

Forensic Science Center of Excellence Program Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO)

NIST has announced a competition to create a Forensic Science Center of Excellence dedicated to collaborative, interdisciplinary research. The center's mission will be to establish a firm scientific foundation for the analytic techniques used in two important branches of forensic science, pattern evidence and digital evidence.

The new NIST-sponsored center will focus on developing probabilistic methods for dealing with pattern evidence and digital evidence. Pattern evidence encompasses much of what is typically thought of as forensic evidence: fingerprints, shoeprints, tire marks, tool marks, shell casing or bullet striations—anything that relies on comparing two sets of markings. Digital evidence includes such things as the data on cellphones or personal computers.

NIST anticipates funding the new center at about \$4 million annually for five years, with the possibility of renewing the award for an additional five years. Funding is subject to the availability of funds through NIST's appropriations. The competition is open to accredited institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations located in the United States and its territories. The proposing institution may work as part of a consortium that could include other academic institutions; nonprofit organizations; companies; or state, tribal or local governments.

Full details of the solicitation, including eligibility requirements, selection criteria, legal requirements and the mechanism for submitting proposals are found in an announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) posted [here](#). Applications will be accepted only through the Grants.gov website. The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, Dec. 11, 2014.

Forensic Subcommittee Seeks Experts for Membership

NIST is establishing a [Committee](#) to identify and develop national standards and guidelines for forensic science practitioners to strengthen forensic science in the United States. Forensic science practitioners, academic researchers and others with expertise in digital evidence are encouraged to apply for one of up to 20 voting positions on the new Digital Evidence Subcommittee by Sept. 30, 2014. Those who previously applied for membership on other subcommittees should reapply if they wish to be considered for the [Digital Evidence Subcommittee](#). To learn more about OSAC and NIST forensic science research and to sign up to receive NIST forensic science news updates, visit <http://www.nist.gov/forensics>. The OSCA application form for serving on subcommittees is available at <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac-application.cfm>.

Global City Teams Challenge Kick-Off Workshop

On September 29-30, 2014, NIST and several partners will kick off a year-long [Global City Teams Challenge](#) to help communities around the world work together to address issues ranging from air quality to traffic management to emergency services coordination. NIST invites communities and innovators to create teams that will foster the spread of “smart cities” that take advantage of networked technologies to better manage resources and improve quality of life. The two-day workshop that will bring together city planners and representatives from technology companies, academic institutions and non-profits. The challenge is open to participants around the world, and international representatives will be able to participate in the kick-off meeting via webcast. On line registration for the workshop can be accessed [here](#). More information on the Global City Team Challenge is accessible [here](#).