

Ratanesh Srivastava

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Sent: 14 April 2022 06:50
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Cc: Singh, Gurdip; Brunvand, Erik; Jones, Alex K.; Kautz, Henry A; NSF India Collaboration; Dr. Dhananjay Tiwary
Subject: Info sharing and April 29th meeting on NSF-TIH proposal review and selection

Dear TIH collaborators,

Thank you for joining us for the Building Collaboration workshop last month. We have received very positive feedback from our community and hope that you did too. In case you are interested, I included some post-workshop info below.

The proposal deadline is April 25, so we expect to be quite busy working with you soon after that. As a first step, please plan to **share with me a bit of information including the PI names, title of each of the proposals, and original NSF award number (if you know it) that you receive soon after the deadline (by April 27)**. As we consider this information business confidential, we prefer not to send it via email. Instead we can use the NSF External Collaboration Portal, which is a SharePoint Site for securely sharing information. Once you have entered basic info into the portal, I will be able to confirm for you whether we have received the matching proposals from the U.S. collaborators. Please select 1-2 people from your TIH who you would like to have access to this Portal to input your TIH's information. **Please send me their full name, email address, and organizational affiliation by April 20**, and my colleague Kirk Grabowski (kgrabows@associates.nsf.gov) will send them an invitation / instructions a few days later.

Second, we'd like to propose that we save time on April 29 for short discussions between NSF and each of the TIH (separately). At this point we will know if we have received proposals, and if so how many, and have completed a basic compliance check (e.g., to ensure they are eligible to apply). Then we can discuss and agree upon a timeline for review and comparison, so it would be helpful if you come with a plan for how long your review process will take. **Please hold 6:30-9:30pm IST (9am-12pm EST) on April 29** for the time being, and we will narrow down the 15-20 minutes for your TIH before then. If you have limited availability on the evening of April 29, please let me know.

Finally, on February 24 you met with my colleagues to discuss your merit review process and criteria. A couple of the TIH sent their **process/criteria info in writing** after that. If your TIH has not done so yet, I kindly request that you do so by **April 22**. Please see info on NSF's process at the end of this email.

I am exciting to see the interesting research projects that our communities propose!

Thanks,
Bridget

Merit Review at NSF

To identify which projects to support, NSF relies on a [merit review process](#) that incorporates consideration of both the technical aspects of a proposed project and its potential to contribute more broadly to advancing NSF's mission "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense; and for other purposes."

Three principles apply to NSF's merit review process:

1. All NSF projects should be of the highest quality and have the potential to advance, if not transform, the frontiers of knowledge.
2. NSF projects, in the aggregate, should contribute more broadly to achieving societal goals.
3. Meaningful assessment and evaluation of NSF funded projects should be based on appropriate metrics.

All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of two National Science Board approved merit review criteria:

1. Intellectual Merit: The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge; and
2. Broader Impacts: The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

Through this collaboration, NSF is offering supplementary funding to existing awards. That means that the original award has already been through an extensive review process involving external reviewers. When the supplemental request is less than 20% of the original award, NSF does not require obtaining external reviews; internal assessment is sufficient. Thus, the turnaround time for a decision is fairly quick, typically within 1-2 weeks.

Post-Workshop Feedback

Participation numbers:

- 50 PIs attended both day 1 and day 2
 - 23 PIs attended only day 1
 - 26 PIs attended only day 2
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- In response to the question “**How likely are you to recommend these types of events to your colleagues?**”, with 1 = Not Likely and 10= Highly likely, the average score was **9.4**.
 - 88% of U.S. participants indicated this was a new collaboration (i.e. they met their potential Indian collaborator for the first time at the workshop), and 86% of these individuals indicated they plan to submit a proposal in response to the joint U.S. India funding opportunity.
 - 100% of Indian participants indicated this was a new collaboration (i.e. they met their potential U.S. collaborator for the first time at the workshop), and 69% of these individuals indicated they plan to submit a proposal in response to the joint U.S. India funding opportunity.