



TUFTS UPDATE – OCTOBER 26, 2018
PREPARED BY LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES LLC

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Introduction

This edition of the Tufts Washington Update includes October policy updates, agency updates, and funding opportunities. Faculty, staff, and researchers are welcome to schedule calls with the Lewis-Burke Tufts team or meet with the team when they visit Washington, DC. Contact Amber Cassady, Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, at amber@lewis-burke.com with any questions or comments related to the Update's content or for more information on updates and opportunities.

Policy Updates

Department of Education Solicits Nominations for Accreditation and Innovation Negotiated Rulemaking Committee

On October 15, the Department of Education (ED) announced its intention to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee to prepare proposed regulations for student aid programs under Title IV of the *Higher Education Act* (HEA). ED is requesting nominations for individual negotiators to serve on the committee who represent stakeholder constituencies for the issues to be negotiated. ED also announced the creation of three subcommittees and requested nominations for individuals with relevant expertise to participate on the subcommittees.

ED's request for negotiator nominations follows its July 31 announcement of its intention to begin rulemaking, its request for written comments on topics for consideration by the negotiated rulemaking committee, and three public hearings where comments were also solicited. As a result of these comments and feedback, ED has decided to establish a single *Accreditation and Innovation* negotiated rulemaking committee and three topic-based subcommittees. Additionally, ED noted that they are scheduling additional days for the committee meetings and will use "redlined regulatory text as the starting point of negotiations instead of issue papers" to streamline the process and ensure proper attention to each topic. ED intends to select negotiators for the committee who represent the interests significantly affected by the topics proposed for negotiations and reflect the diversity of higher education institutions.

The *Accreditation and Innovation Committee* will address ED's recognition of accrediting agencies, related institutional eligibility for title IV aid, barriers to innovation, as well as various technical corrections. The specific topics for negotiation will likely include:

- Requirements for accrediting agencies in their oversight of member institutions and programs.
- Criteria used by the Secretary of Education to recognize accrediting agencies, emphasizing criteria that focus on educational quality and deemphasizing those that are anticompetitive.
- Simplification of the ED's recognition and review of accrediting agencies.
- Clarification of the core oversight responsibilities amongst each entity in the regulatory triad, including accrediting agencies, States, and the Department to hold institutions accountable.
- Clarification of the permissible arrangements between an institution of higher education and another organization to provide a portion of an education program.
- The roles and responsibilities of institutions and accrediting agencies in the teach-out process.
- Elimination of regulations related to programs that have not been funded in many years.
- Needed technical changes and corrections to program regulations that have been identified by the Department.

The subcommittees will address the specified issues and make recommendations to the *Accreditation and Innovation Committee*. Subcommittees are not authorized to make decisions for the *Accreditation and Innovation Committee*. The three subcommittees that will be formed are:

- Distance Learning and Educational Innovation Subcommittee

- Faith-Based Entities Subcommittee
- TEACH Grants Subcommittee

Topics that the *Distance Learning and Educational Innovation Subcommittee* is likely to address include but are not limited to state authorization requirements as they relate to distance education, the definition of “regular and substantive interaction,” the definition of the term “credit hour,” competency-based education, and other issues. ED intends to select individuals for this subcommittee with expertise in several issues including direct assessment programs, distance education, and competency-based education.

The topics that the *TEACH Grants Subcommittee* is likely to address include but are not limited to the simplification and clarification of TEACH Grant program requirements to minimize inadvertent grant-to-loan conversions of TEACH grants. ED intends to select individuals for this subcommittee with expertise in several issues including teacher education programs, student financial aid, and high-need teacher education programs.

The topics that the *Faith-Based Institutions Subcommittee* is likely to address include but are not limited to requirements for accrediting agencies to honor institutional mission, provisions of the regulations regarding the eligibility of faith-based entities to participate in title IV, and other issues. ED intends to select individuals for this subcommittee with expertise in several issues including Federal Work Study programs, title IV, HEA discretionary grant programs, accreditation, and other areas.

ED plans to seat as negotiators individuals for organizations or groups representing various constituencies including students, financial aid administrators at postsecondary institutions, accrediting agencies (including national, regional, and programmatic), higher education institutions, and other constituencies.

Due Dates: Nominations for negotiators to serve on the committee and subcommittees are due on or before **November 15, 2018**. The *Accreditation and Innovation Committee* will meet in the Washington, DC area in early 2019 for three sessions: January 14-16, February 19-22, and March 25-28.

Additional Sources and Information:

- The full solicitation, with requested nomination details, can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/15/2018-22506/negotiated-rulemaking-committee-negotiator-nominations-and-schedule-of-committee>.

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Agency Updates

Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity Releases Request for Information on Future Computing Systems

The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) released a request for information (RFI) soliciting input on future computing systems (FCS). IARPA's interest in FCS stems from the exponentially growing amount of heterogeneous data and the waning ability of conventional high-performance computers to optimally handle the growing datasets. Responses to the RFI will inform IARPA's approach to building FCS and provide researchers an opportunity to advertise their capabilities and ability to contribute to IARPA's mission.

A central component of IARPA's goal for new hardware and software architectures is the inclusion of machine learning capabilities. FCS must be designed to learn and improve their knowledge base and execute learning algorithms transparently. The RFI states that humans will remain in the loop in operating FCS and requests information related to monitoring subsystems that include human operators. The new architectures should also significantly increase energy efficiency by several orders of magnitude over current designs.

Responses to the RFI should answer one or any of the below questions:

1. "Is it possible to develop a computer system that provides the above-described features of FCS within the next 20 years? Specifically, what is the design of the system capability, "understanding"; what is the computational model for FCS; and what hardware and software innovations are required to achieve the FCS challenges? What are the barriers that must be overcome?"
2. What is the time frame for the development of an FCS and what is the timeline for its development? The timeline should include a reasonable R&D path for the development of an FCS that leads to the required hardware and software technologies.
3. What are the approximate power and environmental specifications for the FCS?
4. What proxy applications, benchmarks and metrics can be used to drive the development of the FCS?"

Responses should include technical descriptions of the proposed FCS that will address IARPA's capability needs. While this RFI does not guarantee a future funding solicitation, it does state IARPA's goal to eventually build FCS. Responses to the RFI should be sent electronically to dni-iarpa-rfi-19-01@iarpa.gov no later than **December 14 at 4:00 PM ET**. Further instructions are included in the full RFI.

Additional Sources and Information:

- The full RFI is available at <https://www.fbo.gov/index.php?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=a8b6afb6089c8589c51e7c453659d339>

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Department of Transportation Requests Comments on Future Automated Driving Systems Pilot Program

On October 10, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) posted an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) seeking public comment on the design of a pilot program enabling the testing and deployment of automated driving technologies. The ANPRM also touches on the potential near- and long-term challenges associated with the integration of vehicles equipped with Automated Driving Systems (ADS) into the national transportation system. In addition to designing the ADS pilot program, the ANPRM is focused on “how the Agency can best encourage and facilitate the necessary research to allow for the development and establishment, as needed, of standards for ADS vehicles.” This emphasis on the development of research standards indicates that responses to the ANPRM may play a broader role in shaping future opportunities.

The ANPRM follows the release of “Automated Vehicles 3.0: Preparing for the Future of Transportation,” the most recent iteration of the Department of Transportation’s (DOT) automated vehicle guidelines. This updated guidance outlines the roles of federal, state, local, and tribal governments in the regulation of autonomous vehicles including a variety of safety concerns that should be considered as AVs become more prevalent.

The ANPRM is soliciting input from interested stakeholders, including researchers and those “engaged in or planning to become engaged in the design, development, testing, and deployment of motor vehicles with high and full automation.” The request for comments gives stakeholders the opportunity to respond to 22 questions divided into four broad categories:

- What factors should be considered in designing the program for safe on-road testing;
- The use of existing statutory provisions and regulations to allow for the implementation of a pilot program;
- Any additional elements of regulatory relief, exemptions, exceptions, etc., that might be necessary for the implementation of the pilot program; or
- What safety or other analyses the NHTSA should consider in evaluating exemption petitions for regulatory relief.

A complete list of questions can be found in the supplemental information attached to the Federal Register Notice.

Due Dates: Comments are due no later than **November 26, 2018**.

Additional Sources and Information:

- The Federal Register posting can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/10/2018-21919/pilot-program-for-collaborative-research-on-motor-vehicles-with-high-or-full-driving-automation>.
- “Automated Driving Systems 2.0: A Vision for Safety” can be found at https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/13069a-ads2.0_090617_v9a_tag.pdf.

- The announced release of “Preparing for the Future of Transportation: Automated Vehicles 3.0” can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/av/3>.
- “Preparing for the Future of Transportation: Automated Vehicle 3.0” is available at <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/policy-initiatives/automated-vehicles/320711/preparing-future-transportation-automated-vehicle-30.pdf>.

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Funding Opportunities

National Science Foundation Releases Solicitation for Navigating the New Arctic Big Idea

The National Science Foundation (NSF) released a new solicitation for one of the 10 Big Ideas, Navigating the New Arctic (NNA), led by the Geosciences (GEO) Directorate. The solicitation lists every directorate as participating and the announcement indicates this is the first solicitation for “at least” a five-year NSF-wide Arctic research program focused on the economy, security, and resilience of the US and the world.

Through a February Dear Colleague Letter (DCL), NSF funded NNA-relevant proposals that highlighted the importance of convergent research, systems-based approaches, cooperation with indigenous communities. The new NNA solicitation incorporates these foci, while also emphasizing the importance of developing Arctic STEM education and accompanying research workforce. NNA will support two tracks of investment.

Track 1 – Research Grants for innovative proposals with convergent scientific questions related to the rapidly changing Arctic. Track 1 proposals are “strongly encouraged” to “include components...to advance education and/or workforce development, community resilience, and/or scientific and engineering leadership.” These proposals should be responsive to one or more of the following research topic areas:

1. Innovations in interoperable national and international Arctic observational networks, instruments, and technologies; shared and open data collections; and/or intelligent data management, analysis, and/or modeling efforts that address impacts and new opportunities at the intersection of the natural and built environments and social systems.
2. Studies to understand and forecast interdependent changes in the biogeochemical, geophysical, biological, ecological, institutional, and social processes occurring in the new Arctic, including, when appropriate, global feedbacks.
3. Enabling fundamental science and engineering research in forward-looking, sustainable, adaptable, and resilient infrastructure to meet current and future challenges of a changing Arctic.
4. Convergence research approaches to help researchers to understand the complex relationship between Arctic residents and their natural and cultural landscape.
5. Understanding and forecasting global influences, consequences, and opportunities arising from a changing Arctic.”

Track 2 – Planning grants are intended to fund “catalytic activities” that crystalize future research questions and support planning activities that lead to convergent research team formation and research capacity building. Researchers on Track 2 grants are encouraged to engage internationally and with indigenous communities as necessary. Planning grant proposals should address one of the four program elements: integrated research, stakeholder and community engagement, research capacity building, and/or development, implementation, and/or evaluation of educational activities.

Eligibility: For Track 1, there are no PI limits. For Track 2, PI’s/Co-PI’s may appear on up to two applications. There are no institutional submission limits.

Due Date: Full proposals are due no later than **February 14, 2019**.

Total Funding and Award Size: NSF anticipates up to \$30 million in funding and intended to fund the tracks as follows:

- **Track 1:** Up to \$3 million for up to 5 years.
- **Track 2:** Up to \$250,000 for up to 2 years.

Additional Sources and Information:

- The full announcement can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf19511.
- The February Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18048/nsf18048.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- More information on the 10 Big Ideas can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/big_ideas/index.jsp.

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Office of Naval Research Releases Special Notice for Electronic Warfare Technology

On October 19, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) released a special notice for its Electronic Warfare (EW) Technology research initiative. ONR is interested in EW because of the increasing use of data and distributed operations in warfare and the increasing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities of adversaries. EW seeks to control the Electromagnetic Spectrum (EMS) by “exploiting, deceiving, or denying” use of the spectrum by adversaries.

The special notice calls for research to explore the technical opportunities for discovery and invention in EW and to improve computational capacity across EW missions and overcome size, weight, and power constraints. ONR’s EW program supports science and technology initiatives to provide naval forces with improved threat warning systems; electronic warfare support; decoys and countermeasures; electronic attacks; control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; and electronic protection of weapons.

This special notice calls for specific research in four technical areas:

1. Alternative Computational Approaches Applied to EW
2. Compact, Efficient, Beam-Agile Transmitters
3. Compact, Efficient, EO/IR Transmitters
4. Component Technologies for Innovative Distributed EW

Industry Day: ONR anticipates holding an Industry Day related to this special notice to give additional context and details regarding their priorities. The Industry Day will be announced in an amendment to the special notice.

Due Dates: White papers are not required but strongly encouraged and must be submitted electronically no later than **December 7, 2018 at 4 PM ET**. Applicants should submit full proposals no later than **February 28, 2019 at 4 PM ET**.

Total Funding and Award Size: ONR plans to fund a total of \$25-30 million for awards related to the four technical areas. Projects will take place over one to three years.

Additional Sources and Information:

- The full special notice is available at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=309702>.

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National Science Foundation Releases Quantum Computing & Information Science Faculty Fellows Solicitation

On October 22, the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) released a solicitation for its new program, *Quantum Computing & Information Science Faculty Fellows (QCIS-FF)*. The goal of the QCIS-FF program is to build long-term research and teaching capacity in the fields of computing and information science at colleges and universities, especially institutions that do not have previously established quantum computing or communications activities. QCIS-FF funds will be used to fund the salaries and benefits of newly hired tenure-track and tenured faculty in quantum computing and communications.

This solicitation falls under the "Quantum Leap: Leading the Next Quantum Revolution" Big Idea, which aims to develop next-generation technologies for sensing, computing, modeling, and communicating. To support this mission, QCIS-FF is intended to develop the human capital necessary to train the highly skilled technical workforce that a quantum revolution and the accompanying integration of new technologies will require. NSF has previously released several solicitations through Quantum Leap, including those related to interdisciplinary research, materials foundries, a topological quantum computer, quantum communications platforms, quantum logic, and quantum chemistry. Additional opportunities are expected for FY 2019 and beyond.

While the program welcomes interdisciplinary hires, especially those that "foster cross-departmental synergies," the primary assignment of new hires should be in computer and information science or engineering.

Eligibility: Proposals must be submitted by Department Heads, with each proposal requesting support for one faculty member. Institutions may submit a maximum of two awards across all departments.

Due Date: Required preliminary proposals are due **December 17, 2018**, with full proposals due between February 11, 2019 – February 25, 2019. For the next competition, preliminary proposals are due July 1, 2019, with full proposals due between September 17, 2019 – September 27, 2019.

Total Funding and Award Size: NSF anticipates up to \$6.75 million in total funding, with individual awards limited at \$750,000 over three years.

Additional Sources and Information:

- Program contacts, solicitation, and additional information on QCIS-FF can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505535.
- Additional information on the NSF Big Ideas is available at https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/big_ideas/.
- Previous Quantum Leap Opportunities include:
 - DCL: EQuIP: Engineering Quantum Integrated Platforms for Quantum Communication, <https://nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18062/nsf18062.jsp>.
 - DCL: Enabling Quantum Leap in Chemistry (QLC), <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18051/nsf18051.jsp>.
 - DCL: Enabling Quantum Leap: Achieving Room-Temperature Quantum Logic through Improved Low-Dimensional Materials, <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18046/nsf18046.jsp>.
 - DCL: RAISE on Enabling Quantum Leap: Transformational Advances in Quantum Systems, <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18035/nsf18035.jsp>.
 - Ideas Lab: Practical Fully-Connected Quantum Computer Challenge, https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505229.
 - DCL: Growing Convergence Research at NSF, <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17065/nsf17065.jsp>.
 - Enabling Quantum Leap: Convergent Accelerated Discovery Foundries for Quantum Materials Science, Engineering and Information (Q-AMASE-i), https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505504.

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National Science Foundation Releases Gen-4 Engineering Research Solicitation

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate for Engineering (ENG) has released its highly anticipated solicitation, *Gen-4 Engineering Research Centers (ERC) – Convergent Research and Innovation through Inclusive Partnerships and Workforce Development*. Changes from previous solicitations include enhanced emphasis on: convergence; societal impact; demonstrable integration of ERC foundational components (convergence, workforce, diversity and inclusion, and value creation); societal value creation; and opportunities for effective leadership, management, and infrastructure approaches.

This is the first ERC solicitation following the recent National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report titled, "A New Vision for Center-Based Engineering Research," which was released in the summer of 2017. Since that time, NSF has facilitated extensive engagement with the engineering research and education community to analyze the report and select recommendations to be incorporated into this ERC solicitation. A major change was the establishment of the ERC planning

grants awarded over the summer of 2018 to assist in team formation and development of future ERC proposals. NSF has stated repeatedly that the ERC planning grants are separate from this solicitation; planning grants are not required to submit a proposal to the full ERC solicitation.

The full ERC solicitation builds on the program's tradition of integrating engineering research and education with technological innovation to advance "national prosperity, health, and security." Based on the recommendations of the 2017 NASEM report, this competition will support ERCs with the potential for high societal impact. Convergent research is also a major focus of this solicitation and builds on the NSF Growing Convergence Research Big Idea. Key aspects of NSF's efforts to enhance convergent research include purposeful team formation, effective leadership/management, and the "development and nurturing of stakeholder communities."

Key elements of the ERC as stated in the solicitation are outlined below:

- **Strategic Plan** – should include the following:
 - **Convergence** – Research thrusts, testbeds, team formation, and other major aspects of the research plan should support a convergent approach.
 - **Stakeholder Engagement** – Plans should include all parties that contribute or may be affected by the ERC.
 - **Team Formation** – Teams should be interdependent, multidisciplinary, and diverse.
- **ERC Infrastructure:**
 - **Effective Leadership** – Leadership must have intellectual vision, demonstrable leadership, successful entrepreneurial experience, a track record of delivering results and ability to communicate. The center director should also be supported by an Executive Leadership Team.
 - **Organization and Management** – Requires understanding of ERC goals and structure/foundational components (Research, Engineering Workforce Development, Diversity and Culture of Inclusion, and Innovation Ecosystem) to support those goals.
 - **Administrative Director** – This role must be filled by an experienced staff member.
- **Partners:**
 - **Lead Institution** – The Lead Institution guides the ERC award.
 - **Core Partners** – To qualify as a core partner, institutions must have a minimum of three faculty and three students participate in the ERC; this institution must also be involved in the cost sharing requirement and the Council of Deans.
 - **Other Partners** – Partners may include affiliated faculty members, national laboratories, private-sector or non-profit organizations, educational partners, and/or foreign universities/institutions.
 - **Industrial/Practitioner Member** – Non-academic members may include federal/state/local governments, industry, industry associations, medical facilities, foundations, nonprofits, venture capitalists, and others.
 - **Institutional Commitment** – NSF states that "lead and all core partner institutions must augment support for the ERC through cost-sharing and other allowed means and sustain the ERC once NSF's support ceases."
 - **Community Feedback** – Community input will help to continually monitor the health of the ERC.

- **Advisory Boards** – Advisory Boards support and reinforce the ERC foundational components and must include the Council of Deans and Student Leadership Council.
- **Student Leadership Council (SLC)** – The SLC will include graduate and undergraduate students from all partner institutions.
- **Council of Deans** – This council will be led by the Dean of Engineering from the lead university along with Deans from the lead and core institutions.

Due Dates: Letters of Intent (LOI) are required and are due **November 30, 2018**. Preliminary proposals are required and are due **January 16, 2019**. Full proposals will be submitted by invitation only and are due **July 12, 2019**.

Letters of Intent: LOIs should include up to four non-lead principal investigators (PI) and anticipated core partner universities. The LOI should also list, in order of decreasing emphasis, “four keywords that represent the scientific interdisciplinary content in the proposal.”

Preliminary Proposals: Proposals must explicitly address the following questions:

1. “What is the compelling new idea and what is the potential high societal impact?”
2. Why is an ERC necessary to tackle the idea?
3. How will the ERC’s infrastructure integrate and implement convergent research, engineering workforce development, diversity and culture of inclusion, and an innovation ecosystem to achieve its vision and create societal impact, impact on the scientific enterprise, and impact on the engineering community?
4. What is the proposed management structure for the ERC and how will it foster team-formation and convergent research, as well as an integrated approach for items 1-3 above?
5. What are the proposed strategies for engaging and developing the appropriate stakeholder community?
6. How will all ERC participants engage in a unique experience that would otherwise not be available?”

Total Funding and Award Size: NSF anticipates awarding up to four new ERCs with \$14 million in fiscal year (FY) 2020, pending funding availability, to support the first year of the new centers. The breakout of funding in subsequent years for each center is as follows:

- Year one: up to \$3.5 million
- Year two: up to \$4.5 million
- Year three through five: up to \$6.0 million
- Years six through eight (pending performance and renewal reviews): up to \$6.0 million
- Years nine and ten: would be phased down, with \$4 million in year nine and \$2.6 million in year 10.

Eligibility and Limitations: Only U.S. universities with undergraduate, masters, and doctoral engineering programs can submit proposals as the lead university. Universities that have two funded ERCs from the Classes of 2010-2017 and the Nano-ERC classes of 2012 and 2015 may not serve in the lead role but may be a partner in an ERC led by another eligible institution.

There is no limit specified for the number of preliminary proposals from one institution.

PI Eligibility and Limitations: The Lead PI must be a tenured faculty member at the lead university. There are no restrictions on the number of proposals per PI or Co-PI. The Lead PI and ERC Director can be different people but must be from the same institution.

Organizational Requirements: As in past ERC solicitations there are numerous requirements that a proposed ERC must meet, including:

- The ERC must be multi-institutional, with no more than four domestic partners – each partner must have a minimum of three faculty and three students participating.
- The lead or at least one of the core partners must be a university that serves populations of traditionally underrepresented students interested in STEM.
- Commitments from lead and core partner universities for cost sharing must be in place.

Additional Sources and Information:

- The full ERC solicitation is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19503/nsf19503.htm>.
- The NSF ERC web page is available at: https://nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505599.
- Information on previously supported ERCs is available at <http://erc-assoc.org/>.
- The NASEM report “A New Vision for Center-Based Engineering Research” is available at <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24767/a-new-vision-for-center-based-engineering-research>
- Information on the NSF Growing Convergence Research Big Idea is available at https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/big_ideas/convergent.jsp.
- Information on the ERC Planning Grants is available at https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505530.

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National Science Foundation Releases DCL Announcing Upcoming Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure Solicitations

On October 15, the National Science Foundation (NSF) released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) to alert the research community on upcoming funding opportunities related to Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure (Mid-scale RI) planned to be released this fall. Mid-scale RI is one of the NSF Big Ideas and would support projects that fall between the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program and the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account at a scale of \$6 million to \$70 million. As background, NSF issued a DCL in October 2017 requesting ideas for Mid-scale RI projects; NSF received responses “whose execution would require \$8 billion to \$10 billion.” Those responses helped inform the planned solicitations outlined below.

According to the DCL, NSF plans to announce two solicitations (pending the availability of funds). Both solicitations would support research infrastructure across all research domains supported by NSF. The solicitations may also include mid-scale upgrades to existing research infrastructure. The two planned solicitations are as follows:

1. The first would support projects in the range of \$6 million to \$20 million.
2. The second would support projects in the range of \$20 million to \$70 million.

Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor NSF mid-scale activity and provide updates.

Additional Sources and Information:

- The full DCL is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19013/nsf19013.jsp?org=NSF>.
- NSF's October 2017 DCL is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18013/nsf18013.jsp>.

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