survey Report Table 4. According to this report, the average salary of an associate professor across all types of doctoral-granting institutions (public, private-independent, religiously affiliated) was \$86,319. When divided by the number of standard annual work hours (2,080), this calculates to approximately \$41 per hour.

| Respondent                                 | Number of respondents | Burden hours per respondent | Average hourly rate | Estimated annual cost |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| PIs, Assignees, Partners or Students ..... | 2,630                 | 2                           | \$41                | \$215,660             |

**Estimated Number of Responses per Report**

Data collection for the collections involves all awardees in the programs

involved. The table below shows the total universe and sample size for each of the collections.

RESPONDENT UNIVERSE AND SAMPLE SIZE OF ENG PROGRAM MONITORING CLEARANCE COLLECTIONS

| Collection title  | Universe of respondents | Sample size |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) .....          | 200                     | 200         |
| Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Longitudinal Collection .....                      | 800                     | 800         |
| Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Pre-Course Survey Questionnaire .....              | 150                     | 150         |
| Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Post-Course Survey Questionnaire .....             | 150                     | 150         |
| Partnerships for Innovation: Accelerating Innovation Research (PFI:AIR) ..... | 200                     | 200         |
| Partnerships for Innovation: Building Innovation Capacity (PFI:BIC) .....     | 30                      | 30          |
| Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) .....                               | 1,100                   | 1,100       |

Dated: February 3, 2015.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 2015-02385 Filed 2-5-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Proposal Review Panel for Materials Research; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463 as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

**NAME:** Site visit review of the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) at the University of Wisconsin—Madison by the Division of Materials Research (DMR) #1203

**DATES AND TIMES:** April 26, 2015; 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

April 27, 2015; 7:00 a.m.–8:30 p.m.

April 28, 2015; 7:15 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.

**TYPE OF MEETING:** Part Open.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Dr. Thomas Rieker, Program Director, Division of Materials Research, Room 1065, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230, Telephone (703) 292-4914.

**PURPOSE OF MEETING:** To provide advice and recommendations concerning further support of the MRSEC at the University of Wisconsin.

#### AGENDA:

#### Sunday, April 26, 2015

7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Closed—Briefing of panel

#### Monday, April 27, 2015

7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Open—Review of the MRSEC

5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m. Closed—Executive Session

7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Open—Dinner

#### Tuesday, April 28, 2015

7:30 a.m.–10:10 a.m. Open—Review of the MRSEC

10:10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Closed—Executive Session, Draft and Review Report

**REASON FOR CLOSING:** The work being reviewed may include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries and personal information concerning individuals associated with the MRSEC. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552 b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: February 3, 2015.

**Suzanne Plimpton,**

*Acting Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2015-02384 Filed 2-5-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

## POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. MC2015-25 and CP2015-34; Order No. 2343]

### New Postal Product

**AGENCY:** Postal Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing concerning an addition of Priority Mail Contract 106 to the competitive product list. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

**DATES:** *Comments are due:* February 10, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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- I. Introduction
- II. Notice of Commission Action
- III. Ordering Paragraphs

#### I. Introduction

In accordance with 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 39 CFR 3020.30 *et seq.*, the Postal Service filed a formal request and associated supporting information to add Priority Mail Contract 106 to the competitive product list.<sup>1</sup>

The Postal Service contemporaneously filed a redacted contract related to the proposed new product under 39 U.S.C. 3632(b)(3) and 39 CFR 3015.5. *Id.* Attachment B.

To support its Request, the Postal Service filed a copy of the contract, a copy of the Governors' Decision authorizing the product, proposed changes to the Mail Classification Schedule, a Statement of Supporting Justification, a certification of

<sup>1</sup> Request of the United States Postal Service to Add Priority Mail Contract 106 to Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing (Under Seal) of Unredacted Governors' Decision, Contract, and Supporting Data, January 30, 2014 (Request).

compliance with 39 U.S.C. 3633(a), and an application for non-public treatment of certain materials. It also filed supporting financial workpapers.

## II. Notice of Commission Action

The Commission establishes Docket Nos. MC2015-25 and CP2015-34 to consider the Request pertaining to the proposed Priority Mail Contract 106 product and the related contract, respectively.

The Commission invites comments on whether the Postal Service's filings in the captioned dockets are consistent with the policies of 39 U.S.C. 3632, 3633, or 3642, 39 CFR part 3015, and 39 CFR part 3020, subpart B. Comments are due no later than February 10, 2015. The public portions of these filings can be accessed via the Commission's Web site (<http://www.prc.gov>).

The Commission appoints Kenneth R. Moeller to serve as Public Representative in these dockets.

## III. Ordering Paragraphs

*It is ordered:*

1. The Commission establishes Docket Nos. MC2015-25 and CP2015-34 to consider the matters raised in each docket.

2. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Kenneth R. Moeller is appointed to serve as an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in these proceedings (Public Representative).

3. Comments are due no later than February 10, 2015.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

**Shoshana M. Grove,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2015-02422 Filed 2-5-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P**

## POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. MC2015-30 and CP2015-39; Order No. 2338]

### New Postal Product

**AGENCY:** Postal Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing concerning the addition of Priority Mail Contract 111 negotiated service agreement. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

**DATES:** *Comments are due:* February 9, 2015.