Dated: February 13, 2009.

Patrick Gallagher,

Deputy Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No.: 0812021541–81547–01]

Measurement, Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs; Availability of Funds

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces that the following programs are soliciting applications for financial assistance for FY 2009: (1) The Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program; (2) the Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory Grants Program; (3) the Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory Grants Program; (4) the Physics Laboratory Grants Program; (5) the Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory Grants Program; (6) the Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program; (7) the Fire Research Grants Program; (8) the Information Technology Laboratory Grants Program; (9) the NIST Center for Neutron Research Grants Program; and (10) Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology Grants Program.

Each program will only consider applications that are within the scientific scope of the program as described in this notice and in the detailed program descriptions found in the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement for these programs. Prior to preparation of a proposal, it is strongly suggested that potential applicants contact the Program Manager for the appropriate field of research, as specified in the FFO announcement found at *http://www.grants.gov*, for clarification of the program objectives and to determine whether their proposal is responsive to this notice.

DATES: For all programs listed in this notice applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. Applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement, Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: See below.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Name and Number: Measurement and Engineering Research and Standards—11.609.

Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory (EEEL) Grants Program:

Program Description: The *Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory (EEEL) Grants Program* will provide grants and cooperative agreements for the development of fundamental electrical metrology and of metrology supporting industry and government agencies in the broad areas of semiconductors, electronic instrumentation, radio-frequency technology, optoelectronics, magnetics, superconductors, electronic commerce as applied to electronic products and devices, the transmission and distribution of electrical power, national electrical standards (fundamental, generally quantum-based physical standards), and law enforcement standards. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory. Specific information regarding program objectives can be found in the corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity for this announcement.

DATES: Applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. All applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement, Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Paper applications must be submitted to: Sheilda Bryner, Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8100, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8100. Electronic applications and associated proposal information should be uploaded to *http://www.grants.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) at *http://www.grants.gov*. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975–6328. Program questions should be addressed to Sheilda Bryner, Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8100, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8100, Tel.: (301) 975–2220, Fax: (301) 975–4091. Grants administration questions concerning this program should be addressed to: Christopher Hunton, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division, (301) 975–5718; *christopher.hunton@nist.gov*. For assistance with using *http://www.grants.gov*, contact *support@grants.gov*.

Funding Availability: In fiscal year 2008, the *EEEL Grants Program* made 7 new awards, totaling $388,497. The amount available each year fluctuates considerably based on programmatic needs and funding availability. For FY 2009, individual awards are expected to range between $5,000 and $150,000.

For the *Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program*, proposals will be considered for research projects from one to three years. When a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award. Continuation of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress, continued relevance to the mission of the *Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program*, and the availability of funds. Multi-year awards must have scopes of work that can be easily separated into annual increments of meaningful work that represent solid accomplishments if prospective funding is not made available to the applicant (*i.e.*, the scopes of work for each funding period must produce identifiable and meaningful results in and of themselves).

Statutory Authority: As authorized by 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the NIST Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory conducts a basic and applied research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

Eligibility: The *Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants*

Program is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Review and Selection Process: For the *Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program,* proposals will be reviewed in a three-step process. First, the EEEL Grants Coordinator, or the Deputy Director of EEEL, will determine the compatibility of the applicant's proposal with EEEL Program Areas and the relevance to the objectives of the *Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program,* described in the Program Description section above. If it is determined that the proposal is incomplete or non-responsive to the scope of the stated objectives, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. If it is determined that sufficient funding is not available to consider grant and cooperative agreement proposals in the technical area of the proposal, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. One copy of any such proposal will be retained for recordkeeping purposes for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed. Proposers may contact EEEL at 301–975–2220 to find out if funds have been exhausted for the fiscal year. EEEL will also post a notice on its Web site, *http://www.eeel.nist.gov/eeel_grants/*, when funds are exhausted for the fiscal year. EEEL will notify proposers in writing if their proposals are not reviewed for technical merit.

Second, proposals will be distributed for technical review by the EEEL Grants Coordinator, or other technical professionals familiar with the programs of the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory, to the appropriate Division or Office based on technical area. At least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area addressed by the proposal will conduct a technical review based on the evaluation criteria. If non-Federal reviewers are used, the reviewers may discuss the proposals with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

Reviews will be conducted on a monthly basis, and all proposals received on or before the 15th day of the month will be ranked based on the reviewers' scores.

Third, the Division Chief or Office Director will make application selections. In making application selections, the Division Chief or Office Director will take into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, the availability of funding, and relevance to the objectives of the *Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program,* as described in the Program Description section above. The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice and the FFO, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The decision of the Grants Officer is final.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for recordkeeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: For the *Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program,* the evaluation criteria and weights to be used by the technical reviewers in evaluating the proposals are as follows:

1. Rationality. Reviewers will consider the coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the proposal effectively addresses scientific and technical issues.

2. Technical Merit of Contribution. Reviewers will consider the potential technical effectiveness of the proposal and the value it would contribute to the field of electronics, electrical engineering, and metrology research. Proposals must be relevant to current EEEL research and have a relation to the objectives of ongoing EEEL programs and activities.

3. Qualifications of Technical Personnel. Reviewers will consider the professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work in the project.

4. Resources Availability. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the proposer has access to the necessary facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives.

Each of these factors will be given equal weight in the evaluation process.

Cost Share Requirements: The *Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program* does not require any matching funds.

Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory (MEL) Grants Program:

Program Description: The *Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory (MEL) Grants Program* will provide grants and cooperative agreements in the following fields of research: Dimensional Metrology for Manufacturing, Mechanical Metrology for Manufacturing, Machine Tool and Machining Process Metrology, Intelligent Systems, and Information Systems Integration for Applications in Manufacturing. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory. Specific information regarding program objectives can be found in the corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity for this announcement.

DATES: Applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. All applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement, Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Paper applications must be submitted to: Ms. Alana Glover, Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8200, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–8200. Electronic applications and associated proposal information should be uploaded to *http://www.grants.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Notice at *http://www.grants.gov*. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975–6328. Program questions should be addressed to Ms. Alana Glover, Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8200, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–8200, Tel: (301) 975–3400, e-mail: *aglover@nist.gov*. Grants administration questions concerning this program should be addressed to: Christopher Hunton, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division, (301) 975–5718; *christopher.hunton@nist.gov*. For assistance with using *http://www.grants.gov*, contact *support@grants.gov*.

Funding Availability: In fiscal year 2008, the *MEL Grants Program* funded six new awards, totaling $386,846. In fiscal year 2009 individual awards are expected to range from approximately $25,000 to $250,000.

For the *MEL Grants Program,* proposals will be considered for research projects from one to five years. When a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award. Continuation of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress, continued relevance to the mission of the *MEL Grants Program,* and the availability of funds. Multi-year awards must have scopes of work that can be easily separated into annual increments of meaningful work that represent solid accomplishments if prospective funding is not made available to the applicant (*i.e.,* the scopes of work for each funding period must produce identifiable and meaningful results in and of themselves).

Statutory Authority: As authorized under 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the MEL conducts a basic and applied research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

Eligibility: The *MEL Grants Program* is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Review and Selection Process: For the *MEL Grants Program* responsive proposals will be assigned, as received on a rolling basis, to the most appropriate area for review. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis in a three-step process. First, the MEL Deputy Director or the appropriate MEL Division Chief will determine the applicability of the proposal with regard to MEL programs and the relevance of the proposal's objectives to current MEL research. If it is determined that the proposal is incomplete or non-responsive to the scope of the stated objectives, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. One copy of any such proposal will be retained for recordkeeping purposes for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed. Second, the appropriate MEL Division Chief or MEL Program Manager will determine the possibility for funding availability within the MEL technical program area most relevant to the objectives of the proposal. If it is determined that sufficient funding is not available to consider grant and cooperative agreement proposals in the technical area of the proposal, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. One copy of any such proposal will be retained for recordkeeping purposes for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed. Proposers may contact MEL at 301–975–3400 to find out if funds have been exhausted for the fiscal year. MEL will also post a notice on its Web site, *http://www.mel.nist.gov* when funds are exhausted for the fiscal year. MEL will notify proposers in writing if their proposals are not reviewed for technical merit. Third, if the proposal passes the first two steps, at least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area addressed by the proposal will conduct a technical review based on the evaluation criteria. If non-Federal reviewers are used, the reviewers may discuss the proposal with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The MEL Director or appropriate MEL Division Chief will make application selections from the grants proposals submitted. In making the application selections, the Laboratory Director or Division Chief will take into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, the availability of funds, and relevance to the objectives or research areas of the *MEL Grants Program.* These objectives are described above in the Program Description section.

The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice and the FFO, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The decision of the Grants Officer is final.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for recordkeeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: For the *MEL Grants Program,* the evaluation criteria the technical reviewers will use in evaluating the proposals are as follows:

1. Rationality. Reviewers will consider the coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the proposal effectively addresses scientific and technical issues.

2. Technical Merit of Contribution. Reviewers will consider the potential technical effectiveness of the proposal and the value it would contribute to the field of manufacturing engineering and metrology research. Proposals must be relevant to current MEL research and have a relation to the objectives of ongoing MEL programs and activities.

3. Qualifications of Technical Personnel. Reviewers will consider the professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work in the project.

4. Resources Availability. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the proposer has access to the necessary facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives.

Each of these factors will be given equal weight in the evaluation process.

Cost Share Requirements: The *MEL Grants Program* does not require any matching funds.

Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory Grants Program:

Program Description: The *Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory (CSTL) Grants Program* will provide grants and cooperative agreements consistent with the CSTL mission in the following fields of measurement science research, focused on reference methods, reference materials and reference data: Biochemical Science, Chemical and Biochemical Reference Data, Process Measurements, Surface and Microanalysis Science, Thermophysical Properties, and Analytical Chemistry. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the CSTL. Specific information regarding program objectives can be found in the corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity for this announcement.

The Programs are structured to support CSTL's three objectives:

1. Provide the national traceability and international comparability structure for measurements in chemistry, chemical engineering, and biochemical sciences.

2. Assure that U.S. industry has access to accurate and reliable data and predictive models to determine the chemical and physical properties of materials and processes.

3. Anticipate and address next-generation measurement needs of the Nation.

DATES: Applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. All applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement, Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Paper applications must be submitted to: Ms. Donna Kimball, Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8300, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8300. Electronic applications and associated proposal information should be uploaded to *http://www.grants.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Notice at *http://www.grants.gov*. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975–6328. Program questions should be addressed to Ms. Donna Kimball, Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8300, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8300, Tel: (301) 975–8300, e-mail: *donna.kimball@nist.gov*. Grants administration questions concerning this program should be addressed to: Christopher Hunton, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division, (301) 975–5718; *christopher.hunton@nist.gov*. For assistance with using *http://www.grants.gov*, contact *support@grants.gov*.

Funding Availability: No funds have been set aside specifically for the *CSTL Grants Program.* The availability of funds depends upon actual authorization of funds and other costs expected to be incurred by individual divisions within the laboratory. Where funds are identified as available for grants, those funds will be awarded to highly ranked proposals as determined by the process described in this notice.

In fiscal year 2008, the *CSTL Grants Program* funded 5 new awards, totaling $374,349. In fiscal year 2009, the *CSTL Grants Program* anticipates funding of approximately $1,000,000. Individual awards are expected to range from approximately $5,000 to $200,000.

For the *Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory Grant Program,* proposals will be considered for research projects from one to three years. When a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award. Continuation of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress, continued relevance to the mission of the *Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory Grants Program,* and the availability of funds. The multi-year awards must have scopes of work that can be easily separated into annual increments of meaningful work that represent solid accomplishments if prospective funding is not made available to the applicant (*i.e.*, the scopes of work for each funding period must produce identifiable and meaningful results in and of themselves).

Statutory Authority: As authorized under 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory conducts a basic and applied research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

Eligibility: The *Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory Grants Program* is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Review and Selection Process: For the *Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory Grants Program,* proposals will be reviewed in a three-step process. First, the CSTL Grants Coordinator, the Deputy Director of CSTL or the corresponding CSTL Division Chief will determine the compatibility of the applicant's proposal with CSTL Program Areas and the relevance to the objectives of the *Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory Grants Program,* described in the Program Description section above. If it is determined that the proposal is incomplete or non-responsive to the scope of the stated objectives, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. One copy of any such proposal will be retained for recordkeeping purposes for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed.

Second, at least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular measurement science area addressed by the proposal will conduct a technical review based on the evaluation criteria. Reviews will be conducted on a quarterly basis, subject to the availability of funds, and all responsive, complete proposals received and reviewed since the last quarter will be ranked based on the reviewers' scores. If non-Federal reviewers are used, the reviewers may discuss the proposals with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

Third, the Division Chief or the CSTL Deputy Director, generally after collaboration, will make application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, the availability of funds, and the relevance to the objectives or research areas described in the Program Description section above.

The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice and the FFO, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, whether the application furthers the objectives of the Department of Commerce, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The decisions of the Grants Officer are final.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: For the *Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory Grants Program,* the evaluation criteria the technical reviewers will use in evaluating the proposals are as follows:

1. Rationality. Reviewers will consider the coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the proposal effectively addresses scientific and technical issues.

2. Qualifications of Technical Personnel. Reviewers will consider the professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work in the project.

3. Resources Availability. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the proposer has access to the necessary facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives.

4. Technical Merit of Contribution. Reviewers will consider the potential technical effectiveness of the proposal and the value it would contribute to the field of measurement science, especially as it pertains to reference methods, reference materials and reference data in Chemical Science and Technology.

Each of these factors will be given equal weight in the evaluation process.

Cost Share Requirements: The *Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory Grants Program* does not require any matching funds.

Physics Laboratory Grants Program:

Program Description: The *Physics Laboratory (PL) Grants Program* will provide grants and cooperative agreements in the following fields of research: Electron and Optical Physics, Atomic Physics, Optical Technology, Ionizing Radiation, Time and Frequency, and Quantum Physics. Specific information regarding program objectives can be found in the corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity for this announcement. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the Physics Laboratory.

DATES: Applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. All applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Paper applications must be submitted to: Ms. Anita Sweigert, Physics Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8400, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8400. Electronic applications and associated proposal information should be uploaded to *http://www.grants.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Notice at *http://www.grants.gov*. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975–6328. Program questions should be addressed to Ms. Anita Sweigert, Physics Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8400, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8400, Tel (301) 975–4200, e-mail: *anita.sweigert@nist.gov*. It is strongly suggested to first confirm the program objectives with the Program Manager prior to preparing a detailed proposal. Grants administration questions concerning this program should be addressed to: Christopher Hunton, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division, (301) 975–5718; *christopher.hunton@nist.gov*. For assistance with using *http://www.grants.gov* contact, *support@grants.gov*.

Funding Availability: In fiscal year 2008, the *PL Grants Program* funded 17 new awards, totaling $1,035,295. In fiscal year 2009, the *PL Grants Program* anticipates funding of approximately $1,500,000, including new awards and continuing projects. Funding availability will be apportioned by quarter. Individual awards are expected to range from approximately $5,000 to $500,000 per year.

For the *Physics Laboratory Grants Program,* proposals will be considered for research projects from one to five years. When a proposal for a multi-year project is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award. Continuation of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress, continued relevance to the mission of the *Physics Laboratory Grants Program,* and the availability of funds. Multi-year awards must have scopes of work that can be easily separated into annual increments of meaningful work that represent solid accomplishments if prospective funding is not made available to the applicant (*i.e.*, the scopes of work for each funding period must produce identifiable and meaningful results in and of themselves).

Statutory Authority: As authorized under 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the Physics Laboratory conducts a basic and applied research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

Eligibility: The *Physics Laboratory Grants Program* is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Review and Selection Process: For the *Physics Laboratory Grants Program,* responsive proposals will be considered as follows: If a preliminary review determines that the proposal is incomplete or non-responsive to the scope of the stated objectives, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. One copy of any such proposal will be retained for recordkeeping purposes for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed. All applications that are complete and responsive to the solicitation will be reviewed for technical merit.

First, at least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the proposal will conduct a technical review of each proposal, based on the evaluation criteria described in the Evaluation Criteria section below. Reviews will be conducted on a monthly basis within each division of the Physics Laboratory, and all proposals received during the month will be ranked based on the reviewers' scores. If non-Federal reviewers are used, reviewers may discuss the proposals with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

Next, the Division Chief will make final application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, including rank; the compilation of a slate that, when taken as a whole, is likely to best further the program interests described in the Program Description section above; and the availability of funds. The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible.

Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award.

The decisions of the Grants Officer are final.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for recordkeeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: For the *Physics Laboratory Grants Program,* the evaluation criteria the technical reviewers will use in evaluating the proposals are as follows:

1. Rationality. Reviewers will consider the coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the proposal effectively addresses scientific and technical issues that are relevant to Physics Laboratory programs.

2. Qualifications of Technical Personnel. Reviewers will consider the professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work in the project.

3. Resources Availability. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the proposer has access to the necessary facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives.

4. Technical Merit of Contribution. Reviewers will consider the potential technical effectiveness of the proposal and the value it would contribute to the field of physics.

Each of these factors will be given equal weight in the evaluation process.

Cost Share Requirements: The *Physics Laboratory Grants Program* does not require any matching funds.

MSEL Grants Program:

Program Description: The *Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory (MSEL) Grants Program* will provide grants and cooperative agreements in the following fields of research: Ceramics; Metallurgy; Polymers; and Materials Reliability. Specific information regarding program objectives can be found in the corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity for this announcement. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the MSEL.

DATES: Applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. All applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement, Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Paper applications must be submitted to: Ms. Nancy Selepak, Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8500, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–8500. Electronic applications and associated proposal information should be uploaded to *http://www.grants.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Notice at *http://www.grants.gov*. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975–6328. Program questions should be addressed to Ms. Nancy Selepak, Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8500, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–8500, Tel: (301) 975–2047, e-mail: *nancy.selepak@nist.gov*. Grants administration questions concerning this program should be addressed to: Christopher Hunton, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division, (301) 975–5718; *christopher.hunton@nist.gov*. For assistance with using *http://www.grants.gov*, contact *support@grants.gov*.

Funding Availability: In fiscal year 2008, the *MSEL Grants Program* funded 16 new awards, totaling $1,563,502. In fiscal year 2009, the *MSEL Grants Program* anticipates funding of approximately $3,500,000, including new awards and continuing projects. Most grants and cooperative agreements are expected to be in the $2,000 to $500,000 per year range.

For the *MSEL Grants Program,* proposals will be considered for research projects from one to five years. When a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award. Continuation of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress, continued relevance to the mission of the *MSEL Grants Program,* and the availability of funds. The multi-year awards must have scopes of work that can be easily separated into annual increments of meaningful work that represent solid accomplishments if prospective funding is not made available to the applicant (*i.e.*, the scopes of work for each funding period must produce identifiable and meaningful results in and of themselves).

Statutory Authority: As authorized under 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the MSEL conducts a basic and applied research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

Eligibility: The *MSEL Grants Program* is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Review and Selection Process: For the *MSEL Grants Program* proposals will be reviewed in a two-step process. If a preliminary review determines that the proposal is incomplete or non-responsive to the scope of the stated objectives, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. One copy of any such proposal will be retained for recordkeeping purposes for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed. All applications that are complete and responsive to the solicitation will be reviewed for technical merit.

First, at least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable in the particular scientific area addressed by the proposal will conduct a technical review. Proposals are received and will be reviewed on a rolling basis based on the evaluation criteria. If non-Federal reviewers are used, the reviewers may discuss the proposals with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus. Second, the Division Chief or Laboratory Deputy Director will make application selections. In making application selections, the Division Chief or Laboratory Deputy Director will take into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, the availability of funds, and relevance to the objectives or research areas of the MSEL Grants Program, described in the Program Description section of the FFO. For applications for funding for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings, the Division Chief or Laboratory Deputy Director will also take into consideration whether they align with ongoing MSEL programmatic activities. The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice and the FFO, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The decision of the Grants Officer is final.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will

retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for record-keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: For the *MSEL Grants Program,* the evaluation criteria the technical reviewers will use in evaluating the proposals are as follows:

1. Rationality. Reviewers will consider the coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the proposal effectively addresses scientific and technical issues.

2. Qualifications of Technical Personnel. Reviewers will consider the professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work in the project.

3. Resources Availability. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the proposer has access to the necessary facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives.

4. Technical Merit of Contribution. Reviewers will consider the potential technical effectiveness of the proposal and the value it would contribute to the field of materials science and engineering. Proposals must be relevant to current MSEL research and have a relation to the objectives of ongoing MSEL programs and activities.

Each of these factors will be given equal weight in the evaluation process.

Cost Share Requirements: The *MSEL Grants Program* does not require any matching funds.

Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program:

Program Description: The *Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program* will provide grants and cooperative agreements in the following fields of research: Structures, Construction Metrology and Automation, Inorganic Materials, Polymeric Materials, HVAC & R Equipment Performance, Mechanical Systems and Controls, Heat Transfer and Alternative Energy Systems, Computer Integrated Building Processes, Indoor Air Quality and Ventilation, and Building Economics. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the Building and Fire Research Laboratory.

The Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program supports the formal mission of the Building and Fire Research Laboratory, which is to promote U.S. innovation and competitiveness by anticipating and meeting the measurement science, standards and technology needs of the U.S. building and fire safety industries in ways that enhance economic security and improve the quality of life. All proposals submitted must be in accordance with the program objectives found in the corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity for this announcement.

DATES: Applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. All applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Paper applications must be submitted to: Karen Perry, Building and Fire Research Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8602, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8602. Electronic applications and associated proposal information should be uploaded to *http://www.grants.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Notice at *http://www.grants.gov*. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975–6328. Program questions should be addressed to Karen Perry, Building and Fire Research Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8602, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8602, Tel.: (301) 975–5910, *karen.perry@nist.gov*, Fax: (301) 975–4032, and Web site *http://www.bfrl.nist.gov*. Grants administration questions concerning this program should be addressed to: Christopher Hunton, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division, (301) 975–5718; *christopher.hunton@nist.gov*. For assistance with using *http://www.grants.gov*, contact *support@grants.gov*.

Funding Availability: In fiscal year 2008, the *Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program* funded 7 new awards, totaling $601,467. No funds have been set aside specifically for the Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program. The availability of funds depends upon actual authorization of funds and other costs expected to be incurred by the individual divisions. The amount available each year fluctuates considerably based on programmatic needs. Individual awards are expected to range between $5,000 and $500,000.

For the *Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program,* proposals will be considered for research projects from one to three years. When a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award. Continuation of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress, continued relevance to the mission of the *Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program,* and the availability of funds. Multi-year awards must have scopes of work that can be easily separated into annual increments of meaningful work that represent solid accomplishments if prospective funding is not made available to the applicant (*i.e.*, the scopes of work for each funding period must produce identifiable and meaningful results in and of themselves).

Statutory Authority: As authorized by 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the NIST Building and Fire Research Laboratory conducts a basic and applied research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

Eligibility: The *Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program* is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Review and Selection Process: For the *Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program* proposals will be reviewed in a two-step process. If a preliminary review determines that the proposal is incomplete or non-responsive to the scope of the stated objectives, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. One copy of each such proposal will be retained for recordkeeping purposes for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed. All applications that are complete and responsive to the solicitation will be reviewed for technical merit.

First, at least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable

about the particular scientific area addressed by the proposal will conduct a technical review. Proposals are received and will be reviewed on a rolling basis based on the evaluation criteria listed in the Evaluation Criteria section below. If non-Federal reviewers are used, reviewers may discuss the proposals with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus. Second, the Division Chief or Laboratory Director or Deputy Director will take into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluation, the availability of funds, and relevance to the objectives described in the Program Description section of the FFO.

The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The award decision of the Grants Officer is final. Applicants should allow up to 90 days processing time.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for recordkeeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: The Divisions of the Building and Fire Research Laboratory will score proposals based on the following criteria and weights:

1. Technical quality of the research. Reviewers will assess the rationality, innovation and imagination of the proposal and the fit to NIST's in-house building research programs. (0–35 points)

2. Potential impact of the results. Reviewers will assess the potential impact and the technical application of the results to NIST's in-house programs and the building industry. (0–25 points)

3. Staff and institution capability to do the work. Reviewers will evaluate the quality of the facilities and experience of the staff to assess the likelihood of achieving the objective of the proposal. (0–20 points)

4. Match of budget to proposed work. Reviewers will assess the budget against the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request. (0–20 points).

Cost Share Requirements: The *Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program* does not require any matching funds.

Fire Research Grants Program:

Program Description: The *Fire Research Grants Program* will provide funding for innovative ideas in the fire research area generated by the proposal writer, who chooses the topic and approach. Specific information regarding program objectives can be found in the corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity for this announcement. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical meetings that are relevant to the objectives of the Fire Research Grants Program.

DATES: Applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. All applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Paper applications must be submitted to: Ms. Wanda Duffin-Ricks, Building and Fire Research Laboratory (BFRL), National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8660, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–8660. Electronic applications and associated proposal information should be uploaded to *http://www.grants.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Notice at *http://www.grants.gov*. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975–6328. Program questions should be addressed to Ms. Wanda Duffin-Ricks, Building and Fire Research Laboratory (BFRL), National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8660, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–8660, Tel: (301) 975–6863, e-mail: *wanda.duffin@nist.gov*, Web site: *http://www.bfrl.nist.gov*. Grants administration questions concerning this program should be addressed to: Christopher Hunton, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division, (301) 975–5718; *christopher.hunton@nist.gov*. For assistance with using *http://www.grants.gov*, contact *support@grants.gov*.

Funding Availability: For the *Fire Research Grants Program,* the annual budget is approximately $1.0 to $1.5 million. Because of commitments for the support of multi-year projects and because proposals may have been deferred from the previous year's competition, only a portion of the budget is available to fund applications received in response to this notice. Most grants and cooperative agreements are in the $25,000 to $125,000 per year range, with a maximum requested duration of three years. In fiscal year 2008, the *Fire Research Grants Program* funded 7 new awards, totaling $693,598.

For the *Fire Research Grants Program,* proposals will be considered for research projects from one to three years. When a proposal for a multi-year project is approved, funding will normally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent on satisfactory progress, continuing relevance to the mission of the *Fire Research Grants Program,* and the availability of funds.

Statutory Authority: As authorized by 15 U.S.C. 278f, the NIST Building and Fire Research Laboratory conducts directly and through grants and cooperative agreements, a basic and applied fire research program.

Eligibility: The *Fire Research Grants Program* is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Review and Selection Process: Prospective proposers are encouraged to contact the group leaders listed in the FFO announcement to determine the responsiveness of the proposal and compliance with program objectives prior to preparation of a detailed proposal; however, written pre-proposals and white papers are not solicited and will not be reviewed for other than informational purposes. Responsive proposals will be assigned to the most appropriate group and reviewed as received on a rolling basis. If it is determined that the proposal is incomplete or non-responsive to the scope of the stated objectives, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. One copy of any such proposal will be retained for recordkeeping purpose for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed. Proposals are evaluated for technical merit based on the evaluation criteria described below by at least three

reviewers chosen from NIST professionals, technical experts from other interested government agencies, and experts from the fire research community at large. When non-Federal reviewers are used, reviewers may discuss the proposals with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus. The group leaders will make funding recommendations to the Division Chief based on the technical evaluation score and the relationship of the work proposed to the objectives of the program. Proposals submitted to another agency will be considered for possible joint-funding if approved by the other agency.

In making application selections, the Division Chief will take into consideration the results of the evaluations, the scores of the reviewers, the group leader's recommendation, the availability of funds, and relevance to the objectives or research areas of the *Fire Research Grants Program,* as described in the Program Description section above. The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The award decision of the Grants Officer is final. Applicants should allow up to 90 days processing time.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: For the *Fire Research Grants Program,* the technical evaluation criteria are as follows:

1. Technical quality of the research. Reviewers will assess the rationality, innovation and imagination of the proposal. (0–35 points).

2. Potential impact of the results. Reviewers will assess the potential impact and the technical application of the results to the fire safety community. (0–25 points).

3. Staff and institution capability to do the work. Reviewers will evaluate the quality of the facilities and experience of the staff to assess the likelihood of achieving the objective of the proposal. (0–20 points).

4. Match of budget to proposed work. Reviewers will assess the budget against the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request. (0–20 points).

Cost Share Requirements: The *Fire Research Grants Program* does not require any matching funds.

Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) Grants Program:

Program Description: The *Information Technology Laboratory Grants Program* will provide grants and cooperative agreements in the broad areas of mathematical and computational sciences, advanced network technologies, information access, and software testing. Specific objectives of interest in these areas of research include: quantum information theory, computational materials science, network science, mathematical foundations of measurement science for information systems, mathematical knowledge management, visual data analysis, verification and validation of computer models, computational biology, semantic data integration, software testing, biometrics, human language technology, interactive systems, multimedia technology, human factors/security/core requirements/ testing of voting systems, information visualization, systems biology, grid computing, service oriented architecture and complex systems, security for the IPv6 transition from and coexistence with IPv4, and device mobility among heterogeneous networks. For details on these various activities, please see the Information Technology Laboratory Web site at *http://www.itl.nist.gov*. Additionally, the *ITL Grant Program* will provide grants and cooperative agreements in support of conferences, workshops, and other technical research groups that focus on trends and future focus areas of information technology. Specific information regarding program objectives can be found in the corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity for this announcement. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the Information Technology Laboratory.

DATES: Applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. All applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement, Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Paper applications must be submitted to: Gerlinde Harr, Information Technology Laboratory (ITL), National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8900, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–8900. Electronic applications and associated proposal information should be uploaded to *http://www.grants.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Notice at *http://www.grants.gov*. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975–6328. Program questions should be addressed to Gerilinde Harr, Information Technology Laboratory (ITL), National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8900, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8900, Tel.: (301) 975–2901, *gharr@nist.gov*, Fax: (301) 975–2378, Web site: *http://www.itl.nist.gov*. It is strongly suggested to first confirm the program objectives with the Program Manager prior to preparing a detailed proposal. Grants administration questions concerning this program should be addressed to: Christopher Hunton, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division, (301) 975–5718; *christopher.hunton@nist.gov*. For assistance with using *http://www.grants.gov*, contact *support@grants.gov*.

Funding Availability: In fiscal year 2008, the *Information Technology Laboratory* funded 2 new awards, totaling $220,549. No funds have been set aside specifically for the *Information Technology Laboratory Grants Program*. The availability of funds depends upon actual authorization of funds and other costs expected to be incurred by the individual divisions. The amount available each year fluctuates considerably based on programmatic needs. Individual awards are expected to range between $10,000 and $500,000.

For the *Information Technology Laboratory Grants Program*, proposals will be considered for research projects from one to five years. When a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award. Continuation of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST. Funding for each subsequent year

of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress, continued relevance to the mission of the *Information Technology Laboratory Grants Program*, and the availability of funds. The multi-year awards must have scopes of work that can be easily separated into annual increments of meaningful work that represent solid accomplishments if prospective funding is not made available to the applicant, (i.e., the scopes of work for each funding period must produce identifiable and meaningful results in and of themselves).

Statutory Authority: As authorized under 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the ITL conducts a basic and applied research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

Eligibility: The *ITL Grants Program* is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Review and Selection Process: For the *Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) Grants Program*, proposals will be reviewed in a three-step process. First, the ITL Grants Coordinator, the Deputy Director of ITL, or the corresponding Division Chief will determine the compatibility of the applicant's proposal with ITL Program Areas and the relevance to the objectives of the *ITL Grants Program*, described in the Program Description section. If a proposal is determined to be incomplete or non-responsive, or if it is determined that all available funds have been exhausted, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. Proposers may contact ITL at 301–975–2901 to find out if funds have been exhausted for the fiscal year. ITL will also post a notice on its Web site, *http://www.itl.nist.gov*, when funds are exhausted for the fiscal year. ITL will notify proposers in writing if their proposals are not reviewed for technical merit. One copy of any such proposal will be retained for record keeping purposes for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed.

Second, at least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular measurement science area described in the section above that the proposal addresses will conduct a technical review of each proposal, based on the evaluation criteria. Reviews will be conducted on a quarterly basis, and all responsive, complete proposals received and reviewed since the last quarter will be ranked based on the reviewers' scores. If non-Federal reviewers are used, the reviewers may discuss the proposals with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

Third, the Division Chief, in accord with the Director of ITL, will make application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, the availability of funds, and the relevance to the objectives or research areas described in the Program Description section above.

The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice and the FFO, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The decisions of the Grants Officer are final.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: For the *ITL Grants Program*, the evaluation criteria the technical reviewers will use in evaluating the proposals are as follows:

1. Rationality. Reviewers will consider the coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the proposal effectively addresses scientific and technical issues.

2. Technical Merit of Contribution. Reviewers will consider the potential technical effectiveness of the proposal and the value it would contribute to the field of information technology research.

3. Qualifications of Technical Personnel. Reviewers will consider the professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work in the project.

4. Resources Availability. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the proposer has access to the necessary facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives.

Each of these factors will be given equal weight in the evaluation process.

Cost Share Requirements: The *ITL Grants Program* does not require any matching funds.

NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR) Grants Program:

Program Description: The *NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR) Grants Program* will provide grants and cooperative agreements for research involving neutron scattering, for the development of innovative technologies that advance the state-of-the-art in neutron research, and for the support of conferences and/or workshops that advance these objectives. Specific information regarding program objectives can be found in the corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity to this announcement. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the NCNR.

All proposals submitted to the NCNR Grants Program must be in accordance with the program objectives. These are to create novel approaches to advance high resolution cold and thermal neutron scattering research; to develop new applications of neutron scattering to physics, chemistry, and macromolecular and materials research; and to support the development of innovative technologies relevant to neutron research, including, for example, high resolution two-dimensional neutron detectors, neutron monochromators, and neutron focusing and polarizing devices. Awards to universities to help to promote research by university students at the NIST/NSF Center for High Resolution Scattering are also funded under this program.

DATES: Applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. All applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement, Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Paper applications must be submitted to: Ms. Tanya Burke, NIST Center for Neutron Research, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 6100, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–6100. Electronic applications and associated proposal information should be uploaded to *http://www.grants.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Notice at *http://www.grants.gov*. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975–6328. Program questions should be addressed to Dr.

Dan Neumann, NIST Center for Neutron Research, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 6102, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–6102, Tel: (301) 975–5252, E-mail: *dan.neumann@nist.gov*. Grants administration questions concerning this program should be addressed to: Christopher Hunton, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division, (301) 975–5718; *christopher.hunton@nist.gov*. For assistance with using www.grants.gov, contact *support@grants.gov*.

Funding Availability: In fiscal year 2008, the *NCNR Grants Program* made three awards in the amount of $296,840. In fiscal year 2009, the Program anticipates funding of approximately $300,000, including new awards and continuing projects. Individual awards are expected to range from approximately $25,000 to $100,000 per year.

The *NCNR Grants Program* will consider proposals lasting from one to five years. When a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award. Continuation of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress, continued relevance to the mission of the *NCNR Grants Program*, and the availability of funds. The multi-year awards must have scopes of work that can be easily separated into annual increments of meaningful work that represent solid accomplishments if prospective funding is not made available to the applicant, *i.e.*, the scopes of work for each funding period must produce identifiable and meaningful results in and of themselves.

Statutory Authority: As authorized under 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the NCNR conducts a basic and applied research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

Eligibility: The *NCNR Grants Program* is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Review and Selection Process: Proposals submitted to the *NCNR Grants Program* will be reviewed in a two-step process. If a preliminary review determines that the proposal is incomplete or non-responsive to the scope of the stated objectives, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. One copy of any such proposal will be retained for record keeping purposes for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed. All applications that are complete and responsive to the solicitation will be reviewed for technical merit.

First, at least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the Program Description section above that the proposal addresses will conduct a technical review of proposals, as they are received on a rolling basis, based on the evaluation criteria. If non-Federal reviewers are used, the reviewers may discuss the proposals with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

Second, the Center Director will make application selections. In making application selections, the Center Director will take into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, the availability of funds, and the relevance to the objectives or research areas of the *NCNR Grants Program*, described in the Program Description section. The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice and the FFO, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The decision of the Grants Officer is final.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: The *NCNR Grants Program* evaluation criteria that the technical reviewers will use in evaluating the proposals are as follows:

1. Rationality. Reviewers will assess the innovation, rationality, and coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the proposal effectively addresses important scientific and technical issues using neutron methods and/or the development of innovative devices for neutron research. (0 to 35 points)

2. Qualifications of Technical Personnel. Reviewers will consider the professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work in the project. (0 to 20 points)

3. Resources. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the proposer has access to the necessary resources, facilities, and overall support to accomplish project objectives, and will assess the budget against the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request. (0 to 20 points)

4. Technical Merit of Contribution. Reviewers will consider the potential technical effectiveness of the proposal and the value it would contribute to neutron research. (0 to 25 points)

Cost Share Requirements: The *NCNR Grants Program* does not require any matching funds.

Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program:

Program Description: The Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program will offer financial assistance in the field of nanotechnology specifically aimed at developing essential measurement methods, instrumentation, and standards to support nanotechnology development, from discovery to production, conducting collaborative research with NIST scientists including research at the CNST Nanofab, a national facility for nanofabrication and measurement, and assisting visiting researchers at the CNST. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the CNST.

The primary program objectives of the financial assistance program in CNST are to develop new measurement methods, instrumentation, and standards for nanotechnology; and explore new areas of nanoscale science and technology in a variety of areas. Areas of interest include nanofabrication, nanomagnetics, theory and modeling, post complementary metal oxide semiconductor electronics, nano electro mechanical systems, nanomotion and nanomanipulation, merging length scales, 2–D and 3–D structural and chemical imaging, electrical and magnetic dynamical response of nanostructures, electrical characterization of nanostructures, nanoscale properties of soft matter. Additional objectives of this program are to assist and train CNST collaborators and nanofabrication facility users in their research; and to conduct other outreach and educational

activities that advance the development of nanotechnology by U.S. university and industrial scientists. These objectives will entail collaborative research among the selected financial assistance recipients and CNST. Specific information regarding program objectives can be found in the corresponding Federal Funding Opportunity to this announcement.

DATES: Applications will be considered on a continuing basis. Applications received after June 1, 2009 may be processed and considered for funding under this solicitation in the current fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. All applications, paper and electronic, must be received prior to the publication date in the **Federal Register** of the FY 2010 solicitation for the NIST Measurement, Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs in order to be processed under this solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Paper applications must be submitted to: Donna Lauren, Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 6200, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–6200. Electronic applications and associated proposal information should be uploaded to *grants.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For complete information about this program and instructions for applying by paper or electronically, read the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Notice at *http://www.grants.gov*. A paper copy of the FFO may be obtained by calling (301) 975–6328. Program questions should be addressed to Donna Lauren, Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 6200, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–6200. Tel (301) 975–3729, E-Mail: *donna.lauren@nist.gov*. Grants administration questions concerning this program should be addressed to: Christopher Hunton, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division, (301) 975–5718; *christopher.hunton@nist.gov*. For assistance with using Grants.gov contact *support@grants.gov*.

Funding Availability: In fiscal year 2008, the *CNST Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program* made three awards in the amount of $252,802. In fiscal year 2009, the CNST Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program anticipates funding of approximately $1,800,000, including new awards and continuing projects. Individual awards are expected to range from approximately $40,000 to $150,000 per year.

For the *Center for Nanoscale and Science and Technology*, proposals will be considered for research projects from one to five years. When a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award. Continuation of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress, continued relevance to the mission of the *Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program*, and the availability of funds.

Statutory Authority: As authorized under 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the NCNR conducts a basic and applied research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

Eligibility: The *Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program* is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Review and Selection Process: For the *Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program*, responsive proposals will be assigned, as received on a rolling basis, to the most appropriate area for review. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis in a two-step process. First, the CNST Deputy Director will determine the applicability of the proposal with regard to CNST programs and the relevance of the proposal's objectives to current CNST research. If it is determined that the proposal is incomplete or non-responsive to the scope of the stated objectives, the proposal will not be reviewed for technical merit. One copy of any such proposal will be retained for record keeping purposes for three years and all remaining copies will be destroyed. CNST will notify proposers in writing if their proposals are not reviewed for technical merit. Second, if the proposal passes the first step, at least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area addressed by the proposal will conduct a technical review based on the evaluation criteria. If non-Federal reviewers are used, the reviewers may discuss the proposal with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The CNST Director will make application selections from the grants and cooperative agreement proposals submitted. In making the application selections, the Laboratory Director will take into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, the availability of funds, and relevance to the objectives or research areas of the *CNST Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program*. These objectives are described above in the Program Description section.

The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice and the FFO, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The decision of the Grants Officer is final.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing. The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Evaluation Criteria: For the *Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program*, the technical reviewers will use the following evaluation criteria in evaluating the proposals:

1. Rationality. Reviewers will consider the coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the proposal effectively addresses scientific and technical issues.

2. Qualifications of Technical Personnel. Reviewers will consider the professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work in this project.

3. Resources Availability. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the proposer has access to the necessary facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives.

4. Technical Merit of Contribution. Reviewers will consider the potential technical effectiveness of the proposal and the value it would contribute to the field of nanotechnology.

Each of these factors will be given equal weight in the evaluation process.

Cost Share Requirements: The *Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST) Grants and Cooperative*

Agreements Program does not require any matching funds.

The following information applies to all programs announced in this notice:

Initial Screening of all Applications: All applications received in response to this announcement will be reviewed to determine whether or not they are complete and responsive to the scope of the stated objectives for each program. Incomplete or non-responsive applications will not be reviewed for technical merit. The Program will retain one copy of each non-responsive application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements: The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in 73 FR 7696 (February 11, 2008) apply to this notice. On the form SF–424, the applicant's 9-digit Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number must be entered in item 8.c. Organizational DUNS. The DUNS number provided MUST be the DUNS number for the entity within the applying institution that will be responsible for drawing down funds from the Automated Standard Application for Payment System (ASAP). Institutions that provide incorrect DUNS numbers may experience significant delays in receiving funds.

Collaborations with NIST Employees: All applications should include a description of any work proposed to be performed by an entity other than the applicant, and the cost of such work should ordinarily be included in the budget.

If an applicant proposes collaboration with NIST, the statement of work should include a statement of this intention, a description of the collaboration, and prominently identify the NIST employee(s) involved, if known. Any collaboration by a NIST employee must be approved by appropriate NIST management and is at the sole discretion of NIST. Prior to beginning the merit review process, NIST will verify the approval of the proposed collaboration. Any unapproved collaboration will be stricken from the proposal prior to the merit review.

Use of NIST Intellectual Property: If the applicant anticipates using any NIST-owned intellectual property to carry out the work proposed, the applicant should identify such intellectual property. This information will be used to ensure that no NIST employee involved in the development of the intellectual property will participate in the review process for that competition. In addition, if the applicant intends to use NIST-owned intellectual property, the applicant must comply with all statutes and regulations governing the licensing of Federal government patents and inventions, described at 35 U.S.C. 200–212, 37 CFR part 401, 15 CFR 14.36, and in section B.21 of the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements 73 FR 7696 (Feb. 11, 2008). Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Chief Counsel for NIST, 301–975–2803.

Any use of NIST-owned intellectual property by a proposer is at the sole discretion of NIST and will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis if a project is deemed meritorious. The applicant should indicate within the statement of work whether it already has a license to use such intellectual property or whether it intends to seek one.

If any inventions made in whole or in part by a NIST employee arise in the course of an award made pursuant to this notice, the United States government may retain its ownership rights in any such invention. Licensing or other disposition of NIST's rights in such inventions will be determined solely by NIST, and include the possibility of NIST putting the intellectual property into the public domain.

Collaborations Making Use of Federal Facilities: All applications should include a description of any work proposed to be performed using Federal Facilities. If an applicant proposes use of NIST facilities, the statement of work should include a statement of this intention and a description of the facilities. Any use of NIST facilities must be approved by appropriate NIST management and is at the sole discretion of NIST. Prior to beginning the merit review process, NIST will verify the availability of the facilities and approval of the proposed usage. Any unapproved facility use will be stricken from the proposal prior to the merit review. Examples of some facilities that may be available for collaborations are listed on the NIST Technology Services Web site, *http://ts.nist.gov/*.

Paperwork Reduction Act: The standard forms in the application kit involve a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, SF–LLL, and CD–346 have been approved by OMB under the respective Control Numbers 0348–0043, 0348–0044, 0348–0040, 0348–0046, and 0605–0001.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Research Projects Involving Human Subjects, Human Tissue, Data or Recordings Involving Human Subjects: Any proposal that includes research involving human subjects, human tissue, data or recordings involving human subjects must meet the requirements of the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects, codified for the Department of Commerce at 15 CFR part 27. In addition, any proposal that includes research on these topics must be in compliance with any statutory requirements imposed upon the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other Federal agencies regarding these topics, all regulatory policies and guidance adopted by DHHS, the Food and Drug Administration, and other Federal agencies on these topics, and all Presidential statements of policy on these topics.

NIST will accept the submission of human subjects protocols that have been approved by Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) possessing a current registration filed with DHHS and to be performed by institutions possessing a current, valid Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) from DHHS. NIST will not issue a single project assurance (SPA) for any IRB reviewing any human subjects protocol proposed to NIST.

On August 9, 2001, President Bush announced his decision to allow Federal funds to be used for research on existing human embryonic stem cell lines as long as prior to his announcement (1) the derivation process (which commences with the removal of the inner cell mass from the blastocyst) had already been initiated and (2) the embryo from which the stem cell line was derived no longer had the possibility of development as a human being. NIST will follow guidance issued by the National Institutes of Health at *http://ohrp.osophs.dhhs.gov/humansubjects/guidance/stemcell.pdf* for funding such research. NIST will follow any further policy or guidance issued by the current Administration on this topic.

Research Projects Involving Vertebrate Animals: Any proposal that includes research involving vertebrate animals

must be in compliance with the National Research Council's ''Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals'' which can be obtained from National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20055. In addition, such proposals must meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 *et seq.*), 9 CFR Parts 1, 2, and 3, and if appropriate, 21 CFR part 58. These regulations do not apply to proposed research using pre-existing images of animals or to research plans that do not include live animals that are being cared for, euthanized, or used by the project participants to accomplish research goals, teaching, or testing. These regulations also do not apply to obtaining animal materials from commercial processors of animal products or to animal cell lines or tissues from tissue banks.

Limitation of Liability: Funding for the programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations. NIST issues this notice subject to the appropriations made available under the current continuing resolution, H.R. 2638, ''Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009'' (Pub. L. 110–329). NIST anticipates making award for the programs listed in this notice provided that funding for the programs are continued beyond March 6, 2009, the expiration of the current continuing resolution. In no event will the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if the NIST programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of Department of Commerce or NIST priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige the agency to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

Additional Consideration of Applications: NIST programs are often cross-cutting and multi-disciplinary. If a NIST program official believes an application that is not selected for funding may be of interest to another NIST program(s), the official may forward the application to any other NIST program(s) that the program official believes may have an interest in the project, for potential consideration under the other NIST program(s) procedures. If, upon initial screening, the other NIST program(s) finds the application may be of programmatic interest, the application will proceed through the review and selection procedures described in this Notice for the program(s). If not, the application will be returned to the original program for final processing. Any applicant that does not wish for its application to be considered by other NIST programs should indicate on its application that it would like consideration of the project to be limited to the program to which it originally submitted the application. Applicants will be notified if their applications have been forwarded to another NIST program(s) for potential consideration.

Executive Order 12866: This funding notice was determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism): It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

Executive Order 12372: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, ''Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.''

Administrative Procedure Act/ Regulatory Flexibility Act: Notice and comment are not required under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C.553 (a)). Because notice and comment are not required under 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)), a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required and has not been prepared for this notice, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et. seq.*

Dated: February 17, 2009.

Richard Kayser,

Chief Scientist, NIST.

[FR Doc. E9–3665 Filed 2–19–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XN32

Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notification of a request to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This exempted fishing permit (EFP) application is a continuation of a collaborative project involving the University of New Hampshire (UNH), Durham, New Hampshire (NH); the Lobster Conservancy, Friendship, Maine; the New England Aquarium, Boston, Massachusetts; and the Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen=s Association, Candia, NH. The EFP proposes to continue monitoring legal sized egg bearing female lobsters (berried lobsters) carrying early–stage eggs. This project will allow participating Federal lobster permit holders, fishing in designated study areas, to preserve a maximum of ten eggs from each berried lobster captured in commercial lobster gear, to allow researchers to determine what percentage of eggs are fertilized, and estimate the egg developmental stage and time to maturity. The berried lobsters will then be released unharmed. This project would not involve the authorization of any additional trap gear, and all trap gear would conform to existing Federal lobster regulations. There would be no anticipated adverse effects on protected resources or habitat as a result of this research. The EFP would waive the prohibition on removal of eggs specified at 50 CFR 697.7(c)(1)(iv) for a maximum of three participating vessels.

The Director, State, Federal and Constituent Programs Office, Northeast Region, NMFS (Office Director) has made a preliminary determination that the subject EFP application contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. The Office Director has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFPs would be consistent with the goals and objectives of Federal management of the American lobster resource. However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue EFPs. NMFS announces that the Office Director proposes to issue EFPs and, therefore, invites comments on the issuance of EFPs for this research.

DATES: Comments on this lobster EFP notification for berried lobster monitoring and data collection must be received on or before March 9, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930–2298. Mark the outside of the envelope ''Comments – Lobster EFP Proposal''. Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to 978–281–9117. Comments on the Lobster EFP Proposal may be submitted by e–mail. The mailbox address for providing e–mail comments is