

2020 MSE NOFO

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) Measurement Science and Engineering (MSE) Research Grant Programs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), United States Department of Commerce (DoC)
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** Measurement Science and Engineering (MSE) Research Grant Programs
- **Announcement Type:** Initial
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** 2020-NIST-MSE-01
- **Assistance Listings (CFDA Numbers):** 11.609: Measurement and Engineering Research and Standards, 11.619: Arrangements for Interdisciplinary Research Infrastructure, and 11.620: Science, Technology, Business and/or Education Outreach.
- **Dates:** Applications will be accepted and considered on a rolling basis as they are received. See Section IV.4. in the Full Announcement Text of this NOFO.

When developing your submission timeline, please keep in mind that (1) all applicants are required to have current registrations in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and Grants.gov; (2) the free annual registration process in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) (see Section IV.3. and Section IV.7.a.(1).(b). of this NOFO) generally takes between three and five business days but can take more than three weeks; and (3) applicants will receive a series of e-mail messages from Grants.gov over a period of up to two business days before learning whether a Federal agency's electronic system has received its application. **Please note that a federal assistance award cannot be issued if the designated recipient's registration in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) is not current at the time of the award.**

- **Application Submission Address:** Applications must be submitted using Grants.gov.
- **Funding Opportunity Description:** NIST is soliciting applications for financial assistance for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) within the following NIST grant programs:
 - (1) the Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services (ADIIS);
 - (2) the Associate Director for Laboratory Programs (ADLP);
 - (3) the Communications Technology Laboratory (CTL);

2020 MSE NOFO

- (4) the Engineering Laboratory (EL);
- (5) Fire Research (FR);
- (6) the Information Technology Laboratory (ITL);
- (7) the International and Academic Affairs Office (IAAO);
- (8) the Material Measurement Laboratory (MML);
- (9) the NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR);
- (10) the Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML);
- (11) the Special Programs Office (SPO); and
- (12) the Standards Coordination Office (SCO).

This funding opportunity will result in the award of grants or cooperative agreements. A grant or cooperative agreement is not the correct funding vehicle if the principal purpose is to provide products or services for the direct benefit or use of the federal government.

- **Anticipated Funding Amounts:** See Section II. in the Full Announcement Text of this NOFO.
- **Funding Instrument:** Grant or cooperative agreement, as appropriate.
- **Who is Eligible:** Eligibility for all programs listed in this NOFO is open to all non-Federal entities. Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, state and local governments, Indian tribes, hospitals, foreign public entities, and foreign governments. Please note that individuals and unincorporated sole proprietors are not considered “non-Federal entities” and are not eligible to apply under this NOFO.
- **Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements:** The MSE Research Grant Programs do not require cost sharing or matching.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Program Description	3
II.	Federal Award Information	26
III.	Eligibility Information	28
IV.	Application and Submission Information	28
V.	Application Review Information	41
VI.	Federal Award Administration Information	55
VII.	Federal Awarding Agency Contacts	69
VIII.	Other	70

2020 MSE NOFO

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Program Description

This funding opportunity will result in the award of grants or cooperative agreements.

1. Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services (ADIIS) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the ADIIS Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c) and 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3).

Program Description: The ADIIS Grant Program supports activities that develop, expand, strengthen, or sustain NIST partnership programs within the ADIIS Directorate through measurements, standards, data, industry and technology studies, and technology research and development (R&D). Specifically, the ADIIS Grant Program seeks to support technology innovation and service to American industry in the following fields: bioscience, chemistry, dimensional metrology, electronics, engineering, infrastructure, information technology, manufacturing, manufacturing metrology, materials science and engineering, nanotechnology, neutron research, optics, and physics.

The ADIIS Directorate's current partnership programs include the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program¹, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)², programs within the NIST Office of Advanced Manufacturing³, and programs within the NIST Technology Partnerships Office⁴. Financial assistance may be provided to bolster measurements, standards, data and technology R&D within these partnership programs, or through new partnerships, to:

- advance early-stage research and development for industry;
- enhance opportunities in manufacturing through innovation;
- strengthen supplier programs for small and medium manufacturers;
- encourage the transfer and commercialization of research and technology from institutions of higher education, federal laboratories, other federally

¹ The Baldrige Program oversees the nation's only Presidential award for performance excellence while offering a wide array of award-winning products and services, including the world-renowned Baldrige Excellence Framework. See <https://www.nist.gov/baldrige> for more information.

² MEP is a public-private partnership with Centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico dedicated to serving small and medium-sized manufacturers. See <https://www.nist.gov/mep> for more information.

³ The NIST Office of Advanced Manufacturing coordinates the network of Manufacturing USA institutes and leads the interagency Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office. See <https://www.nist.gov/oam> for more information.

⁴ Programs within the NIST Technology Partnership Office include the NIST Technology Transfer Program, the Lab to Market Initiative, and the Economic Analysis Program. See <https://www.nist.gov/tpo> for more information.

2020 MSE NOFO

- funded research programs, and nonprofit research institutes;
- create jobs or promote workforce development; and
- realize or sustain metrology needs in American industry, including through technical metrology training programs for manufacturers.

Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, studies, or technical R&D meetings that are relevant to advancing NIST partnerships pursuant to technology innovation and service to American industry. However, NIST cannot be an official sponsor or co-sponsor for any event funded through this program.

All applications submitted to the ADIIS Grant Program must be in accordance with the program objectives listed above.

Financial support will not be provided for the establishment of an MEP Center or to augment capabilities of an MEP Center through an MEP Center applicant. Current MEP Centers may add capabilities to the MEP Program, including the development of projects to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems, through the rolling MEP Competitive Awards Program NOFO (see <https://www.nist.gov/mep/rolling-competitive-awards-program>).

Financial support will not be provided for the NIST Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The NIST SBIR program solicits research and development proposals from small businesses that respond to specific technical needs described in the annual NIST SBIR Program NOFO. Please visit the NIST SBIR Program webpage for more information: <https://www.nist.gov/tpo/small-business-innovation-research-program>.

Additional information about the ADIIS and ADIIS Programs may be obtained at <https://www.nist.gov/adiis>. The contact person for the ADIIS Grant Program, who may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives, is Michael Molnar and he may be reached at (301) 975-3673 or by e-mail at mike.molnar@nist.gov.

2. Associate Director for Laboratory Programs (ADLP) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the ADLP Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c) and 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3).

Program Description: The ADLP Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research consistent with the NIST mission in the following fields: bioscience, chemistry, materials, physics, engineering, infrastructure, information technology, neutron research and nanotechnology. Financial support may be provided for students to attend education and outreach programs, conferences, workshops, or

2020 MSE NOFO

other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the ADLP. Financial support may also be provided to organizations sponsoring conferences, workshops, education and outreach programs, or other technical events that are relevant to the mission of the ADLP. However, NIST cannot be an official sponsor or co-sponsor for any event funded through this program.

Additional information about the ADLP and ADLP Programs may be obtained at <http://www.nist.gov/director/adlp.cfm>.

All applications submitted to the ADLP Grant Program must be in accordance with the program objectives listed above. The contact person for the ADLP Grant Program, who may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives, is Jason Boehm and he may be reached at (301) 975-8678 or by e-mail at jason.boehm@nist.gov.

3. Communications Technology Laboratory (CTL) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the CTL Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c), 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3), 15 U.S.C. § 278n-1, 15 U.S.C. § 3706 and 47 U.S.C. § 1443.

Program Description: The CTL Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research consistent with the CTL mission in broad areas that support the accelerated development, testing, and deployment of advanced communications technologies in support of both commercial and government applications including: high-speed electronics, wireless systems metrology, antenna and RF capabilities, high-speed and high frequency measurement capabilities, advanced optics, quantum communications, network design and optimization, network modeling, spectrum sharing, and public safety network communications.

Additional information about the CTL and CTL Programs may be obtained at www.nist.gov/ctl. All applications submitted must be in accordance with the program objectives listed below for the three CTL divisions. The contact person for the CTL Grant Program, who may be contacted for clarification of program objectives, is Lucy Tedesco and she may be reached at (301) 975-3833 or by e-mail at lucy.tedesco@nist.gov.

a. CTL Office. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the CTL, as well as the development and deployment of spectrum-efficient and spectrum-sharing technologies, including support of the National Advanced Spectrum and Communications Test Network (NASCTN). However, NIST

2020 MSE NOFO

cannot be an official sponsor or co-sponsor for any event funded through this program. Applications for other purposes may be considered.

- b. Public Safety Communications Research Division.** Specific objectives of interest include but are not limited to researching, developing, promoting, measuring, and deploying emerging technologies and standards that enhance the ability of first responders and others using a Public Safety Communications network during emergency operations.
- c. RF Technologies Division.** Specific objectives of interest include but are not limited to researching, developing, promoting, measuring, and deploying emerging technologies and standards in fundamental microwave quantities, high-speed microelectronics, electromagnetic compatibility, electromagnetic field characterization, antenna metrology, electromagnetic properties of materials, spectrum sharing, and radio-frequency communications systems.
- d. Wireless Networks Division.** Specific objectives of interest include but are not limited to researching, developing, promoting, measuring, and deploying emerging technologies and standards that revolutionize how wireless networks are operated and used; conducting theoretical and experimental research in communication networks, protocols, digital communication systems, and components; utilizing analytical and empirical approaches, developing simulation models, experimental test beds, and building proof of concept prototypes to evaluate new technologies and refine standard specifications for wireless networks and systems; and developing metrics and measurement methods to assess the performance of wireless systems.

4. Engineering Laboratory (EL) Grant Program

The statutory authorities for the EL Grant Program are 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c), 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3), 15 U.S.C. § 278n-1, 15 U.S.C. § 278n-2, 42 U.S.C. § 7701 et seq., 42 U.S.C. § 15701 et seq., and section 1305 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140).

Program Description: The EL Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research consistent with the EL's mission to support research in the following fields: advanced manufacturing; additive manufacturing; robotics; intelligent systems and information systems integration for applications in manufacturing; polymeric materials; heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC & R) equipment performance; mechanical systems and controls; heat transfer and alternative energy systems; indoor air quality and ventilation; cyber-physical systems; smart grid; Internet of Things; applied economics; and fire research. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other

2020 MSE NOFO

technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of EL. However, NIST cannot be an official sponsor or co-sponsor for any event funded through this program. Additional information about the EL and EL Programs may be obtained at www.nist.gov/el.

The EL Grant Program supports the EL mission to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology for engineered systems in ways that enhance economic security and improve quality of life. Typical funded activities may include measurement science research; development of performance metrics, tools, and methodologies for engineering technologies and applications; and critical technical contributions to standards and codes development.

All applications submitted must be in accordance with the program objectives listed below. The appropriate EL Program Manager for each EL field of research described in this Section may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives. The contact person for the EL Grant Program is Millie Glick and she may be reached at (301) 975-5962 or by e-mail at millie.glick@nist.gov.

- a. Applied Economics Office.** The primary objective is to provide standardized methods, economic models, training programs and materials and expert technical consulting in support of resource allocation decisions and uses techniques such as benefit-cost analysis, life-cycle costing, multi-criteria decision analysis and econometrics to evaluate new technologies. The contact person is David Butry and he may be reached at (301) 975-6136 or by e-mail at david.butry@nist.gov.
- b. Smart Grid and Cyber-Physical Systems Program Office.** The primary objective is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness in areas of critical national priority by anticipating and meeting the measurement science and standards needs for cyber-physical systems, such as smart grid, intelligent transportation, smart cities, and Internet of Things, in ways that enhance economic prosperity and improve the quality of life. The contact person is David Wollman and he may be reached at (301) 975-2433 or by e-mail at david.wollman@nist.gov.
- c. Materials and Structural Systems Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division's programs in the area of construction materials and infrastructural systems (including safety, security, and sustainability of building and physical infrastructure, service-life performance of engineered materials and nanomaterials, and construction cycle time reductions). In particular, applications for financial assistance are sought that would address the following specific subject areas:

2020 MSE NOFO

(1) Infrastructure Materials: There are emergent concrete degradation mechanisms that originate in the coarse or fine aggregate component of a concrete mixture. These mechanisms may arise from inadequate standardized testing for the specific aggregate mineral features that may lead to expansion and cracking. The measurement challenge is typically associated with aggregate characteristics or the critical quantity of aggregate required to cause damage. The contact person for this division is Jason Averill and he may be reached at (301) 975-2585 or by e-mail at jason.averill@nist.gov.

d. Energy and Environment Division. The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the laboratory programs in areas related to measurement science needed to enable net zero energy high performance green buildings. The breadth of this area includes measurement science associated with the building envelope, HVAC equipment, renewable and alternative energy systems, building controls/building automation systems, and strategies to improve indoor air quality. In particular, applications for financial assistance are sought that would:

(1) Provide measurement science for net-zero energy, high-performance buildings. Measurement systems, approaches, and predictive models are required that can help to enable net-zero energy, high-performance buildings. A primary objective is to develop measurement methods and approaches, data, and predictive models to assess the effectiveness of building enclosures from a thermal and airtightness perspective, the performance of indoor space conditioning systems, the performance of photovoltaics and other renewable and alternative energy systems, indoor air quality, and water efficiency and quality in buildings. Additionally, an objective is to develop techniques to assess buildings on a whole-building scale. These techniques could involve standards, system interactions, and factors beyond energy use. The contact person is William Healy and he may be reached at (301) 975-4922 or by e-mail at william.healy@nist.gov.

(2) Enable energy-use reduction through embedded intelligence in building controls. Next-generation metrics and tools are needed that enable the development and deployment of building automation and control systems with embedded intelligence that reduce energy consumption through improvements to building system operation. A primary objective is to develop measurement methods, models, and algorithms/tools suitable for embedding in building control system products that enable better or more automated system commissioning, automated fault detection and diagnostics, improved system-level optimization, and integration of building systems with a smart electrical grid. Additionally, an objective is to conduct research that provides a basis

2020 MSE NOFO

for new industry standards for embedded intelligence systems. The contact person is Steven Bushby and he may be reached at (301) 975-5873 or by e-mail at steve.bushby@nist.gov.

(3) Develop metrics/tools for building sustainability evaluation. Next-generation metrics and tools enabling rigorous sustainability assessment over the building service life are needed to link sustainable building technology innovation to environmental/economic benefits. A primary objective is the development of databases and/or models for estimating component and system costs for existing and emerging energy-related technologies in new buildings. Additionally, an objective is to develop techniques for performing life-cycle impact assessments of emerging technologies for achieving low energy and/or net zero energy performance in new buildings. The contact person is David Butry and he may be reached at (301) 975-6136 or by e-mail at david.butry@nist.gov.

e. Systems Integration Division. Measurement science and standards are important to facilitate smart manufacturing solutions to systems integration problems. A primary objective is the development of mathematically sound, model-based, integration standards and new science-based methods and tools for validating compliance to those standards. Topical areas supporting this objective include system architectures; systems engineering; production network integration; service-based manufacturing; manufacturing simulation; methods and tools for assessing material and energy efficiency; data analytics; machine learning; uncertainty quantification; systems assurance methods and tools; model-based engineering, including multi-physics modeling, process modeling, requirements modeling, information modeling, material modeling, assembly modeling, sustainability modeling, and model composability and compositionality. The contact person is Vijay Srinivasan and he may be reached at (301) 975-3508 or by e-mail at vijay.srinivasan@nist.gov.

f. Intelligent Systems Division. The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with Division programs and research in measurement science for intelligent systems. Areas of particular interest include performance metrics, measurement methods and tools, test artifacts, and associated reference data and software for:

- (1)** Robotic systems for smart manufacturing (including measurement science for perception, dexterous manipulation and grasping, mobility, human-robot and robot-robot collaboration, agility, robot system integration, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for manufacturing robotic applications);
- (2)** Additive manufacturing (including characterization of additive manufacturing materials; modeling, monitoring, and real-time control of

2020 MSE NOFO

additive manufacturing processes; and measurement science supporting the qualification of additive manufacturing materials, machines and processes, and parts);

- (3) Sensing, prognostics, and health management (PHM) for smart manufacturing, including AI applications for PHM;
- (4) Industrial wireless networking in factory environments;
- (5) Industrial control system cybersecurity; and
- (6) Emergency response robot performance metrics and standards.

Additional information regarding Intelligent Systems Division research programs and projects can be found at www.nist.gov/el/isd. The contact person for this division is Albert Wavering and he may be reached at (301) 975-3418 or by e-mail at albert.wavering@nist.gov.

5. Fire Research (FR) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the FR Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b)(4), 15 U.S.C. § 278f, 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3) and 15 U.S.C. § 278n-1.

Program Description: The FR Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research in areas of current interest to the Fire Research Division. The Fire Research Division develops, verifies, and utilizes measurements and predictive methods to quantify the behavior of fire and means to reduce the impact of fire on people, property, and the environment. This work involves integration of laboratory measurements, verified methods of prediction, and large-scale fire experiments to demonstrate the use and value of the research products. Details on current Division research activities are available at http://www.nist.gov/el/fire_research/index.cfm. Also, NIST SP 1130 "Reducing the Risk of Fire in Buildings and Communities: A Strategic Roadmap to Guide and Prioritize Research" provides an overview of current research interests: http://www.nist.gov/manuscript-publication-search.cfm?pub_id=909653. The contact person for the FR Grant Program is Dr. Jiann Yang and he may be reached at (301) 975-6662 or by e-mail at jiann.yang@nist.gov.

All applications submitted must be in accordance with the program objectives listed below. The appropriate FR Program Manager for each FR field of research described in this Section may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives.

- (1) **Fire Fighting Technology Group.** Develops, advances, and deploys measurement science to improve fire fighting safety and effectiveness, and provide a science-based understanding of fire phenomena. Carries out mission-related measurement science research and services to advance

2020 MSE NOFO

cyber-physically-based (smart) fire fighting, technology integration into fire-fighting equipment, and physics-based training tools that predict fire phenomena and their effects on structures and occupants and conducts disaster and failure studies to reduce the risk of fire hazard to buildings and fire fighters. The contact person for this group is Anthony Putorti and he may be reached at (301)-975-8615 or by e-mail at anthony.putorti@nist.gov.

(2) Engineered Fire Safety Group. Develops, advances, and deploys measurement science for cost-effective fire protection of structures. Carries out mission-related measurement science research and services to predict the fire performance of structures with respect to ignition fire growth and spread, detection, suppression, toxicity, and egress; develops cost-effective performance-based codes, standards, and practices used for fire prevention and control; and conducts disaster and failure studies to reduce the risk of fire hazard to buildings and occupants. The contact person for this group is Thomas Cleary and he may be reached at (301) 975-6858 or by e-mail at thomas.cleary@nist.gov.

(3) Flammability Reduction Group. Develops, advances, and deploys measurement science to reduce the fire hazard of building contents and construction materials. Carries out mission-related measurement science research and services to reduce material ignition probability, fire growth and spread, and environmental impacts; and supports development of codes and standards for cost-effective, fire-safe building contents and construction materials. The contact person for this group is Rick Davis and he may be reached at (301) 975-5901 or by email at rick.davis@nist.gov.

(4) Wildland Urban Interface Fire Group. Develops, advances, and deploys measurement science to reduce the risk of fire spread in wildland-urban interface (WUI) communities. Carries out mission-related measurement science research and services to develop risk exposure metrics, predict the spread of fires in WUI communities, assess fire performance of structures and communities, mitigate the impact of WUI fires on structures and communities, and conduct disaster and failure studies to reduce the risk of fire hazard in WUI communities. The contact person for this group is Jiann Yang and he may be reached at (301) 975-6662 or by e-mail at jiann.yang@nist.gov.

6. Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the ITL Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c), 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3), and 15 U.S.C. § 278n-1.

2020 MSE NOFO

Program Description: The mission of the Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) is to cultivate trust in information technology (IT) and metrology and is accomplished using its world-class measurement and testing facilities and encompassing a wide range of areas of computer science, mathematics, statistics, and systems engineering.

The ITL Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research consistent with the ITL's missions to support research in the following fields: Advanced Network Technologies, Applied and Computational Mathematics, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Biometrics, Cloud Computing, Cyber-Physical Systems, Cybersecurity, Forensic Science, Health Information Technology, Human Factors and Usability, Information Access, Information Processing and Understanding, Internet of Things (IoT), Metrology Infrastructure for Modeling and Simulation, Privacy Engineering, and Statistics for Metrology.

Additional information about the ITL and ITL Programs may be obtained at www.nist.gov/itl.

Financial support may be provided to attend education and outreach programs, conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the ITL. Financial support may also be provided to organizations sponsoring conferences, workshops, or other technical events that are relevant to the mission of the ITL. However, NIST cannot be an official sponsor or co-sponsor for any event funded through this program.

All applications submitted to the ITL Grant Program must be in accordance with the program objectives listed below. The contact person for the ITL Grant Program, who may be contacted for clarification of program objectives, is Carol Clark and she may be reached at (301) 975-2239 or by e-mail at carol.clark@nist.gov.

2020 MSE NOFO

- a. **Advanced Network Technologies Division (ANTD)** provides expertise in Network Science and Engineering. ANTD develops knowledge about networks to understand their complexity and inform their future design. It seeks to discover and understand common principles and fundamental structures underlying networks and their behaviors. ANTD studies the processes underlying networks evolution and the paradigms for network engineering to enhance their efficiency, reliability, security, and robustness. ANTD responds to national priorities with programs in Internet Infrastructure Protection, Cloud Computing, Next Generation Internet (NGI), and several joint-projects such as Smart Grid, Smart Manufacturing, and Localization. Specific objectives of interest in these areas of research include: Advanced Distributed Denial of Service Detection and Mitigation Techniques; Graph Theory and Network Science; Information Centric Networking; Internet Inter-Domain Routing Robustness; Measurement Science for Complex Networked Information Systems; Network Anomaly Detection/Evaluation; Network Function Virtualization/Software Defined Networking; Network Programming; Next Generation Internet Architectures; Secure Communications for Cloud; Secure Distributed Computation; Secure Domain Name System Technologies; and Trusted Ad Hoc Networks.

- b. **Applied and Computational Mathematics Division (ACMD)** uses applied mathematics and scientific computing to solve numerous problems. As a part of this work, ACMD develops mathematical and computational techniques and tools that have wide application in science and technology. The use of such state-of-the-art techniques and carefully validated tools helps build trust in measurement science and scientific computing, which are both essential for industrial innovation. Specific objectives of interest in these areas of research include: Computational Biology; Computational Materials Science; Mathematics of Special Functions; Measurement Science for Complex Networked Information Systems; Quantum Information Science; and Scientific Visualization.

2020 MSE NOFO

- c. **Applied Cybersecurity Division (ACD)** implements practical cybersecurity and privacy through outreach and effective application of standards and best practices necessary for the U.S. to adopt cybersecurity capabilities. ACD establishes cybersecurity standards and guidelines in an open, transparent, and collaborative way; provides cybersecurity testing and measurement (from developing test suits and methods to validating cryptographic modules); and conducts research in applied cybersecurity. Specific objectives of interest in these areas of research include: Cybersecurity Awareness, Training, Education, and Workforce Development; Cybersecurity Risk Management and Measurement Techniques; Mobile Platform and Application Security; Mobility and Mobile App Security; and Privacy Engineering and Risk Management.

- d. **Computer Security Division (CSD)** develops cybersecurity standards, guidelines, tests, and metrics to protect federal information systems. CSD helps to develop innovative security technologies that enhance the nation's ability to address current and future computer and information security challenges. CSD's research focuses on cryptography, automation, identity and access management, the Internet of Things, and public safety networks. The Division maintains a Computer Security Resource Center (CSRC), which provides access to NIST's cybersecurity- and information security-related projects, publications, news, and events. Specific objectives of interest in these areas of research include: Cryptography and Cryptographic Test Methods; Light Weight Cryptography; Post Quantum Cryptography; Security Testing Tools and Metrics; Semantics; Service Oriented Architecture; Privacy Enhancing Cryptography, Entropy Assessment; Cybersecurity Conformance Testing; Security Automation; and Security Engineering.

- e. **Information Access Division (IAD)** supports technologies used to access potentially complex information from multimedia devices or biometric devices, such as digital video recording systems or iris scanners. Through collaborations with industry, academia, and the federal government, IAD enables the advancement of these technologies for commercial usage. IAD provides standards and measurements to accelerate this evolution. IAD not only helps complex technologies grow but also tests them to ensure they are used correctly and efficiently. Specific objectives of interest in these areas of research include: Biometrics for Search, Verification and Clustering of Identity; Computer Vision/Video Analytics; Data Analytics; Data Storage, Preservation, Query, Indexing, and Access Technology; Device Identity and Authentication for People, Devices, and Processes; Distributed File Systems; Human Language Technology; Image Analysis; Search and Retrieval Algorithms.

2020 MSE NOFO

- f. **Software and Systems Division (SSD)** works with industry, academia and other government agencies to accelerate the development and adoption of correct, reliable and testable software. This collaborative effort leads to increased trust and confidence in deployed software and methods to develop better standards and testing tools. SSD focuses on advances in state-of-the-art software testing and facilitates the transfer of applications and technologies into national infrastructures and commercial sectors. Specific objectives of interest in these areas of research include: Digital Forensics; Data Analytics; Data Storage; Distributed File Systems; IoT for Health Applications; Medical Device Interoperability; Service Oriented Architecture; Software Assurance for Small Applications and Devices; Systems Biology; Systems Interoperability; Voting Systems Standards.
- g. **Statistical Engineering Division (SED)** conducts fundamental and applied statistical research on problems in metrology; develops and applies best practices for the characterization of measurement uncertainty, in particular to enable the intercomparison of measurements in the context of interlaboratory studies and calibrations; and implements methods and techniques for experimental design, data analysis, statistical modeling and probabilistic inference in computer software. Specific objectives of interest in these areas of research include: Statistical Methods in Forensic Science; and Statistics for Metrology.

7. International and Academic Affairs Office (IAAO) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the IAAO Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c).

Program Description: The IAAO Grant Program has been designed to support activities that strengthen and enhance the international metrology community, and promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness in support of the NIST mission. NIST seeks to promote the efforts of International Organizations with a metrology mission, Regional Metrology Organizations, National Metrology Institutes and Designated Institutes to bolster the global metrology system and regional metrology cooperation and enhance quality infrastructure. The IAAO Grant Program will support scientific, industrial and/or legal metrology activities and related quality infrastructure endeavors with an emphasis on the Western Hemisphere, Asia Pacific and Africa. Financial support may be provided for conferences, workshops, or other technical meetings that are relevant to the mission of the IAAO. However, NIST cannot be an official sponsor or co-sponsor for any event funded through this program. Additional information about the IAAO and IAAO Programs may be obtained at <http://nist.gov/iaao/>. All applications submitted to the IAAO Grant Program must be in accordance with the program objectives listed above. The contact person for the IAAO Grant Program, who may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives, is Claire Saundry

and she may be reached at (301) 975-2386 or by e-mail at csaundry@nist.gov.

8. Material Measurement Laboratory (MML) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the MML Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c) and 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3).

Program Description:

The MML supports the NIST mission by serving as the national reference laboratory for measurements in the chemical, biological, and material sciences. The MML is entrusted with developing, maintaining, advancing, and enabling measurement systems in these areas for the nation. The MML's activities range from fundamental and applied research on the composition, structure, and properties of industrial, biological, and environmental materials and processes to the development and dissemination of certified reference materials, critically evaluated data and other programs that help assure measurement quality.

The MML Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research in the following fields: materials science and engineering, materials measurement science, biosystems and biomaterials, biomolecular measurements, chemical sciences, and applied chemicals and materials.

All applications submitted to the MML Grant Program must be in accordance with the program objectives set forth below. The appropriate MML Program Manager for each MML field of research described in this section may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives. The MML Grant Program contact person is Bill Clark and he may be reached at (303) 497-3268 or by e-mail at william.clark@nist.gov.

- a. **MML Office.** Financial support may be provided for education and outreach programs, conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the MML. Financial support may also be provided to organizations sponsoring conferences, workshops, or other technical events that are relevant to the mission of the MML. However, NIST cannot be an official sponsor or co-sponsor for any event funded through this program. The contact person for this office is Bill Clark and he may be reached at (303) 497-3268 or by e-mail at william.clark@nist.gov.
- b. **Office of Data and Informatics.** The primary objective is to support researchers and institutions in the biological, chemical, and materials sciences who need to leverage both large and information-rich data sets now

2020 MSE NOFO

common in many disciplines. The division supports National needs such as the Materials Genome Initiative (MGI) and biological and chemical data integration, as well as the modernization of current Standard Reference Data for use in state-of-the-art computer paradigms (i.e., virtual computing, parallel analysis, interoperability, semantic web, etc.) and the development of next generation NIST reference data services. The division also facilitates the MML's adherence to the government open-data policy by providing guidance and assistance in the best practices for archiving and annotating research and data outputs. The Office of Data and Informatics (ODI) identifies, coordinates, integrates, and builds the capabilities needed to meet data challenges and leverage data-driven research opportunities (including Big Data and data.gov), particularly those that relate to the biological, chemical, and materials science communities within the MML. As a service-oriented organization, the ODI adds value to data activities by providing guidance, assistance, and resources for optimizing the discoverability, usability, and interoperability of data products in ways that support NIST scientists and stakeholders. In addition, by fostering collaboration and coordination among MML domain experts and other data specialists at NIST, the ODI supports MML research programs where advanced manipulation, visualization, and analysis of large data sets are needed to advance knowledge. The contact person for this division is Robert Hanisch; he may be reached at (301) 975-3463 or by e-mail at robert.hanisch@nist.gov.

- c. Materials Science and Engineering Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate or conduct research consistent with division programs that provide the measurement science, standards, technology, instrumentation, and data required to support the Nation's need to design, develop, manufacture, and use materials. Division programs include the following: measurement methods, data, standards, and science that support the development of synthetic polymeric materials with controlled molecular structures; polymeric materials in energy, water, and electronics applications; the development of complex fluids, formulations, emulsions, and dispersions; thin films and nanostructures processing of metals and electronic materials; advanced magnetic materials and devices; the mechanical properties of advanced materials, such as high strength steel and aluminum alloys, under extreme environmental and operating conditions; the development of thermodynamic and kinetic models, density functional theory calculations, measurements and data to predict phase transformations, microstructure evolution, and properties of advanced materials; the development of additive manufacturing processes for metallic and polymeric materials; and foster the development and use of infrastructure and tools to support the production, availability, and discovery of materials data. The contact person for this division is Mark VanLandingham and he may be reached at (301) 975-8795 or by e-mail at mark.vanlandingham@nist.gov.

2020 MSE NOFO

- d. Materials Measurement Science Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate or conduct research consistent with division programs in support of measurement science, measurement standards, and measurement technology required to enable world-leading characterization of advanced materials in support of the nation's needs for determining the composition, structure, and properties of materials. The division develops state-of-the-art instrumentation, methods, models and software to accurately and precisely measure materials over a range of length and time scales. The division provides benchmarking and validation of emerging materials analysis methods, and disseminates reference materials, standards and scientific data to foster innovation and advance a wide range of technologies. Division programs include: advanced microscopies, microanalysis and imaging; nanomaterials and nanodevice research; solid sorbents characterization; nanocalorimetry; high throughput materials science; energy conversion materials; nanomechanical properties; synchrotron science for materials characterization; materials structure and dynamics; modeling and predicting materials structure and properties; chemical detection technologies and standards for forensics and homeland security applications; and materials science and standards for law enforcement equipment and technologies. The contact person for this division is Dave Holbrook and he may be reached at (301) 975-5202 or by email at dave.holbrook@nist.gov.
- e. Biosystems and Biomaterials Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with division projects in measurement science, standards, and technology to build confidence in quantitative biology and foster responsible biotechnology innovation. The Division supports quantitative measurement and standardization for methods such as bioimaging, flow cytometry, genomic and metagenomic measurements, as well as the design and validation of bioassays. The Division further supports the development of advanced measurement capabilities and integration of AI/ML to accelerate quantitative and/or predictive biology. Current priorities include precision measurements and predictive engineering of biological systems to support precision medicine, cell-based manufacturing, and other new technologies enabled by genome editing. This includes measurements pertinent to method validation for bioassays, genome sequencing measurements of complex cellular systems and other biological entities via genomic, transcriptomics, proteomic, cell identification, cell enumeration, biological activity/function, as well as measurement assurance strategies for these measurements, cell enumeration, function, as well as assurance strategies. The contact person for this division is Sheng Lin-Gibson and she may be reached at (301) 975-6765 or by email at sheng.lin-gibson@nist.gov.

2020 MSE NOFO

- f. Biomolecular Measurement Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division activities in measurement science, standards, technology, and data required to support the nation's needs in determining the composition, structure, quantity, and function of biomolecules. In partnership with U.S. industry, government agencies, and scientific institutions, the division performs fundamental and applied research on the measurement of macromolecules such as proteins and nucleic acids, as well as peptides, glycans, metabolites, lipids, and natural products. Specific areas of interest include development of measurement methods, standards, reference data, and technologies for applications involving clinical diagnostics for healthcare; characterization, development, and manufacturing of biotherapeutics; proteomics, metabolomics, and drug discovery; and genetic testing in agriculture, law enforcement, and clinical diagnostics. The contact person for this division is Michael Tarlov and he may be reached at (301) 975-2058 or by email at michael.tarlov@nist.gov.
- g. Chemical Sciences Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division activities in support of the measurement science, reference standards, technology, data and chemical informatics required to support the nation's needs in the determination of chemical composition and chemical structure of organic, and inorganic species in the gas and condensed phases, and in the measurement of a wide variety of physicochemical properties and processes, including chemical reactivity and mechanisms, as well as thermochemical and kinetics properties. In partnership with U.S. industry, government agencies, and academic scientific institutions, the division performs fundamental and applied research to advance and create state-of-the-art chemical measurement capabilities, theory and computational methods for quantitative measurements, and sensing of solids, liquids, gases, plasmas, transient species, and multicomponent matrices. The division also formulates and disseminates reference materials and measurement standards, and critically evaluates reference data. These activities support the chemical science, technology, and engineering enterprise with the intent of fostering innovation and confidence in measurements and technologies used in a wide range of applications, including chemical analysis, environmental and greenhouse gas emissions, clinical health assessment, food and nutritional assessment, sensing, manufacturing, and energy transformation. The contact person for this division is Carlos Gonzalez and he may be reached at (301) 975-2483 or by e-mail at carlos.gonzalez@nist.gov.
- h. Applied Chemicals and Materials Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with division programs in the measurement science, standards, technology, instrumentation, models and

2020 MSE NOFO

data required to support the nation's needs for design, production, and assessment of chemical and material products. In partnership with U.S. industry, other government agencies and other scientific institutions, the division provides thermophysical and mechanical properties; analysis of reliability and performance of materials and structures; and information systems for chemical and materials engineering, with the intent of fostering innovation and confidence in the nation's physical and energy infrastructures, enabling advances in chemical manufacturing and in electronics, and promoting sustainability. The contact person for this division is John Perkins and he may be reached at (303) 497-6476 or by e-mail at john.perkins@nist.gov.

9. NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the NCNR Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c) and 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3).

Program Description: The NCNR Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research involving neutron scattering and the development of innovative technologies that advance the state-of-the-art in neutron research. Additional information about the NCNR and NCNR Programs may be obtained at www.nist.gov/ncnr.

All applications submitted to the NCNR Grant Program must be in accordance with the program objectives: 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. The contact person for the NCNR Grant Program, who may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives, is Dan Neumann and he may be reached at (301) 975-5252 or by e-mail at dan.neumann@nist.gov.

10. Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the PML Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c) and 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3) and 15 U.S.C. § 7501 *et seq.*

Program Description: The PML Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research consistent with the PML mission to support research in the broad areas of

2020 MSE NOFO

mechanical metrology, semiconductors, ionizing radiation physics, medical physics, biophysics, neutron physics, atomic physics, optical technology, optoelectronics, electromagnetics, time and frequency, quantum physics, weights and measures, quantum electrical metrology, temperature, pressure, flow, far UV physics, nanotechnology, and metrology with synchrotron radiation.

Additional information about the PML and PML Programs may be obtained at www.nist.gov/pml.

All applications submitted to the PML Grant Program must be in accordance with the program objectives listed below. The appropriate PML Program Manager for each PML field of research that follows may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives. The contact person for the PML Grant Program is Julia Kuchilla and she may be reached at (301) 975-6393 or by e-mail at julia.kuchilla@nist.gov.

- a. PML Office.** Financial support may be provided for students to attend education and outreach programs, conferences, workshops, or other technical research meetings that are relevant to the mission of the PML. Financial support may also be provided to organizations sponsoring conferences, workshops, education and outreach programs, or other technical events that are relevant to the mission of the PML. However, NIST cannot be an official sponsor or co-sponsor for any event funded through this program. Support is generally provided in increments of \$5,000 per award. The contact person for this office is Julia Kuchilla and she may be reached at (301) 975-6393 or by e-mail at julia.kuchilla@nist.gov.
- b. Office of Weights and Measures.** The primary objective is to provide funding for research in the broad areas of documentary standards and legal metrology. Specific objectives of interest in this area include: evaluation of the impact of legal metrology on commerce, support for specific standards related activities, and the development of a national weights and measures training program. The contact person for this office is Douglas Olson and he may be reached at (301) 975-2956 or by e-mail at douglas.olson@nist.gov.
- c. Microsystems and Nanotechnology Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division's research programs in areas including technology development for, and measurement techniques to advance nano- and microfabrication, for both top-down techniques such as electron-beam and optical lithography and bottom-up approaches such as self-assembly; microsystems that provide measurements for nanoscience and nanomanufacturing; integrated microsystems (Micro/Nano ElectroMechanical Systems [NEMS/MEMS]) that include mechanical, fluidic, photonic, plasmonic, and electronic micro- and

2020 MSE NOFO

nanostructures; microsystems for quantum engineering, and microsystems for biological applications, including cytometry, body-on-a-chip, nanoparticle, single-molecule, and bioelectronic measurements. The contact for this division is Donna Lauren, who may be reached at (301) 975-3729, or via e-mail at donna.lauren@nist.gov.

- d. Radiation Physics Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division's programs in the areas of ionizing radiation including x-ray and gamma-ray measurements and dosimetry, neutron physics, radioactivity measurements supporting the protection of radiation workers and the general public, therapy and diagnosis of disease, nuclear medicine and medical imaging, radiography, industrial processing, nuclear and alternative energies, national defense and security, space science, and environmental protection. The contact person for this division is James Adams and he may be reached at (301) 975-4202 or by e-mail at james.adams@nist.gov.
- e. Nanoscale Device Characterization Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division's programs to develop and advance the measurement and knowledge infrastructure essential to characterizing nano- and atom-scale engineered materials and solid-state devices for innovation in information processing, sensing, and future quantum technologies. The contact person for this division is David Gundlach and he may be reached at (301) 975-2048 or by e-mail at david.gundlach@nist.gov.
- f. Quantum Measurement Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with division basic and applied research programs, including precision measurements; mass, force, and electrical metrology; electronic instrumentation; measurements of basic atomic properties including new metrology techniques in atomic spectroscopy; measuring fundamental quantum processes in ultra-cold atomic systems including Bose-Einstein condensates and Fermi degenerate gases, nanophotonic systems, quantum dots, single photon devices, and quantum materials relevant to these systems; and advancing quantum information science and laser cooling and their broad applications to measurement science and measurement beyond the standard quantum limit. The contact person for this division is Gerald Fitzpatrick and he may be reached at (301) 975-8922 or by e-mail at gerald.fitzpatrick@nist.gov.
- g. Sensor Science Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division's measurement and standards programs in temperature, humidity, pressure, vacuum, flow, length and dimension, surface topography, optical surfaces, photonic sensors,

2020 MSE NOFO

interferometry, firearm and tool mark forensics, optical properties of materials, synchrotron radiation, and optical radiation and their application to addressing national needs. The contact person for this division is Gerald Fraser and he may be reached at (301) 975-3797 or by e-mail at gerald.fraser@nist.gov.

- h. Applied Physics Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division's programs in areas including laser metrology, superconducting sensor array fabrication and application, quantum information and computing, single photonics, medical imaging, fiber and free-space communication, radio-frequency and microwave technology, greenhouse gas measurements, terahertz imaging and metrology, laser applications, compound semiconductor nanophotonics, and molecular and bio-photonics. The contact person for this division is Kristan Corwin and she may be reached at (303) 497-4411 or by e-mail at kristan.corwin@nist.gov.
- i. Quantum Electromagnetics Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division's programs in areas including: superconducting arrayed detector and spectrometry systems for frequencies throughout the spectrum (including millimeter wave, x-ray, and gamma-ray), superconductive electronics and quantum voltage standards (dc to radio-frequency), quantum computing and information processing, neuromorphic computing, spin electronics, nanoscale magnetodynamics, emerging magnetic memory metrology, compact cryogenics, and device and circuit nano- and microfabrication capabilities for the above. The contact person for this division is Robert Hickernell and he may be reached at (303) 497-3455 or by e-mail at robert.hickernell@nist.gov.
- j. Time and Frequency Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division's basic and applied research programs in the areas of time and frequency standards, phase noise measurements, network synchronization, ion storage, quantum information, optical atomic standards and frequency measurements in support of future standards, optical frequency combs, chip-scale atomic clocks, magnetometers, and related devices, time and frequency dissemination services, and time and frequency applications such as navigational systems and telecommunications. The contact person for this division is Elizabeth Donley and she may be reached at (303) 497-5173 or by e-mail at elizabeth.donley@nist.gov.
- k. Quantum Physics Division.** The primary objective is to collaborate with or conduct research consistent with the division's basic and applied research programs in the areas of quantum information science and technology, quantum-based precision measurements, quantum degenerate gases of atoms and molecules, chemical physics, and biophysics. The contact person

2020 MSE NOFO

for this division is Thomas Perkins and he may be reached at (303) 492-5291 or by e-mail at thomas.perkins@nist.gov.

11. Special Programs Office (SPO) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the SPO Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c), 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3).

Program Description: The SPO Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research consistent with the SPO mission in the broad areas of greenhouse gas measurements, and forensic science in accordance with the program descriptions below. Additional information about the SPO and SPO Programs may be obtained at <http://www.nist.gov/director/spo/index.cfm>.

All applications submitted to the SPO Grant Program must be in accordance with the program objectives listed below. The appropriate SPO Program Manager for each SPO field of research that follows may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives. The contact person for the SPO Grant Program is Darlene Hamilton and she may be reached at (301) 975-2227 or by e-mail at darlene.hamilton@nist.gov.

- a. **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Measurements Grant Program.** The GHG Measurements Grant Program provides financial assistance consistent with program objectives of supporting measurement science research to develop or extend internationally-recognized greenhouse gas measurement standards, methodologies, and technologies. Such capabilities enhance science-based GHG emissions data to advance both GHG emissions quantification and Earth system radiometric observing capability. Specific areas of interest include advances that increase accuracy and confidence in flux quantification for both GHG sources and sinks. Areas of interest include: 1) stationary GHG emission sources, 2) measurement tools to better characterize GHG emissions and uptake fluxes in metropolitan and urban areas, 3) remote sensing of Earth systems and GHG concentrations, 4) reconciliation of GHG inventory data derived from both atmospheric observing and emission process-oriented methodologies at local and regional scales, and 5) measurement capabilities that further understanding of GHG transport in the lower atmosphere. Additional information about the SPO GHG Program may be obtained at <http://www.nist.gov/greenhouse-gas/index.cfm>. The contact person for the GHG Measurements Grant Program is James Whetstone and he may be reached at (301) 975-2738 or by e-mail at james.whetstone@nist.gov.

2020 MSE NOFO

- b. Forensic Science Program (FSP).** FSP conducts and coordinates research and provides technical services to address the needs of the forensic science community. FSP focuses on creating new material standards; initiating research to verify methodology; and evaluating new technologies primarily for the following forensic science disciplines: computer and digital forensics; DNA; impression and pattern evidence, such as fingerprints and tool marks; controlled and dangerous substances; and trace analysis. FSP also seeks to facilitate knowledge exchange and identify best practices for the forensic science community. Additional information about the SPO Forensic Science Program is available at <https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science>. The contact person for FSP is Robert Ramotowski and he may be reached at (301) 975-4772 or by e-mail at robert.ramotowski@nist.gov.

12. Standards Coordination Office (SCO) Grant Program

The statutory authority for the SCO Grant Program is 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c) and 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3).

Program Description: The SCO conducts standards-related programs and provides knowledge and services that strengthen the U.S. economy and improve the quality of life. The SCO goals include enhancing coordination of the U.S. standards system with government and private sector organizations and supporting U.S. industry with the standards-related tools and information necessary to effectively compete in the global marketplace.

The SCO manages NIST's responsibilities assigned under the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) to coordinate federal, state, and local technical standards and conformity assessment activities, as well as coordinating with those in the private sector.

The SCO Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research consistent with the NIST mission in the broad areas of standards-related activities, coordination activities with the private sector and with other federal agencies on standards activities and programs, and standards development and conformity assessment activities tailored to equip U.S. industry with the standards-related tools and information necessary to effectively compete in the global marketplace. Financial support may be provided for the development of standards-related training materials, publications, policy analysis, and research and information services. Financial support may be provided for students to attend education and outreach programs, conferences, workshops, or other standards-related meetings that are relevant to the mission of the SCO. Financial support may also be provided to organizations sponsoring conferences, workshops, education and outreach programs, or other technical events that are relevant to the mission of the SCO.

2020 MSE NOFO

However, NIST cannot be an official sponsor or co-sponsor for any event funded through this program. Additional information about the SCO and SCO Programs may be obtained at <http://nist.gov/director/sco/index.cfm>.

All applications submitted to the SCO Grant Program must be in accordance with the program objectives listed above. The contact person for the SCO Grant Program, who may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives, is Kerry Miles and she may be reached at (301) 975-5571 or by e-mail at kerry.miles@nist.gov.

II. Federal Award Information

- 1. Funding Instrument.** The funding instruments used in these programs will be grants or cooperative agreements, as appropriate. Where cooperative agreements are used, the nature of NIST's "substantial involvement" will generally include collaboration with the recipient in executing the approved scope of work, in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.24.
- 2. Multi-Year Funding Policy.** When an application for a multi-year award is approved, funding will usually be provided for only the first year of the project. If a project 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 sole discretion of NIST. Continued funding will be contingent upon satisfactory performance, continued relevance to the mission and priorities of the individual MSE research grant programs, and the availability of funds.
- 3. Funding Availability.** The availability of funds depends upon actual authorization of funds, programmatic needs, and other costs expected to be incurred by individual divisions within each laboratory, center, or office. If funds are identified as available for financial assistance, those funds may be awarded to highly ranked applications as determined by the applicable program's review and selection process (see Section V.2. of this NOFO).
 - a. Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services (ADIIS) Grant Program.** In 2020, the ADIIS anticipates funding individual projects in the \$5,000 - \$500,000 per year range and with project performance periods of up to 5 years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section II.2. of the NOFO).
 - b. Associate Director for Laboratory Programs (ADLP) Grant Program.** In FY 2020, the ADLP anticipates funding individual projects in the \$5,000 - \$5,000,000 per year range and with project performance periods of up to five (5) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section

2020 MSE NOFO

II.2. of this NOFO).

- c. **Communications Technology Laboratory (CTL) Grant Program.** In FY 2020, the CTL anticipates funding individual projects in the \$3,000 - \$2,500,000 per year range and with project performance periods for up to five (5) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section II.2. of this NOFO).
- d. **Engineering Laboratory (EL) Grant Program.** In FY 2020, the EL anticipates funding individual projects in the \$5,000 - \$500,000 per year range and with project performance periods of up to five (5) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section II.2. of this NOFO).
- e. **Fire Research (FR) Grant Program.** In FY 2020, the FR Grant Program anticipates funding individual projects in the \$100,000 per year range and with project performance periods of up to three (3) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policies (see Section II.2. of this NOFO).
- f. **Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) Grant Program.** In FY 2020, the ITL anticipates funding individual projects in the \$10,000 - \$500,000 per year range and with project performance periods of up to five (5) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section II.2. of this NOFO).
- g. **International and Academic Affairs Office (IAAO) Grant Program.** In FY 2020, the IAAO anticipates funding individual projects in the \$50,000 - \$200,000 per year range and with project performance periods of up to five (5) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section II.2. of this NOFO).
- h. **Material Measurement Laboratory (MML) Grant Program.** In FY 2020, the MML anticipates funding individual projects in the \$5,000 - \$12,000,000 per year range and with project performance periods of up to five (5) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section II.2. of this NOFO).
- i. **NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR) Grant Program.** In FY 2020, the NCNR anticipates funding new, individual projects in the \$25,000 - \$100,000 per year range and with project performance periods of up to five (5) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section II.2. of this NOFO).
- j. **Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML) Grant Program.** In FY 2020,

2020 MSE NOFO

the PML anticipates funding individual projects in the \$5,000 – \$250,000 per year range and with project performance periods of up to five (5) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section II.2. of this NOFO).

- k. Special Programs Office (SPO) Grant Program.** In 2020, the SPO anticipates funding individual projects under the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Measurements Grant Program in the \$25,000 - \$2,000,000 per year range and under the Forensic Science Grant Program in the \$25,000 - \$500,000 range, with project performance periods of up to five (5) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section II.2. of this NOFO).
- l. Standards Coordination Office (SCO) Grant Program.** In FY2020, the SCO anticipates funding individual projects in the \$5,000 - \$100,000 per year range and with project performance periods of up to three (3) years, consistent with the multi-year funding policy consistent with the multi-year funding policy (see Section II.2. of the NOFO).

III. Eligibility Information

- 1. Eligible Applicants.** Eligibility for all programs listed in this NOFO is open to all non-Federal entities. Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, state and local governments, Indian tribes, hospitals, foreign public entities, and foreign governments. Please note that individuals and unincorporated sole proprietors are not considered “non-Federal entities” and are not eligible to apply under this NOFO.
- 2. Cost Sharing or Matching.** The MSE research grant programs do not require cost sharing.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request Application Package.**

The application package is available at www.grants.gov under Funding Opportunity Number 2020-NIST-MSE-01.

2. **Content and Form of Application Submission for all programs listed in this NOFO.**

a. **Required Forms and Documents**

- (1) SF-424 (R&R), Application for Federal Assistance.** The SF-424 (R&R) must be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant organization.

2020 MSE NOFO

For SF-424 (R&R), Items 5, 14, and 19, use the Zip Code + 4 format (#####-####) when addresses are called for.

For SF-424 (R&R), Item 17, the list of certifications and assurances is contained in the SF-424B (item 3 below).

SF-424 (R&R), Item 18. If the SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form (item (6) below) is applicable, attach it to field 18.

Instructions for filling in the SF-424 (R&R) can be found in the 2020-NIST-MSE-01 Application Instructions document found on Grants.gov, as well as at [Instructions SF424 \(R&R\) Application for Federal Assistance](#).

- (2) Research & Related Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed).** The budget should reflect anticipated expenses for the full term of the project, considering all potential cost increases, including cost of living adjustments.

The budget should be detailed in these categories:

- A. Senior/Key Person;
- B. Other Personnel;
- C. Equipment Description;
- D. Travel;
- E. Participant/Trainee Support Costs;
- F. Other Direct Costs;
- G. Direct Costs (automatically generated);
- H. Indirect Costs;
- I. Total Direct and Indirect Costs (automatically generated);
- J. Fee (not relevant to this competition);
- K. Total Costs and Fee (automatically generated);
- L. Budget Narrative and Justification document (item (8) below) should be attached to field L.

A separate detailed R&R Budget must be completed for each budget period during the proposed award (e.g. annual basis). To add additional budget periods (e.g. year 2), click “Add Period” embedded at the end of the form. Instructions for completing the Research & Related Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed) form can be found in the 2020-NIST-MSE-01 Application Instructions document on Grants.gov, as well as at [Instructions R&R Budget \(Total Fed + Non-Fed\) Budget](#).

- (3) SF-424B, Assurances – Non-Construction Programs.** The SF-424B is required for all applicants that have not updated their System for Award Management (SAM.gov) entity registration since February 2, 2019 to include

2020 MSE NOFO

the Federal financial assistance certifications and representations. If an applicant has updated their SAM.gov entity registration since February 2, 2019 to include the certifications and representations, then the SF-424B is not required.

- (4) **CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying.** Enter “2020-NIST-MSE-01” in the Award Number field. Enter the title of the application, or an abbreviation of that title, in the Project Name field.
- (5) **Research and Related Other Project Information.** Answer the highlighted questions and use this form to attach the Project Narrative (item (7) below), the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (item (9) below), the Data Management Plan (item (10) below), and the Current and Pending Support Form (item (12) below). Instructions for completing the Research and Related Other Project Information can be found in the 2020-NIST-MSE-01 Application Instructions document on Grants.gov, as well as at [Instructions R&R Other Project Information](#). **Please note that the Project Summary/Abstract is not relevant to this competition. However, Grants.gov requires an attachment to field 7 of the Research and Related Other Project Information form to successfully pass through Grants.gov. Please attach a document to field 7 stating, “A Project Summary/Abstract is not relevant to this competition”.**
- (6) **SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities** (if applicable).
- (7) **Project Narrative.** The Project Narrative is a word-processed document responsive to the applicable program description(s) (see Section I. of this NOFO) and the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1. of this NOFO).

This document is **limited to twenty-five (25) pages** and must consist of two parts: the **Cover Page** and the **Project Narrative** itself. The page limit includes: Cover Page; Table of Contents (if included); Project Narrative with all required information, including figures, graphs, tables, images, and pictures.

A. The **Cover Page** must consist of three (3) elements:

- I) The name and address of the applicant institution, and the name, address, and contact information for the application’s Principal Investigator;
- II) The specific component MSE research grant program to which the application is being submitted, using the following choices:

2020 MSE NOFO

- a. the Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services (ADIIS);
- b. the Associate Director for Laboratory Programs (ADLP);
- c. the Communications Technology Laboratory (CTL);
- d. the Engineering Laboratory (EL);
- e. Fire Research (FR);
- f. the Information Technology Laboratory (ITL);
- g. the International and Academic Affairs Office (IAAO);
- h. the Material Measurement Laboratory (MML);
- i. the NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR);
- j. the Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML);
- k. the Special Programs Office (SPO); and
- l. the Standards Coordination Office (SCO).

Any applicant that does not wish 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 specified on the application.

III) Statement of Relevance and Benefit to the General Public

Using no more than two or three sentences, describe the relevance and benefit of the research proposed in this application to the public. This statement should be succinct, and use plain language that can be understood by a general, lay audience.

B. The Project Narrative

The **Project Narrative** should describe in depth the scope of the proposal, its goals, the methods and equipment to be used, its schedule, the personnel working on the project and their qualifications, and the institutional capabilities of the applicant.

Resumes and CVs may be included in the Senior/Key Person and Other Personnel sections of the Budget Narrative and Justification.

- (8) Budget Narrative and Justification.** There is no set format for the Budget Narrative and Justification; however, further explanation must be provided for the specific cost categories and line items identified in the [Instructions R&R Budget \(Total Fed + Non-Fed\) Budget](#), as well as any other information you deem necessary for NIST's consideration. The Budget Justification or Budget Narrative must be attached to the Research & Related Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed).

2020 MSE NOFO

The written justification should include the necessity and the basis for the cost. Proposed funding levels must be consistent with the project scope, and only allowable costs should be included in the budget. Information on cost allowability is available in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at [2 C.F.R. Part 200 \(http://go.usa.gov/SBYh\)](http://go.usa.gov/SBYh), which apply to awards in this program.

Information needed for each category is as follows:

A. Senior/Key Person – At a minimum, the budget justification should include the following: name, job title, commitment of effort on the proposed project in terms of average number of hours per week or percentage of time, salary rate, total direct charges on the proposed project, description of the role of the individual on the proposed project and the work to be performed. Resumes or CVs may be included for Senior/Key Persons.

Fringe benefits should be identified separately from salaries and wages and based on rates determined by organizational policy. The items included in the fringe benefit rate (e.g. health insurance, parking, etc.) should not be charged under another cost category.

B. Other Personnel - Data is requested at the project role level, and not at the individual level for Other Personnel. The budget justification should include the following: job title, commitment of effort on the proposed project in terms of average number of hours per week or percentage of time, salary rate, total direct charges on the proposed project, description of the role of the position on the proposed project and the work to be performed. Resumes or CVs may be included for Other Personnel.

Fringe benefits should be identified separately from salaries and wages and based on rates determined by organizational policy. The items included in the fringe benefit rate (e.g. health insurance, parking, etc.) should not be charged under another cost category.

C. Equipment Description – Equipment is defined as an item of property that has an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more (unless the organization has established lower levels) and an expected service life of more than one year. The budget justification should list each piece of equipment, the cost, and a description of how it will be used and why it is necessary to the successful completion of the proposed project. Please note that any general use equipment (computers, etc.) charged directly to the award should be allocated to the award

2020 MSE NOFO

according to expected usage on the project. Applicants should provide at least two (2) quotes, if available, for equipment costing \$25,000 or more. If two (2) quotes are not available, please provide a statement as to why two (2) quotes are not available. Any items that do not meet the threshold for equipment can be included under the Materials and Supplies line item in Section F, Other Direct Costs.

D. Travel - For all travel costs, required by the recipient to complete the project, including attendance at any relevant conferences, the budget justification for travel should include the following: destination; names or number of people traveling; dates and/or duration; mode of transportation, lodging and subsistence rates; and description of how the travel is directly related to the proposed project. For travel that is yet to be determined, please provide best estimates based on prior experience. If a destination is not known, an approximate amount may be used with the assumptions given for the location of the meeting.

E. Participant/Trainee Support Costs - Participant support costs are stipends, subsistence allowances, travel, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees, who are not employees of your organization, for conferences or training projects. The budget justification should indicate the names or number of participants or trainees, a description and calculation of costs per person, a description and date of the event, and a description of why the cost is necessary for the successful completion of the proposed project.

F. Other Direct Costs – For costs that do not easily fit into the other cost categories, please list the cost, and the breakdown of the total costs by quantity or unit of cost. Include the necessity of the cost for the completion of the proposed project. Only allowable costs can be charged to the award.

Each subaward or contractual cost or should be treated as a separate item in the Other Direct Costs category. Describe the services to be provided and the necessity of the subaward or contract to the successful performance of the proposed project. Contracts are for obtaining goods and services. Subawardees perform part of the project scope of work. For each subaward, applicants must provide budget detail justifying the cost of the work performed on the project.

H. Indirect Costs - Commonly referred to as Facilities & Administrative Costs, Indirect Costs are defined as costs incurred by the applicant organization that cannot otherwise be directly assigned or attributed

2020 MSE NOFO

to a specific project. For more details, see Section IV.2.a.(9) of this NOFO.

(9) Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. If indirect costs are included in the proposed budget, provide a copy of the approved negotiated agreement if this rate was negotiated with a cognizant Federal audit agency. If the rate was not established by a cognizant Federal audit agency, provide a statement to this effect. If the successful applicant includes indirect costs in the budget and has not established an indirect cost rate with a cognizant Federal audit agency, the applicant will be required to obtain such a rate in accordance with the [Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions](#), dated April 30, 2019.

Alternatively, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f), applicants that have never received a negotiated indirect cost rate may elect to charge indirect costs to an award pursuant to a de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC), in which case a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement is not required. Applicants proposing a 10 percent de minimis rate pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f) should note this election as part of the budget portion of the application.

(10) Data Management Plan. Consistent with NIST Policy 5700.00⁵, *Managing Public Access to Results of Federally Funded Research*, and NIST Order 5701.00⁶, *Managing Public Access to Results of Federally Funded Research*, applicants proposing projects that include the conduct of research must include a Data Management Plan (DMP).

The DMP is a supplementary document of not more than two pages that must include, at a minimum, a summary of proposed activities that are expected to generate data, a summary of the types of data expected to be generated by the identified activities, a plan for storage and maintenance of the data expected to be generated by the identified activities, and a plan describing whether and how data generated by the identified activities will be reviewed and made available to the public. As long as the DMP meets these NIST requirements, it may take the form specified by the applicant's institution or some other entity (e.g., the National Science Foundation⁷ or the National Institutes of Health⁸).

⁵ https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2018/06/19/final_p_5700.pdf

⁶ https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2019/11/08/final_o_5701_ver_2.pdf

⁷ <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmp.jsp>

⁸ http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/data_sharing_guidance.htm

2020 MSE NOFO

All applications for activities that will generate scientific data using NIST funding are required to adhere to a DMP or explain why data sharing and/or preservation are not within the scope of the project.

For the purposes of the DMP, NIST adopted the definition of “research data” at [2 C.F.R. § 200.315\(e\)\(3\)](#).

Reasonable costs for data preservation and access may be included in the application.

The inclusion of the DMP will be considered as part of the administrative review (see Section V.2.a. of this NOFO); however, the DMP will not be evaluated against any evaluation criteria.

- (11) Subaward Budget Form.** The Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment Form is required if sub-recipients and contractors are included in the application budget. Instructions for completing subaward budget forms are found at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/r-r-family.html>.
- (12) Current and Pending Support Form.** Any application that includes investigators, researchers, and key personnel must identify all sources of current and potential funding, including this proposal. Any current project support (e.g. Federal, state, local, public or private foundations, etc.) must be listed on this form. The proposed project and all other projects or activities requiring a portion of time of the Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI, and key personnel must be included, even if no salary support is received. The total award amount for the entire award period covered, including indirect costs, must be shown as well as the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the project, regardless of the source of support. Similar information must be provided for all proposals already submitted or that are being submitted concurrently to other potential funders.

Applicants must complete the Current and Pending Support Form, using multiple forms as necessary to account for all activity for each individual identified in the PI, co-PI and key personnel roles. A separate form should be used for each identified individual.

Applicants must download the [Current and Pending Support Form](#) from the NIST website and reference the guidance provided as it contains information to assist with accurately completing the form.

b. Attachment of Required Documents

Items IV.2.a.(1) through IV.2.a.(5) above are part of the standard application

2020 MSE NOFO

package in Grants.gov and can be completed through the download application process.

Item IV.2.a.(6), the SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form, is an optional application form which is part of the standard application package in Grants.gov. If item IV.2.a.(6), the SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form is applicable to this proposal, attach it to field 18 of the SF-424 (R&R), Application for Federal Assistance.

Item IV.2.a.(7), the Project Narrative, should be attached to field 8 (Project Narrative) of the Research and Related Other Project Information form by clicking on “Add Attachment”.

Item IV.2.a.(8), the Budget Narrative and Justification, should be attached to field L (Budget Justification) of the Research and Related Budget (Total Fed + Total Non-Fed) form by clicking on “Add Attachment”.

Items IV.2.a.(9), the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement; IV.2.a.(10), the Data Management Plan; and IV.2.a.(12), the Current and Pending Support Form, must be completed and attached by clicking on “Add Attachments” found in item 12 (Other Attachments) of the Research and Related Other Project Information form.

Item IV.2.a.(11), the Subaward Budget Form(s), if applicable to the submission, should be attached to the Research & Related Subaward Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed) Attachment(s) Form in the application package.

Following these directions will create zip files which permit transmittal of the documents electronically via Grants.gov.

Applicants should carefully follow specific Grants.gov instructions to ensure the attachments will be accepted by the Grants.gov system. A receipt from Grants.gov indicates only that an application was transferred to a system. It does not provide details concerning whether all attachments (or how many attachments) transferred successfully. Applicants using Grants.gov will receive a series of e-mail messages over a period of up to two business days before learning whether a Federal agency’s electronic system has received its application.

Applicants are strongly advised to use Grants.gov’s “Download Submitted Forms and Applications” option to check that their application’s required attachments were contained in their submission.

2020 MSE NOFO

After submitting the application, follow the directions found in the [Grants.gov Online Help](#). If any, or all, of the required attachments are absent from the submission, follow the attachment directions found above, resubmit the application, and check again for the presence of the required attachments.

Applicants utilizing System 2 System (S2S) interfaces to submit their application to Grants.gov should contact the S2S vendor or Grants.gov Help Desk if they encounter submission challenges.

If the information found at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/s2s/applicant/troubleshooting.html> is not effective, please contact the Grants.gov Help Desk immediately. If calling from within the United States or from a U.S. territory, please call 800-518-4726. If calling from a place outside the United States or a U.S. territory, please call 606-545-5035. E-mails should be addressed to support@grants.gov. Assistance from the Grants.gov Help Desk will be available around the clock every day, with the exception of Federal holidays. Help Desk service will resume at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Time the day after Federal holidays.

Applicants can track their submission in the Grants.gov system by following the procedures at the [Grants.gov site](#). It can take up to two business days for an application to fully move through the Grants.gov system to NIST.

NIST uses the Tracking Numbers assigned by Grants.gov and does not issue Agency Tracking Numbers.

c. Application Format

- (1) E-mail and facsimile (fax) submissions.** Will not be accepted.
- (2) Figures, Graphs, Images, and Pictures.** Should be of a size that is easily readable or viewable and may be landscape orientation.
- (3) Font.** Easy to read font (10-point minimum). Smaller type may be used in figures, margins, and tables but must be clearly legible.
- (4) Page Limit.** The Project Narrative for Applications is limited to twenty-five (25) pages:

Page limit includes: Cover Page, Table of contents (if included), Project Narrative with all required information, including figures, graphs, tables, images, and pictures. Resumes and CVs in the Project Narrative do not count toward the twenty-five (25) page limit.

2020 MSE NOFO

Page limit excludes: SF-424 (R&R); Application for Federal Assistance; SF-424B; Assurances – Non-Construction Programs; SF-LLL; Disclosure of Lobbying Activities; CD-511; Certification Regarding Lobbying; Budget Narrative; Indirect Cost Rate Agreement; Data Management Plan; and Current and Pending Support Form.

(5) Page layout. The Project Narrative must be in portrait orientation.

(6) Page size. 21.6 centimeters by 27.9 centimeters (8 ½ inches by 11 inches).

(7) Page numbering. Number pages sequentially.

(8) Application Language. All documents must be in English, including but not limited to the initial application, any additional documents submitted in response to a NIST request, all reports, and any correspondence with NIST.

d. Application Replacement Pages. Applicants may not submit replacement pages and/or missing documents once an application has been submitted. Any revisions must be made by submission of a new application that must be received by NIST by the submission deadline.

e. Pre-Applications. NIST is not accepting pre-applications or white papers under this NOFO.

f. Certifications Regarding Federal Felony and Federal Criminal Tax Convictions, Unpaid Federal Tax Assessments and Delinquent Federal Tax Returns. In accordance with Federal appropriations law, an authorized representative of the selected applicant(s) may be required to provide certain pre-award certifications regarding federal felony and federal criminal tax convictions, unpaid federal tax assessments, and delinquent federal tax returns.

3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM).

Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. part 25, applicants and recipients are required to: (i) be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency, unless otherwise excepted from these requirements pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 25.110. NIST will not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM

2020 MSE NOFO

requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time that NIST is ready to make a Federal award pursuant to this NOFO, NIST may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

- 4. Submission Dates and Times.** When developing your submission timeline, please keep in mind that (1) all applicants are required to have current registrations in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and Grants.gov; (2) the free annual registration process in the electronic System for Award Management (SAM.gov) (see Sections IV.3. and IV.7.a.(1).(b). of this NOFO) generally takes between three and five business days but can take more than three weeks; and (3) applicants will receive email notifications over a period of up to two business days as the application moves through intermediate systems before the applicant learns via a validation or rejection notification whether NIST has received the application. (See <http://www.grants.gov> for full information on application and notification through Grants.gov.). Please note that a federal assistance award cannot be issued if the designated recipient's registration in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) is not current at the time of the award.

Applicants will find instructions on registering with SAM.gov as part of the Grants.gov process at: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>.

All NIST MSE Research Grant Programs. Applications will be considered on a continuing/rolling basis as they are received.

To ensure consideration in the Fiscal Year 2020, applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 31, 2020. Applications received after this deadline may be processed and considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2020 or in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds.

All applications submitted to the 2020-NIST-MSE-01 Research Grants Programs NOFO, must be received prior to the posting of the next NIST MSE Research Grants Programs NOFO on Grants.gov in order to be processed under this NOFO.

- 5. Intergovernmental Review.** Applications under all programs in this NOFO are not subject to Executive Order 12372.
- 6. Funding Restrictions.** Applications for product development and/or commercialization are not considered responsive to this NOFO.

2020 MSE NOFO

7. Other Submission Requirements for all programs listed in this NOFO.

a. Applications must be submitted electronically.

(1) Applications must be submitted at www.grants.gov, under announcement 2020-NIST-MSE-01.

(a) Applicants should carefully follow specific Grants.gov instructions to ensure the attachments will be accepted by the Grants.gov system. A receipt from Grants.gov indicating an application is received does not provide information about whether attachments have been received. For further information or questions regarding applying electronically for the 2020-NIST-MSE-01 announcement, contact Leon Sampson by phone at 301-975-3086 or by e-mail at grants@nist.gov.

(b) Applicants are strongly encouraged to start early and not wait until the approaching due date before logging on and reviewing the instructions for submitting an application through Grants.gov. The Grants.gov registration process must be completed before a new registrant can apply electronically. The registration process takes three (3) to five (5) business days. If there are issues, the registration process can take up to two (2) weeks or more. Applicants must have a unique entity identifier number and must maintain a current registration in the Federal government's primary registrant database, the System for Award Management (<https://www.sam.gov>), as explained on the Grants.gov Web site. See also Section IV.3. of this NOFO. After registering, it may take several days or longer from the initial log-on before a new Grants.gov system user can submit an application. Only authorized individual(s) will be able to submit the application, and the system may need time to process a submitted application. Applicants should save and print the proof of submission they receive from Grants.gov. If problems occur while using Grants.gov, the applicant is advised to (a) print any error message received and (b) call Grants.gov directly for immediate assistance. If calling from within the United States or from a U.S. territory, please call 800-518-4726. If calling from a place other than the United States or a U.S. territory, please call 606-545-5035. Assistance from the Grants.gov Help Desk will be available around the clock every day, except for Federal holidays. Help Desk service will resume at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Time the day after Federal holidays. For assistance using Grants.gov, you may also contact support@grants.gov.

(c) To find instructions on submitting an application on Grants.gov, Applicants should refer to the "Applicants" tab in the banner just below

2020 MSE NOFO

the top of the www.grants.gov home page. Clicking on the “Applicants” tab produces two exceptionally useful sources of information, Grant Applications and Applicant Resources, which applicants are advised to review.

Applicants will receive a series of e-mail messages over a period of up to two business days before learning whether a Federal agency’s electronic system has received its application. Closely following the detailed information in these subcategories will increase the likelihood of acceptance of the application by the Federal agency’s electronic system.

Applicants should pay close attention to the guidance under “Applicant FAQs,” as it contains information important to successful submission on Grants.gov, including essential details on the naming conventions for attachments to Grants.gov applications.

The application must be both received and validated by Grants.gov. The application is “received” when Grants.gov provides the applicant a confirmation of receipt and an application tracking number. If an applicant does not see this confirmation and tracking number, the application has not been received. After the application has been received, it must still be validated. During this process, it may be “validated” or “rejected with errors.” To know whether the application was rejected with errors and the reasons why, the applicant must log in to Grants.gov, select “Applicants” from the top navigation, and select “Track my application” from the drop-down list. If the status is “rejected with errors,” the applicant may still seek to correct the errors and resubmit your application before the deadline. If the applicant does not correct the errors, the application will not be forwarded to NIST by Grants.gov.

Refer to important information in Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times, to help ensure your application is received on time.

- b. Amendments.** Any amendments to this NOFO will be announced through Grants.gov. Applicants may sign up for Grants.gov NOFO amendments or may request copies from the programmatic and technical questions contact for the appropriate program (see Section VII. of this NOFO).

V. Application Review Information

1. Evaluation Criteria

2020 MSE NOFO

- a. Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services (ADIIS) Grant Program.** The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the ADIIS Grant Program and assigned weights are as follows:
- (1) Rationality.** The rationality, innovation and creativity of the application and the fit of the proposed work to the objectives of the ADIIS Grant Program (see Section I.1. of this NOFO). **(0 - 30 points)**
 - (2) Technical Merit of Contribution.** The potential effectiveness of the proposed activity, and the likelihood and potential impact of the applicant's approach to strengthen and enhance the mission of the ADIIS Grant Program. **(0 - 30 points)**
 - (3) Staff and Institution Capability to Perform the Work.** The quality of the facilities and experience of the staff to assess the likelihood of achieving the objective of the application. **(0 – 25 points)**
 - (4) Match of Budget to Proposed Work.** Assessment of the budget against the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request. **(0 – 15 points)**
- b. Associate Director for Laboratory Programs (ADLP) Grant Program.** The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the ADLP Grant Program and assigned weights are as follows:
- (1) Rationality.** The rationality, innovation and creativity of the application and the fit of the proposed work to the objectives of the ADLP Grant Program (see Section I.2. of this NOFO). **(0 – 35 points)**
 - (2) Technical Merit of Contribution.** The potential effectiveness of the proposed activity, and the likelihood and potential impact of the applicant's approach to strengthen and enhance the mission of the ADLP Grant Program. **(0 – 25 points)**
 - (3) Staff and Institutional Capability to Perform the Work.** The quality of facilities and experience of the staff to assess the likelihood of achieving the objective of the proposed work. **(0 – 20 points)**
 - (4) Match of Budget to Proposed Work.** Assessment of the budget compared to the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request. **(0 – 20 points)**
- c. Communications Technology Laboratory (CTL) Grant Program.** The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by

2020 MSE NOFO

the CTL Grant Program and assigned weights are as follows:

- (1) Rationality.** The coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the application effectively addresses scientific and technical issues that are relevant to CTL programs. (see Section I.3. of this NOFO). **(0 - 25 points)**
- (2) Technical Merit of Contribution.** The potential technical effectiveness of the proposed work and the value it would contribute to the field of measurement science and engineering, especially as it pertains to reference methods, reference materials and reference data in communications technology. **(0 – 25 points)**
- (3) Qualifications of Technical Personnel.** The professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work proposed in the application. **(0 – 25 points)**
- (4) Resources.** The extent to which the applicant has access to the necessary facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives, and assessment of the budget against the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request. **(0 – 25 points)**

d. Engineering Laboratory (EL) Grant Program. The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the EL Grant Program and assigned weights are as follows:

- (1) Technical Quality of the Research.** The clarity, rationality, organization, innovation and imagination of the application. **(0 – 35 points)**
- (2) Potential Impact of the Results.** The potential impact and the likelihood of achieving technical application of the results, and the degree of alignment with NIST's EL programs (see Section I.4. of this NOFO). **(0 – 35 points)**
- (3) Staff and Institution Capability to Perform the Work.** The quality of the facilities and experience of the staff to assess and overcome barriers to successfully achieve the objective of the application. **(0 – 15 points)**
- (4) Match of Budget to Proposed Work.** Assessment of the budget compared to the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request. **(0 – 15 points)**

2020 MSE NOFO

e. **Fire Research (FR) Grant Program.** The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the FR Grant Program and assigned weights are as follows:

(1) Technical Quality of the Research. The clarity, rationality, organization, innovation, and imagination of the proposed work. **(0 - 35 points)**

(2) Potential Impact of the Results. The potential impact and the likelihood of the technical application of the results and the degree of alignment with NIST EL's Fire Research Program (see Section I.5. of this NOFO). **(0 - 35 points)**

(3) Staff and Institution Capability to Perform the Work. The quality of the facilities and experience of the staff to assess and overcome barriers to successfully achieve the objective of the application. **(0 - 15 points)**

(4) Match of Budget to Proposed Work. Assessment of the budget compared to the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request. **(0 - 15 points)**

f. **Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) Grant Program.** The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the ITL Grant Program and assigned weights are as follows, for a total maximum of 30 points:

(1) Technical Quality and Intellectual Merit. The extent to which the proposed activities are innovative, original, or potentially transformative; whether the research plan is well-reasoned, well-organized and based on a sound rationale; and whether the plan incorporates a reasonable mechanism to assess success. **(0 - 10 points)**

(2) Potential Impact of the Results. The probability of achieving technical application of the results and the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved. The extent to which the applicants approach aligns with ITL's programs and mission (See Section I.6. of this NOFO). **(0 - 10 points)**

(3) Capability to Perform the Work. The extent to which the applicant organization, any proposed partner organizations, and key personnel, have the qualifications (e.g., training, experience, accomplishments) and resources (e.g., facilities, equipment) needed to support the proposed project and successfully achieve the stated objectives. **(0 - 5 points)**

2020 MSE NOFO

- (4) Match of Budget to Proposed Work.** Assessment of the budget compared to the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request. **(0 - 5 points)**
- g. International and Academic Affairs Office (IAAO) Grant Program.** The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the IAAO Grant Program are as follows:
- (1) Rationality.** The rationality, innovation and creativity of the application and the fit of the proposed work to the objectives of the IAAO Grant Program (see Section I.7. of this NOFO).
 - (2) Technical Merit of Contribution.** The potential effectiveness of the proposed activity, its value to global metrology and quality infrastructure, and the likelihood and potential impact of the applicant's technical application of the proposed activity.
 - (3) Staff and Institutional Capability.** The quality of facilities and experience of the staff to assess the likelihood of achieving the objective of the proposed work.
 - (4) Match of Budget to Proposed Work.** Assessment of the budget compared to the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request.
- Each of these factors will be given equal weight in the evaluation process.
- h. Material Measurement Laboratory (MML) Grant Program.** The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the MML Grant Program are as follows:
- (1) Rationality.** The coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the application effectively addresses scientific and technical issues that are relevant to MML programs (see Section I.8. of this NOFO). **(0 – 25 points)**
 - (2) Qualifications of Technical Personnel.** The professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work proposed in the application. **(0 – 25 points)**
 - (3) Resources.** The extent to which the applicant has access to the necessary facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives, and assessment of the budget against the proposed work to ascertain the

2020 MSE NOFO

reasonableness of the request. **(0 – 25 points)**

(4) Technical Merit of Contribution. The potential technical effectiveness of the proposed work and the value it would contribute to the field of measurement science and engineering, especially as it pertains to reference methods, reference materials and reference data in Material Measurements. **(0 – 25 points)**

i. NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR) Grant Program. The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the NCNR Grant Program and assigned weights are as follows:

(1) Rationality. The innovation, rationality, and coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the application effectively addresses important scientific and technical issues using neutron methods and/or the development of innovative devices for neutron research (see Section I.9 of this NOFO). **(0 - 35 points)**

(2) Qualifications of Technical Personnel. The professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work proposed in the application. **(0 - 20 points)**

(3) Resources. The extent to which the applicant has access to the necessary resources, facilities, and overall support to accomplish project objectives. Assessment budget against the to ascertain-reasonableness of the request. **(0 - 20 points)**

(4) Technical Merit of Contribution. The potential technical effectiveness of the proposed work and the value it would contribute to neutron research. **(0 - 25 points)**

j. Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML) Grant Program.

(1) The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the PML Grant Program, except for applications to the Office of Weights and Measures (see Section V.1.j.(2) of this NOFO) are as follows:

(a) Rationality. The coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the application effectively addresses scientific and technical issues that are relevant to PML programs (see Sections I.10.a. and I.10.c. through I.10.k. of this NOFO).

(b) Qualifications of Technical Personnel. The professional

2020 MSE NOFO

accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work proposed in the application.

(c) Resources. The extent to which the applicant has access to the necessary facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives, and assessment of the budget against the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request.

(d) Technical Merit of Contribution. The potential technical effectiveness of the proposed work and the value it would contribute to the field of measurement science. Applications must be relevant to current PML research programs and have a relation to the objectives of ongoing PML programs and activities.

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

(2) The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the **Office of Weights and Measures** and assigned weights are as follows:

(a) Technical Quality of the Research. The rationality, innovation and imagination of the application and the alignment with NIST's documentary standards and legal metrology programs (see Section I.10.b. of this NOFO). **(0 – 35 points)**

(b) Potential Impact of the Results. The potential impact and the technical application of the results to documentary standards and legal metrology communities. **(0 – 25 points)**

(c) Staff and Institution Capability to Perform the Work. The quality of the facilities and experience of the staff to assess the likelihood of achieving the objective of the application. **(0 – 20 points)**

(d) Match of Budget to Proposed Work. Assessment of the budget against the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request. **(0 – 20 points)**

k. Special Programs Office (SPO) Grant Program. The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the SPO Grant Program are as follows:

(1) Rationality. The logic and soundness of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the successful completion of the proposed work addresses scientific and technical issues relevant to SPO programs (see Section

2020 MSE NOFO

I.11. of this NOFO).

- (2) Technical Merit of Contribution.** The potential technical effectiveness of the proposed work and the value it would contribute to the fields of science relevant to the SPO.
- (3) Qualifications of Technical Personnel.** The professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the work proposed in the application.
- (4) Resources.** The extent to which the applicant has access to the necessary equipment and facilities and overall support to accomplish project objectives, and assessment of the budget against the proposed work to ascertain the reasonableness of the request.

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

I. Standards Coordination Office (SCO) Grant Program. The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered by the SCO Grant Program and assigned weights are as follows:

- (1) Rationality.** The coherence of the applicant's approach and the extent to which the application effectively addresses scientific and technical issues relevant to the SCO mission (see Section I.12. of this NOFO). **(0 – 30 points)**
- (2) Technical Merit of Contribution.** The potential technical effectiveness of the proposed work and the value it would contribute to the field of standardization. **(0 – 30 points)**
- (3) Qualifications of Technical Personnel.** The professional accomplishments, skills, and training of the proposed personnel to perform the proposed work. **(0 – 20 points)**
- (4) Use of Funds and Cost-effectiveness.** An assessment of the budget against the proposed activities will be conducted to determine the reasonableness of the request. **(0 – 20 points)**

2. Review and Selection Process

Proposals, reports, documents and other information related to applications submitted to NIST and/or relating to financial assistance awards issued by NIST will be reviewed and considered by Federal employees, Federal agents and contractors,

2020 MSE NOFO

and/or by non-Federal personnel who have entered into confidentiality and conflict of interest agreements covering such information, when applicable.

a. Initial Screening of all NIST MSE Research Grant Program Applications.

All applications received in response to this NOFO will be assigned to the program designated on the cover page of the Project Narrative and reviewed as received on a rolling basis to determine whether they are eligible, complete, and responsive to this NOFO and aligned with the respective program objectives and research grant areas as described in the Program Description (see Section I. of this NOFO).

Applications determined to be ineligible, incomplete, and/or non-responsive based on the initial screening will be eliminated from further review. However, NIST, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for an application that is missing non-substantive information that can easily be rectified or cured during the review process.

b. Full Review of Eligible, Complete, and Responsive Applications for all NIST MSE Research Grant Applications. All applications that are determined to be eligible, complete, and responsive will proceed for full reviews in accordance with the review and selection processes set forth below for each of the respective programs.

NIST reserves the right to negotiate the budget costs with the applicants that have been selected to receive awards, which may include requesting that the applicant remove certain costs. Additionally, NIST may request that the applicant modify objectives or work plans and provide supplemental information. For international applications, NIST will follow applicable U.S. laws and policies. NIST also reserves the right to reject an application where information is uncovered that raises a reasonable doubt as to the responsibility of the applicant. NIST may select some, all, or none of the applications, or part(s) of any particular application. In some cases, NIST may ask applicants to consider combining projects. The final approval of selected applications and issuance of awards will be by the NIST Grants Officer. The award decisions of the NIST Grants Officer are final.

(1) Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services (ADIIS) Grant Program

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.a. of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

2020 MSE NOFO

The Selecting Official, the Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services, or designee, will make final application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, relevance to the objectives described in the ADIIS Grant Program Description (see Section I.1. of this NOFO), and the availability of funds.

(2) Associate Director for Laboratory Programs (ADLP) Grant Program

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.b of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, the Associate Director for Laboratory Programs, or designee, will make final application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, relevance to the objectives described in the ADLP Grant Program Description (see Section I.2. of this NOFO), and the availability of funds.

(3) Communications Technology Laboratory (CTL) Grant Program

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.c of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, who is the CTL Executive Officer, or designee, will make final application selections taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, consultations with the appropriate CTL Division Chief, relevance to the objectives described in the CTL Grant Program Description (see Section I.3. of this NOFO), and the availability of funds.

(4) Engineering Laboratory (EL) Grant Program

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.d. of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, who is the EL Director, or designee, will make final

2020 MSE NOFO

application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, relevance to the objectives described in the EL Grant Program Description (see Section I.4. of this NOFO), program balance, and the availability of funds.

(5) Fire Research (FR) Grant Program

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the group leaders listed in the FR Grant Program Description (see Section I.5. of this NOFO) to determine the responsiveness of the application and compliance with program objectives prior to preparation of an application to the FR Grant Program.

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.e. of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, who is the EL Director, or designee, will make final application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, relevance to the objectives described in the EL Fire Research Program Description (see Section I.5. of this NOFO), program balance, and the availability of funds.

(6) Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) Grant Program

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.f. of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, who is the appropriate ITL Division Chief, or designee, will make final application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, consultations with the ITL Director, or designee, relevance to the objectives described in the ITL Grant Program Description (see Section I.6. of this NOFO), and the availability of funds.

(7) International and Academic Affairs Office (IAAO) Grant Program

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular area described in the application will review the merits of each application,

2020 MSE NOFO

based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.g. of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, the IAAO Director, or designee, will make final application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, relevance to the objectives described in the IAAO Grant Program Description (see Section I.7. of this NOFO), and the availability of funds.

(8) Material Measurement Laboratory (MML) Grant Program

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.h. of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, who is the MML Executive Officer, or designee, will make final application selections taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, consultations with the appropriate MML Division Chief, relevance to the objectives described in the MML Grant Program Description (see Section I.8. of this NOFO), and the availability of funds.

(9) NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR) Grant Program

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.i. of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, who is the NCNR Director, or designee, will make final application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, relevance to the objectives described in the NCNR Grant Program Description (see Section I.9. of this NOFO), and the availability of funds.

(10) Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML) Grant Program

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the appropriate evaluation criteria (see Sections

2020 MSE NOFO

V.1.j.(1) and Section V.1.j.(2) of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, who is the PML Director, or designee, will make final application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, relevance to the objectives described in the PML Grant Program Description (see Section I.10. of this NOFO), and the availability of funds.

(11) Special Programs Office (SPO) Grant Program

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the appropriate point of contact listed in the SPO Grant Program Description (see Section I.11. of this NOFO) to determine the responsiveness of the application and compliance with program objectives prior to preparation of an application to the SPO Grant Program.

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.k. of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, who is the SPO Director, or designee, will make final application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, relevance to the objectives described in the SPO Grant Program Description (see Section I.11. of this NOFO), and the availability of funds.

(12) Standards Coordination Office (SCO) Grant Program

At least three (3) objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the application will review the merits of each application, based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1.l. of this NOFO). The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

The Selecting Official, who is the SCO Director, or designee, will make final application selections, taking into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, relevance to the objectives described in the SCO Grant Program Description (see Section I.12. of this NOFO), and the availability of funds.

2020 MSE NOFO

- c. **Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants.** After applications are proposed for funding by the Selecting Official and prior to the issuance of an award, the NIST Grants Management Division (GMD) will conduct an assessment of the risk posed by the applicant in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.205, which may include a review of the financial stability of an applicant, the quality of the applicant's management systems, the history of performance, and/or the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.

In addition, prior to making an award where the total Federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), NIST GMD will review and consider the publicly available information about that applicant in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS). An applicant may, at its option, review and comment on information about itself previously entered into FAPIIS by a Federal awarding agency. As part of its review of risk posed by applicants, NIST GMD will consider any comments made by the applicant in FAPIIS in making its determination about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards. Upon completion of the pre-award risk assessment, the NIST Grants Officer will make a responsibility determination concerning whether the applicant is qualified to receive the subject award and, if so, whether appropriate specific conditions that correspond to the degree of risk posed by the applicant should be applied to an award.

3. **Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates.** For all NIST MSE Research Grant Programs, awards will be made approximately 90 days after the end of the review process (see Section V.2. of this NOFO). See information in Section IV.4. of this NOFO regarding awards made in a subsequent fiscal year.

4. Additional Information

- a. **Safety.** Safety is a top priority at NIST. Employees and affiliates of award recipients who conduct project work at NIST will be expected to be safety-conscious, to attend NIST safety training, and to comply with all NIST safety policies and procedures, and with all applicable terms of their guest research agreement.
- b. **Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants.** Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing.
- c. **Retention of Unsuccessful Applications.** Copies of each unsuccessful application will be retained in accordance with the General Record Schedule 1.2/021.

VI. Federal Award Administration Information

1. **Federal Award Notices.** Successful applicants will receive an award package from the NIST Grants Officer.
2. **Administrative and National Policy Requirements**
 - a. **Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements.** Through 2. C.F.R. § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which apply to awards made pursuant to this NOFO. Refer to <http://go.usa.gov/SBYh> and <http://go.usa.gov/SBg4>.
 - b. **Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions.** The Department of Commerce will apply the Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions in effect on the date of award to any award made under this NOFO. The current version, dated April 30, 2019, can be found [here](#). Refer to Section VII. of this NOFO, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts, Grant Rules and Regulations, if you need more information.
 - c. **Pre-Award Notification Requirements.** The Department of Commerce will apply the Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements in effect on the date of award to any award made under this NOFO. The current version, dated December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390), is accessible at <http://go.usa.gov/hKkR>. Refer to Section VII. of this NOFO, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts, Grant Rules and Regulations, if you need more information.
 - d. **Funding Availability and Limitation of Liability.** Funding for the program listed in this NOFO is contingent upon the availability of appropriations. In no event will NIST or the Department of Commerce be responsible for application preparation costs, including, but not limited to, if the program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of agency priorities. Publication of this NOFO does not oblige NIST or the Department of Commerce to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.
 - e. **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

2020 MSE NOFO

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 application prior to the merit review. Any collaboration with an identified NIST employee that is approved by appropriate NIST management will not make an application more or less favorable in the competitive process.

- f. 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 in 35 U.S.C. §§ 200-212, 37 C.F.R. Part 401, 2 C.F.R. § 200.315, and in Section C.03 of the [Department of Commerce Standards Terms and Conditions](#) (April 30, 2019). Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Chief Counsel for NIST, (301) 975-2803, nistcounsel@nist.gov.

Any use of NIST-owned intellectual property by an applicant 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 NOFO, 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.

- g. 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 under a specific MSE research grant program may be of interest to another NIST MSE research grant program(s), the official may forward the application to any other NIST MSE research grant program(s) that the program official believes may have an interest in the project, for potential consideration under the other NIST MSE research grant program(s) procedures. If, upon initial screening, the other NIST MSE research grant program(s) finds the application may be of programmatic interest, the application will proceed through the review and selection process (see Section V.2 of this NOFO) for the specific MSE

2020 MSE NOFO

research grant 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.

- h. Research Activities Involving Human Subjects, Human Tissue, Data or Recordings Involving Human Subjects Including Software Testing.** Any application that includes research activities involving human subjects, human tissue/cells, or data or recordings from or about human subjects, must satisfy the requirements of the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects (“Common Rule”), codified for the Department of Commerce at 15 C.F.R. Part 27. Research activities involving human subjects that fall within one or more of the classes of vulnerable subjects found in 45 C.F.R. Part 46, Subparts B, C and D must satisfy the requirements of the applicable subpart(s). In addition, any such application that includes research activities on these subjects must be in compliance with all applicable statutory requirements imposed upon the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other Federal agencies, all regulations, policies and guidance adopted by DHHS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other Federal agencies on these topics, and all Executive Orders and Presidential statements of policy on applicable topics. (Regulatory Resources: <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/index.html> which includes links to FDA regulations, but may not include all applicable regulations and policies).

NIST uses the following Common Rule definitions for research and human subjects research:

Research: A systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Activities which meet this definition constitute research for purposes of this policy, whether or not they are conducted or supported under a program which is considered research for other purposes. For example, some demonstration and service programs may include research activities.

Human Subject: A living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research: (i) Obtains information or biospecimens through intervention or interaction with the individual, and uses, studies, or analyzes the information or biospecimens; or (ii) Obtains, uses, studies, analyzes, or generates identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens.

2020 MSE NOFO

- (1) *Intervention* includes both physical procedures by which information or biospecimens are gathered and manipulations of the subject or the subject's environment that are performed for research purposes.
- (2) *Interaction* includes communication or interpersonal contact between investigator and subject.
- (3) *Private information* includes information about behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or recording is taking place, and information which has been provided for specific purposes by an individual and that the individual can reasonably expect will not be made public (for example, a medical record). Private information must be individually identifiable (i.e., the identity of the subject is or may readily be ascertained by the investigator associated with the information) in order for obtaining the information to constitute research involving human subjects.
- (4) *Identifiable biospecimen* includes a biospecimen for which the identity of the subject is or may readily be ascertained by the investigator or associated with the biospecimen.

See 15 C.F.R. § 27.102 (Definitions).

- 1) Requirement for Federalwide Assurance.** If the application is accepted for [or awarded] funding, organizations that have an Institutional Review Board (IRB) are required to follow the procedures of their organization for approval of exempt and non-exempt research activities that involve human subjects. Both domestic and foreign organizations performing exempt research requiring limited IRB review or non-exempt research activities involving human subjects will be required to have protocols approved by a cognizant, active IRB currently registered with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) within the DHHS that is linked to the engaged organizations. All engaged organizations must possess a currently valid Federalwide Assurance (FWA) on file from OHRP. Information regarding how to apply for an FWA and register an IRB with OHRP can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/assurances/index.html>. See 15 C.F.R. § 27.103. NIST relies only on OHRP-issued FWAs and IRB Registrations for both domestic and foreign organizations for NIST supported research involving human subjects. NIST will not issue its own FWAs or IRB Registrations for domestic or foreign organizations.

2020 MSE NOFO

- 2) Administrative Review.** The NIST Research Protections Office (RPO) reserves the right to conduct an administrative review⁹ of all applications that potentially include research involving human subjects and were approved by an authorized non-NIST institutional entity (an IRB or entity analogous to the NIST RPO) under 15 C.F.R. § 27.112 (Review by Institution). If the NIST RPO determines that an application includes research activities that potentially involve human subjects, the applicant will be required to provide additional information to NIST for review and approval. The documents required for funded proposals are listed in each section below. Most documents will need to be produced during the proposal review process; however, the Grants Officer may allow final versions of certain required documents to be produced at an appropriate designated time post-award. Research involving human subjects may not start until the NIST Grants Officer issues an award explicitly authorizing such research. In addition, all amendments, modifications, or changes to approved research and requests for continuing review and closure will be reviewed by the NIST RPO.
- 3) Required documents for proposal review. All applications involving human subjects research must clearly indicate, by separable task, all research activities believed to be exempt or non-exempt research involving human subjects, the expected institution(s) where the research activities involving human subjects may be conducted, and the institution(s) expected to be engaged in the research activities.**
- a. Not research determination.** If an activity/task involves human subjects as defined in the Common Rule, but the applicant participant(s) indicates to NIST that the activity/task is not research as defined in the Common Rule, the following information may be requested for that activity/task:
- (1) Justification, including the rationale for the determination and such additional documentation as may be deemed necessary by NIST to review and/or support a determination that the activity/task in the application is not research as defined in the Common Rule.

⁹ Conducting an “administrative review” means that the NIST RPO will review and verify the performing institution’s determination for research not involving human subjects or exempt human subjects research. In addition, for exempt research requiring limited IRB review and non-exempt human subjects research, the NIST RPO will review and confirm that the research and performing institution(s) are in compliance with 15 C.F.R. Part 27, which means RPO will 1) confirm the engaged institution(s) possess, or are covered under a Federalwide Assurance, 2) review the research study documentation submitted to the IRB and verify the IRB’s determination of level of risk and approval of the study for compliance with 15 C.F.R. Part 27, 3) review and verify IRB-approved substantive changes to an approved research study before the changes are implemented, and 4) review and verify that the IRB conducts a continuing review at least annually, as appropriate.

2020 MSE NOFO

- (2) If the applicant participant(s) used a cognizant IRB that provided a determination that the activity/task is not research, a copy of that determination documentation must be provided to NIST. The applicant participant(s) is not required to establish a relationship with a cognizant IRB if they do not have one.

NIST will review the information submitted and may coordinate further with the applicant before determining whether the activity/task will be defined as research under the Common Rule in the applicable NIST financial assistance program or project.

b. Research not involving human subjects. If an activity/task is determined to be research and involves human subjects, but is determined to be *not human subjects research* (or *research not involving human subjects*) under the Common Rule, the following information may be requested for that activity/task:

- (1) Justification, including the rationale for the determination and such additional documentation as may be deemed necessary by NIST to review and/or support a determination that the activity/task in the application is not research as defined in the Common Rule.
- (2) If the applicant participant(s) used a cognizant IRB that provided a determination that the activity/task is research not involving human subjects, a copy of that determination documentation must be provided to NIST. The applicant participant(s) is not required to establish a relationship with a cognizant IRB if they do not have one.

c. Exempt research determination with no IRB. If the application appears to NIST to include exempt research activities that do not meet the criteria for requiring a limited IRB review, and the performer of the activity or the supplier and/or the receiver of the information or biospecimens from human subjects **does not** have a cognizant IRB to provide an exemption determination, the following information may be requested during the review process so that NIST can evaluate whether an exemption under the Common Rule applies (see 15 C.F.R. § 27.104(b) and (d)):

- (1) The name(s) of the institution(s) where the exempt research will be conducted.
- (2) The name(s) of the institution(s) providing the biospecimens or information from human subjects.
- (3) A copy of the protocol for the research to be conducted; and/or the biospecimens or information from human subjects to be collected/provided, not pre-existing samples (*i.e.*, will proposed research collect only information without personal identifiable information, will

2020 MSE NOFO

biospecimens or information be de-identified and when and by whom was the de-identification performed, how were the materials or data originally collected).

- (4) For pre-existing biospecimens or information from human subjects, provide copies of the consent forms used for collection and a description of how the biospecimens or information were originally collected and stripped of personal identifiers. If copies of consent forms are not available, explain.
- (5) Any additional clarifying documentation that NIST may deem necessary in order to make a determination whether the activity/task or use of biospecimens or information from human subjects is exempt under the Common Rule.

d. Research review with an IRB. If the application appears to NIST to include research activities (exempt or non-exempt) involving human subjects, and the proposed performer of the activity has a cognizant IRB registered with OHRP, and linked to their Federalwide Assurance, the following information may be requested during the review process:

- (1) The name(s) of the institution(s) where the research will be conducted.
- (2) The name(s) and institution(s) of the cognizant IRB(s), and the IRB registration number(s).
- (3) The FWA number of the applicant linked to the cognizant IRB(s).
- (4) The FWAs associated with all organizations engaged in the planned research activity/task, linked to the cognizant IRB.
- (5) If the IRB review(s) is pending, the estimated start date for research involving human subjects.
- (6) The IRB approval date (if currently approved for exempt or non-exempt research).
- (7) If any of the engaged organizations has applied for or will apply for an FWA or IRB registration, those details should be clearly provided for each engaged organization.

If the application includes research activities involving human subjects to be performed in the first year of an award, additional documentation may be requested by NIST during pre-award review for those performers, and may include the following for those research activities:

- (1) A copy of each applicable final IRB-approved protocol.
- (2) A signed and dated approval letter from the cognizant IRB(s) that includes the name of the institution housing each applicable IRB, provides the start and end dates for the approval of the research activities, and any IRB-required interim reporting or continuing review requirements.

2020 MSE NOFO

- (3) A copy of any IRB-required application information, such as documentation of approval of special clearances (*i.e.*, biohazard, HIPAA, etc.) conflict-of-interest letters, or special training requirements.
- (4) A brief description of which portions of the IRB submitted protocol are specifically included in the application submitted to NIST, if the protocol includes tasks not included in the application, or if the protocol is supported by multiple funding sources. For protocols with multiple funding sources, NIST will not approve the study without a non-duplication-of-funding letter indicating that no other federal funds will be used to support the tasks proposed under the proposed research or ongoing project.
- (5) If a new protocol will only be submitted to an IRB if an award from NIST is issued, a draft of the proposed protocol.
- (6) Any additional clarifying documentation that NIST may request during the review process to perform the NIST administrative review of research involving human subjects. (See 15 C.F.R. § 27.112 (Review by Institution)).

This clause reflects the existing NIST policy and requirements for Research Involving Human Subjects. Should the policy be revised prior to award, a clause reflecting the policy current at time of award may be incorporated into the award.

If the policy is revised after award, a clause reflecting the updated policy may be incorporated into the award.

For more information regarding research projects involving human subjects, contact Anne Andrews, Director, NIST Research Protections Office (e-mail: anne.andrews@nist.gov; phone: (301) 975-5445).

- i. **Research Activities Involving Live Vertebrate Animals or Pre-Existing Cell Line/Tissues From Vertebrate Animals.** Any application that proposes research activities involving live vertebrate animals that are to be cared for, euthanized, or used by award recipients to accomplish research goals, teaching, or testing must meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.), and the AWA final rules (9 C.F.R. Parts 1, 2, and 3), and if appropriate, the Good Laboratory Practice for Nonclinical Laboratory Studies (21 C.F.R. Part 58). In addition, such research activities should be in compliance with the “*U.S. Government Principles for Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training*” (Principles). The Principles and guidance on these Principles are available in the National Research Council's “*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*,” which can be obtained from National Academy Press, 500 5th Street, N.W., Department 285, Washington, DC 20055, or as a free PDF online at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/12910/guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals-eighth>.

2020 MSE NOFO

- 1) **Administrative Review.** NIST reserves the right to conduct an administrative review¹⁰ of all applications that potentially include research activities that involve live vertebrate animals, or custom samples from, or field studies with live vertebrate animals. If the application includes research activities, field studies, or custom samples involving live vertebrate animals, the applicant will be required to provide additional information for review and approval. In addition, NIST will verify the applicant's determination(s) of excluded samples from vertebrate animals. The documents required for funded proposals are listed in each section below. Some may be requested for a pre-review during the proposal review process; however, the Grants Officer may allow final versions of certain required documents to be produced at an appropriate designated time post-award. If an award is issued, no research activities involving live vertebrate animals shall be initiated or costs incurred for those activities under the award until the NIST Grants Officer issues written approval. In addition, all re-approvals, amendments, modifications, changes, annual reports and closure will be reviewed by NIST.
- 2) **Required documents for NIST proposal review. *The applicant should clearly indicate in the application, by separable task, all research activities believed to include research involving live vertebrate animals and the institution(s) where the research activities involving live vertebrate animals may be conducted. In addition, the applicant should indicate any activity/task that involves an excluded or custom collection from vertebrate animals, or a field study with animals.***

- a) **Excluded Collections from Vertebrate Animals:** The requirements for review and approval by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) do not apply to proposed research using preexisting images of animals or to research plans that do not include live animals. These regulations also do not apply to obtaining stock or pre-existing items from animal material suppliers (e.g., tissue banks), such as pre-existing cell lines and tissue samples, or from commercial food processors, where the

¹⁰ Conducting an "administrative review" means that the NIST RPO will review and verify the performing institution's IACUC's approval of research with live vertebrate animals, and confirm that the research and performing institution(s) have an appropriate assurance and are in compliance with applicable regulations. RPO will 1) confirm the engaged institution(s) possess, or are covered under an applicable assurance, 2) review the research study documentation submitted to the IACUC and verify the IACUC's determination of level of risk and approval of the study for compliance with applicable regulations, 3) review and verify IACUC-approved substantive changes to an approved research study before the changes are implemented, and 4) review and verify that the IACUC receives an annual report for the study and conducts an appropriate continuing review at least every three years.

2020 MSE NOFO

vertebrate animal was euthanized for food purposes and not for the purpose of sample collection.

For pre-existing cell lines and tissue samples originating from vertebrate animals, NIST requires that the proposer provide documentation or the rationale for the determination that the cell line or tissue is pre-existing and not a custom collection from live vertebrate animals for an activity/task within the proposal. NIST may require additional documentation to review and/or support the determination that the cells and/or tissues from vertebrate animals are excluded from IACUC review.

- b) **Custom Collections Harvested from Live Vertebrate Animals:** NIST requires documentation for obtaining custom samples from live vertebrate animals from animal material suppliers and other organizations (*i.e.*, universities, companies, and government laboratories, etc.). Custom samples includes samples from animal material suppliers, such as when a catalog item indicates that the researcher is to specify the characteristics of the live vertebrate animal to be used, or how a sample is to be collected from the live vertebrate animal.
- c) **Field Studies of Animals:** Some field studies of animals may be exempt under the Animal Welfare Act from full review and approval by an animal care and use committee, as determined by each institution. Field study is defined as “... *a study conducted on free-living wild animals in their natural habitat...*”. 9 C.F.R. § 1.1. However, this term excludes any study that involves an invasive procedure or that harms or materially alters the behavior of an animal under study. Field studies, with or without invasive procedures, may also require obtaining appropriate federal or local government permits (marine mammals, endangered species, etc.). If the applicant’s institution requires review and approval by an animal care and use committee, NIST will require that documentation to be provided as described below.
- d) **For custom collections or studies with live vertebrate animals that require review and approval by an animal care and use committee the following documentation is required:**
 - (1) **Requirement for Assurance.** An applicable assurance for the care and use of the live vertebrate animal(s) to be used in the proposed research is required. NIST may request documentation to confirm an assurance, if adequate

2020 MSE NOFO

confirmation is not available through an assuring organization's website. The cognizant IACUC where the research activity is located may hold one or more assurances applicable to the research activity that are acceptable to NIST. These four assurances are:

- i. Animal Welfare Assurance from the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) indicated by the OLAW assurance number, *i.e.*, A-1234;
- ii. USDA Animal Welfare Act certification indicated by the certification number, *i.e.*, 12-R-3456;
- iii. Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) indicated by providing the organization name accredited by AAALAC as listed in the AAALAC Directory of Accredited Organizations; and
- iv. Letter of Assurance of compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, the U.S. Government Principles, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) IACUC policy that is valid for five years and provided by a NMFS Regional IACUC for activities with marine mammals or sea turtles (NMFS Policy Directive 04-112).

e) Documentation of Research Review by an IACUC: If the applicant's application appears to include research activities, field studies, or custom sample collections involving live vertebrate animals the following information regarding review by an applicable IACUC may be requested during the application review process:

1. The name(s) of the institution(s) where the research involving live vertebrate animals will be conducted and/or custom samples collected.
2. The assurance type and number, as applicable, for the cognizant Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) where the research activity is located. [For example: Animal Welfare Assurance from the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) should be indicated by the OLAW assurance number, *i.e.* A-1234; an USDA Animal Welfare Act certification should be indicated by the certification number *i.e.* 12-R-3456; and an Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) should be indicated by AAALAC.]
3. The IACUC approval date for the Animal Study Protocol (ASP) (if currently approved).
4. If the review by the cognizant IACUC is pending, the estimated start date for research involving vertebrate animals.

2020 MSE NOFO

5. If any assurances or IACUCs need to be obtained or established, that should be clearly stated.
6. If any special permits are required for field studies, those details should be clearly provided for each instance, or indicated as pending.

If the application includes research activities involving vertebrate animals to be performed in the first year of an award, additional documentation may be requested by NIST during pre-award review for those performers, and may include the following for those research activities, which may also include field studies, custom sample collections involving live vertebrate animals:

1. A copy of the IACUC approved ASP.
2. Documentation of the IACUC approval indicating the approval and expiration dates of the ASP.
3. If applicable, a non-duplication-of-funding letter if the ASP is funded from several sources.
4. If a new ASP will only be submitted to an IACUC if an award from NIST is issued, a draft of the proposed ASP may be requested.
5. Any additional clarifying documentation that NIST may request during review of applications to perform the NIST administrative review of research involving live vertebrate animals.

This clause reflects the existing NIST policy for Research Involving Live Vertebrate Animals. Should the policy be revised prior to award, a clause reflecting the policy current at time of award may be incorporated into the award.

If the policy is revised after award, a clause reflecting the updated policy may be incorporated into the award.

For more information regarding research projects involving live vertebrate animals, contact Linda Beth Schilling, Senior Analyst (e-mail: linda.schilling@nist.gov; phone: 301-975-2887).

- j. 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

2020 MSE NOFO

verify the availability of the facilities and approval of the proposed usage. Any unapproved facility use will be stricken from the application prior to the merit review. Examples of some facilities that may be available for collaborations are listed on the following NIST Web site: <https://www.nist.gov/labs-major-programs/user-facilities>.

3. Reporting

a. **Reporting Requirements.** The following reporting requirements described in Section A.01 Reporting Requirements of the [Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standards Terms and Conditions](#) apply to awards in this program:

(1) Financial Reports. Each award recipient will be required to submit an SF-425, Federal Financial Report on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31 and September 30 of each year to the Federal Program Officer, NIST Grants Officer, and Grants Specialist named in the award documents. Reports will be due within 30 days after the end of the reporting period. A final financial report is due within 90 days after the end of the project period to the Federal Program Officer, NIST Grants Officer and Grants Specialist named in the award documents.

(2) Research Performance Progress Report (RPPRs). Each award recipient will be required to submit a RPPR report to the Federal Program Officer, NIST Grants Officer and Grants Specialist named in the award documents on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31 and September 30 of each year. A final RPPR shall be submitted within 90 days after the expiration date of the award, and publication citation information as well as links to publicly available data shall be submitted as soon as they become available.

If a recipient's Data Management Plan (DMP) has changed since their last submission of a RPPR, the recipient must include their revised DMP in the next RPPR following the revision to the DMP. The revised DMP must include all the requirements described in Section IV.2.a.(10) of this NOFO.

(3) Patent and Property Reports. In accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements and other terms and conditions governing the award, the recipient may be required to submit property and patent reports.

(4) Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters. In accordance with section 872 of Public Law 110-417 (as amended; see 41 U.S.C. 2313), if the total value of a recipient's currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding

2020 MSE NOFO

agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of an award made under this NOFO, then the recipient shall be subject to the requirements specified in [Appendix XII to 2 C.F.R. Part 200](#), for maintaining the currency of information reported to SAM that is made available in FAPIIS about certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings involving the recipient.

- b. Audit Requirements.** The Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, Section D.01.b.1., and 2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart F, adopted by the Department of Commerce through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, require any non-Federal entity (e.g., including non-profit institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations) that expends Federal awards of \$750,000 or more in the recipient's fiscal year to conduct a single or program-specific audit in accordance with the requirements set out in the Subpart. Additionally, unless otherwise specified in the terms and conditions of the award, entities that are not subject to Subpart F of 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (e.g., for-profit commercial entities) that expend \$750,000 or more in DOC funds during their fiscal year must submit to the Grants Officer either: (i) a financial related audit of each DOC award or subaward in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards; or (ii) a project specific audit for each award or subaward in accordance with the requirements contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.507. Applicants are reminded that NIST, the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General, or another authorized Federal agency may conduct an audit of an award at any time.
- c. Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.** In accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 170, all recipients of a Federal award made on or after October 1, 2010, are required to comply with reporting requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law No. 109-282). In general, all recipients are responsible for reporting sub-awards of \$25,000 or more. In addition, recipients that meet certain criteria are responsible for reporting executive compensation. Applicants must ensure they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should they receive funding. Also see the Federal Register notice published [September 14, 2010, at 75 FR 55663](#).

2020 MSE NOFO

VII. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

Questions should be directed to the following contact persons:

Subject Area	Point of Contact
Programmatic and Technical Questions	ADIIS: Michael Molnar Phone: 301-975-3673 E-mail: mike.molnar@nist.gov
	ADLP: Jason Boehm Phone: 301-975-8678 E-mail: jason.boehm@nist.gov
	CTL: Lucy Tedesco Phone: 301-975-3833 E-mail: lucy.tedesco@nist.gov
	EL: Millie Glick Phone: 301-975-5962 E-mail: millie.glick@nist.gov
	FR: Jiann Yang Phone: 301-975-6662 E-mail: jiann.yang@nist.gov
	ITL: Carol Clark Phone: 301-975-2239 E-mail: carol.clark@nist.gov
	IAAO: Claire Saundry Phone: 301-975-2386 E-mail: claire.saundry@nist.gov
	MML: Bill Clark Phone: 303-497-3268 E-mail: william.clark@nist.gov
	NCNR: Dan Neumann Phone: 301-975-5252 E-mail: dan.neumann@nist.gov
	PML: Julia Kuchilla Phone: 301-975-6393 E-mail: julia.kuchilla@nist.gov

2020 MSE NOFO

Subject Area	Point of Contact
	<p>SPO: Darlene Hamilton Phone: 301-975-2227 E-mail: darlene.hamilton@nist.gov</p> <p>SCO: Kerry Miles Phone: 301-975-5571 E-mail: kerry.miles@nist.gov</p>
Technical Assistance with Grants.gov Submissions	Grants.gov Phone: 800-518-4726 E-mail: support@grants.gov
Grant Rules and Regulations	<p>Gilberto Castillo (EL, FR, ITL, NCNR) Phone: 301-975-3726 E-mail: gilberto.castillo@nist.gov</p> <p>Dean Iwasaki (ADIIS, ADLP, CTL, IAAO, MML, PML, SPO, SCO) Phone: 301-975-8449 E-mail: dean.iwasaki@nist.gov</p>

VIII. Other

- 1. Personal and Business Information.** The applicant acknowledges and understands that information and data contained in applications for financial assistance, as well as information and data contained in financial, performance and other reports submitted by applicants, may be used by the Department of Commerce in conducting reviews and evaluations of its financial assistance programs. For this purpose, applicant information and data may be accessed, reviewed and evaluated by Department of Commerce employees, other Federal employees, and also by Federal agents and contractors, and/or by non-Federal personnel, all of whom enter into appropriate conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements covering the use of such information. As may be provided in the terms and conditions of a specific financial assistance award, applicants are expected to support program reviews and evaluations by submitting required financial and performance information and data in an accurate and timely manner, and by cooperating with Department of Commerce and external program evaluators. In accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.303(e), applicants are reminded that they must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with a Department of Commerce financial assistance award.

2020 MSE NOFO

In addition, Department of Commerce regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552, are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, Public Information. These regulations set forth rules for the Department regarding making requested materials, information, and records publicly available under the FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this NOFO may be subject to requests for release under the Act. In the event that an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information that should be exempt from disclosure under FOIA, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as Privileged, Confidential, Commercial or Financial Information. In accordance with 15 CFR § 4.9, the Department of Commerce will protect from disclosure confidential business information contained in financial assistance applications and other documentation provided by applicants to the extent permitted by law.