



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) -- Phase I
Grant General Conditions - November 1, 2005

Table of Contents

Article Subject

1. Type of Award
2. Grantee Responsibilities
3. Prior Approval Requirements
4. Significant Project Changes
 - a. Transfer of the Project Effort (subawards)
 - b. Change in Objectives or Scope
 - c. Absence or change of Principal Investigator
5. Pre-award costs
6. Subaward Requirements
7. Consultant Services
8. Grant Reporting Requirements
9. Payments
10. Rights in Technical Data
11. Copyrightable Material
12. Publications
13. Travel
14. Information Collection
15. Patent Rights
 - a. Definitions
 - b. Allocation of Principal Rights
 - c. Invention Disclosure, Election of Title and Filing of Patent Applications by Grantee
 - d. Conditions When the Government May Obtain Title
 - e. Minimum Rights to Grantee
 - f. Grantee Action to Protect Government's Interest
 - g. Subcontracts
 - h. Reporting on Utilization of Subject Inventions
 - i. Preference for United States Industry
 - j. March-in Rights
 - k. Special Provisions for Awards with Non-Profit Organizations
 - l. Communications
16. Program Income
17. Audit and Records
18. Site Visits
19. Suspension or Termination
20. Termination Review Procedure
21. Allowable Costs

22. Nondiscrimination
23. National Security: Classifiable Results Originating Under NSF Grants
24. Animal Welfare
25. Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules
26. Human Research Subjects
27. Resolution of Conflicting Conditions

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

28. Liability
29. Government Permits and Activities Abroad
30. Sharing of Findings, Data and Other Research Products
31. Debarment and Suspension
32. Sense of the Congress on Use of Funds
33. Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States

1. Type of Award

The grant letter specifies a pre-determined fixed amount of NSF support for the project described in the referenced grant proposal. NSF anticipates that the full award amount will be paid without regard to the actual cost subsequently incurred. However, payment of this amount is subject to compliance with the award terms and conditions, including Article 8, Grant Reporting Requirements, Article 9, Payments, and NSF's acceptance of the reports submitted by the Grantee under Article 8. On the basis of its review of these reports and/or other pertinent information, NSF reserves the right to suspend or terminate the award, if NSF determines that such action is appropriate. This award is not subject to the Federal Commercial Cost Principles (48 CFR Part 31), except insofar as provided under Article 19, Suspension or Termination and Article 20, Termination Review Procedure of the General Conditions. If estimated total expenditures are significantly less than the award amount, NSF reserves the right to renegotiate the amount of this award.

2. Grantee Responsibilities

The Grantee has full responsibility for the conduct of the project or activity supported under this award and for adherence to the award conditions. A minimum of two-thirds of the research and/or analytical effort must be performed by the Grantee. Although the Grantee is encouraged to seek the advice and opinion of the Foundation on special problems that may arise, such advice does not diminish the Grantee's responsibility for making sound scientific and administrative judgments and should not imply that the responsibility for operating decisions has shifted to the Foundation. The Grantee is responsible for notifying NSF about (1) any allegation of scientific misconduct that it concludes has substance and requires an investigation in accordance with NSF misconduct regulations published at 45 CFR 689, and (2) any significant problems relating to the scientific, technical, administrative or financial aspects of the grant.

The grantee is responsible for ensuring that the Principal Investigator(s) or Project Director(s) receives a copy of the award conditions, including: the award letter, the budget, these general terms and conditions, any special terms and conditions and any subsequent changes in the award conditions. These grant conditions are made available to the grantee by NSF in electronic form http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/special_conditions.jsp?org=NSF and may be duplicated, copied or otherwise reproduced by the grantee as appropriate. This provision does not alter the grantee's full responsibility for conduct of the project and compliance with all award terms and conditions. Award letters are available electronically via the NSF FastLane system at <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.jsp>. Sponsored project offices are able to view, print and/or download NSF award letters for their organizations

and Principal Investigators (PIs) can access their individual award letters through use of the FastLane system.

3. Prior Approval Requirements

Unless otherwise specified in the award, provisions of the applicable Federal cost principles and other Federal administrative requirements for prior agency approval apply only to the activities and expenditures specified below.

a. Written prior approval from the NSF Grants Officer is required for:

1. Significant Project Changes

- (a) Transfer of the project effort (see Article 4);
- (b) Change in objectives or scope (see Article 4);
- (c) Absence or change of PI (see Article 4)

b. The prior approval requirements identified above (as well as other types of award related notifications stipulated in Grant Policy Manual (GPM) [Exhibit III-1](#)) must be submitted electronically to NSF through use of the NSF FastLane system, unless other arrangements or accommodations are made in advance with the cognizant Grants Officer.

4. Significant Project Changes

The Grantee is required to notify NSF in writing and obtain appropriate approvals whenever there are significant changes in the project or its direction as set forth below:

a. Transfer of the Project Effort (Subawards).

1. NSF authorization to contract or otherwise transfer a significant part of the research or substantive effort to another organization that has been disclosed in the proposal is not needed unless approval has been specifically withheld in the award letter. (See [GPM Section 313](#).)

2. If it becomes necessary to transfer, by contract or other means, a significant part of the research or substantive effort after an award has been made, notification of this intent should be submitted to NSF electronically via the NSF FastLane system and electronically signed by an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). At a minimum, the request shall include a clear description of the work to be performed and the basis for selection of the subrecipient (except for collaborative/joint arrangements; see [GPM Section 313](#) for a definition.) NSF approval of such changes will be by an amendment to the grant signed by the NSF Grants Officer.

3. The grantee remains responsible for maintaining the necessary documentation on all subawards and making it available to NSF upon request. The grantee shall include subaward activities in the annual and final project reports that are submitted to NSF.

b. Change in Objectives or Scope. A proposed change in the phenomenon or phenomena under study or the objectives of the project stated in the proposal or agreed modifications thereto should be communicated to NSF via use of the FastLane notification and request module

(<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.jsp>.) NSF approval of such changes will be by an amendment to the award signed by the NSF Grants Officer.

c. *Absence or Change of Principal Investigator.* If a named Principal Investigator or Project Director (PI/PD) plans to or becomes aware that he or she will (1) devote substantially less effort to the work than anticipated in the approved proposal, (2) sever his or her connection with the Grantee organization, or (3) be absent for a continuous period of three months or more, or otherwise relinquish active direction of the project, he or she shall advise in writing the SBIR program officer and the Grantee's Authorized Organizational Representative. Action appropriate to the situation will be initiated consistent with standard NSF policies. Such changes are subject to NSF approval or other appropriate action including termination.

The prior approval requirements identified above must be submitted electronically to NSF through use of the NSF FastLane system

5. Pre-Award Costs

a. Grantees may approve pre-award costs incurred within the ninety calendar day period immediately preceding the effective date of the award.

b. Pre-award costs must be necessary for the effective and economical conduct of the project.

c. Pre-award expenditures are made at the grantee's risk. Grantee authority to approve pre-award costs does not impose an obligation on NSF: (1) in the absence of appropriations; (2) if an award is not subsequently made; or (3) if an award is made for a lesser amount than the grantee expected.

6. Subaward Requirements

Any proposed subcontract over \$5,000, other than those identified in the approved budget, must be forwarded to the NSF Grants Officer for approval. The proposed subcontract must be approved prior to its issuance. See also Article 2, Grantee Responsibilities, regarding the minimum amount of effort required to be completed by the Grant

The grantee remains responsible for maintaining the necessary documentation on all subawards and making it available to NSF upon request. The grantee shall include subaward activities in the annual and final project reports that are submitted to NSF.

7. Consultant Services

Payments to individuals for consultant services under this grant shall not exceed the daily equivalent of the then current maximum rate paid to an Executive Schedule Level IV Federal employee (exclusive of indirect cost, travel, per diem, clerical services, fringe benefits and supplies). The current rate (as well as prior archived rates) is available on the NSF Web site at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/faqs.pdf>.

8. Grant Reporting Requirements

Payment of the grant amount is conditioned upon the Grantee's acceptance and compliance with the award terms and conditions which include expending the approximate person-months proposed and delivery to NSF and its acceptance of required reports. The results of the Grantees' efforts under this grant are to be documented in the form of a final report which includes a project summary as specified in the Program Solicitation, Small Business Innovation Research. The final report (due within 15 days following the end of

the performance period) must be submitted to the SBIR program officer for review and acceptance using the SBIR Report Cover Page and in accordance with http://www.nsf.gov/eng/sbir/p1_final_report.jsp. Grantees shall submit final reports electronically via the project reporting system in FastLane. The NSF Fastlane system may be accessed at: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.jsp>.

9. Payments

Payments will be made by NSF as follows: 2/3 of the total award will be made within two weeks after receipt of the NSF SBIR Award Request for Initial Payment Form and the SF 3881/ACH Vendor form by the NSF Division of Financial Management but not before the award effective date and the remainder upon receipt and acceptance by NSF of a satisfactory final report and financial certification (included on the SBIR Report Cover Page). Request for initial advance payments should be made within 30 days of the date of the award, and must be made using an NSF SBIR Award Request for Initial Payment form. Failure to submit an acceptable final report will result in withholding of payment and may be grounds for suspension or termination of the award.

10. Rights in Technical Data

The Grantee may retain rights in technical data, including software developed under this grant, except that the Government shall have the right to use such data for Governmental purposes. The Final Technical Report delivered under this grant, including technical data, may be made available to the public by the Government, except for that portion of the report containing technical data properly identified and marked as set forth below. To the extent permitted by law, the Government will not release properly marked technical data, such as data relating to an invention or software, outside the Government, not be released outside the Government, except for evaluation purposes, for a period of four years from the expiration of the Phase II grant or of the Phase I grant, when no Phase II award is made, without approval of the Grantee. The Grantee must properly identify such data and set it off on a separate page in any submission to the Foundation. Such data must be clearly labeled as proprietary and marked with a legend similar to the following:

"The following is information which (name of Grantee) requests not be released to persons outside the Government, except for purposes of evaluation, for a period of four years from the expiration date of Grant No. (the NSF grant number) or the expiration date of a follow-on Phase II grant if awarded, whichever is later."

In addition to the rights vested in the Government to use such technical data during the four year period mentioned above, the Government shall retain a royalty free, irrevocable, world-wide license to use the data after the conclusion of the four year period whether or not the Grantee has sought or obtained patent protection or claimed copyright protection.

11. Copyrightable Material

a. Subject writing means any material that:

- (1) is or may be copyrightable under Title 17 of the United States Code; and
- (2) is produced by the Grantee or its employees in the performance of work under this grant.

Subject writings include such items as reports, books, journal articles, software, databases, sound recordings, video tapes, and video discs.

b. *Copyright Ownership, Government License.* Except as otherwise specified in the grant or by this paragraph, the Grantee may own or permit others to own copyright in all subject writings. The Grantee agrees that if it or anyone else does own copyright in a subject writing, the Federal government will have a non-exclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, royalty-free license to exercise or have exercised for or on behalf of the United States throughout the world all the exclusive rights provided by copyright which rights will be subject to Article 10, Rights in Technical Data. Such license, however, will not include the right to sell copies or photo records of the copyrighted works to the public.

c. *Awards Affected by International Agreements.* If the award indicates it is subject to an identified international agreement or treaty, NSF can direct the grantee to convey to any foreign participant or otherwise dispose of such rights to subject writings as are required to comply with that agreement or treaty

d. *Grantee Action to Protect Government Interests.* The Grantee agrees to acquire, through written agreement or an employment relationship, the ability to comply with the requirements of the preceding paragraphs and, in particular, to acquire the ability to convey rights in a subject writing to a foreign participant if directed by the Foundation under the previous paragraph. The Grantee further agrees that any transfer of copyright or any other rights to a subject writing, by it or anyone whom it has allowed to own such rights, will be made subject to the requirements of this article.

12. Publications

a. *Acknowledgment of Support.* The grantee is responsible for assuring that an acknowledgment of NSF support:

1. is made in any publication (including World Wide Web pages) of any material based on or developed under this project, in the following terms:

"This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. (NSF grant number)."

2. is orally acknowledged during all news media interviews, including popular media such as radio, television and news magazines.

b. *Disclaimer.* The grantee is responsible for assuring that every publication of material (including World Wide Web pages) based on or developed under this award, except scientific articles or papers appearing in scientific, technical or professional journals, contains the following disclaimer:

"Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation."

c. *Copies for NSF.* The grantee is responsible for assuring that the cognizant NSF Program Officer is provided access to, either electronically or in paper form, a copy of every publication of material based on or developed under this award, clearly labeled with the award number and other appropriate identifying information, promptly after publication.

d. *Metric System.* All reports and publications resulting from this NSF award are encouraged to use the metric system of weights and measures.

13. Travel

a. Allowability of Travel Expenses.

1. Expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence and related items incurred by project personnel and by outside consultants employed on the project (see [GPM Section 614](#)) who are in travel status on business related to an NSF-supported project are allowable as prescribed in the governing cost principles. The requirements for prior approval detailed in the governing cost principles are waived.

2. Except as provided in the governing cost principles, the difference between economy airfare and a higher-class airfare is unallowable. A train, bus or other surface carrier may be used in lieu of, or as a supplement to, air travel at the lowest first-class rate by the transportation facility used. However, if such travel could have been performed by air, the allowance will not normally exceed that for jet economy airfare.

14. Information Collection

Information collection activities performed under this grant are the responsibility of the Grantee, and NSF support of the project does not constitute NSF approval of the survey design, questionnaire content, or information collection procedures. The Grantee shall not represent to respondents that such information is being collected for or in association with the National Science Foundation or any other Government agency without the specific written approval of such information collection plan or device by the Foundation. However, this requirement is not intended to preclude mention of NSF support of the project in response to an inquiry or acknowledgment of such support in any publication of this information.

15. Patent Rights

a. Definitions.

1. **INVENTION** means any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable or otherwise protectable under Title 35 of the USC, to any novel variety of plant which is or may be protected under the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 USC §§2321 et seq.).

2. **SUBJECT INVENTION** means any invention of the grantee conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of work under this award, provided that in the case of a variety of plant, the date of determination (as defined in section 41(d)) must also occur during the period of performance.

3. **PRACTICAL APPLICATION** means to manufacture in the case of a composition or product, to practice in the case of a process or method, or to operate in the case of a machine or system; and, in each case, under such conditions as to establish that the invention is being utilized and that its benefits are to the extent permitted by law or Government regulations available to the public on reasonable terms.

4. **MADE** when used in relation to any invention means the conception or first actual reduction to practice of such invention.

5. **NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION** means a domestic university or other institution of higher education or an organization of the type described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 USC §501(c)) and exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (26

USC §501(a)) or any domestic non-profit scientific or educational organization qualified under a State non-profit organization statute.

b. *Allocation of Principal Rights.* The grantee may retain the entire right, title, and interest throughout the world to each subject invention subject to the provisions of this Patent Rights clause and 35 USC §203. With respect to any subject invention in which the grantee retains title, the Federal Government shall have a non-exclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced for or on behalf of the U.S. the subject invention throughout the world. If the award indicates it is subject to an identified international agreement or treaty, the National Science Foundation (NSF) also has the right to direct the grantee to convey to any foreign participant such patent rights to subject inventions as are required to comply with that agreement or treaty.

c. *Invention Disclosure, Election of Title and Filing of Patent Applications by Grantee.*

1. The grantee will disclose each subject invention to NSF within two months after the inventor discloses it in writing to grantee personnel responsible for the administration of patent matters. The disclosure to NSF shall be in the form of a written report and shall identify the award under which the invention was made and the inventor(s). It shall be sufficiently complete in technical detail to convey a clear understanding of the nature, purpose, operation, and, to the extent known, the physical, chemical, biological or electrical characteristics of the invention. The disclosure shall also identify any publication, on sale or public use of the invention, whether a manuscript describing the invention has been submitted for publication and, if so, whether it has been accepted for publication, at the time of disclosure. In addition, after disclosure to NSF, the grantee will promptly notify NSF of the acceptance of any manuscript describing the invention for publication, or of any on sale or public use planned by the grantee.

2. The grantee will elect in writing whether or not to retain title to any such invention by notifying NSF within two years of disclosure to NSF. However, in any case where publication, on sale, or public use has initiated the one-year statutory period wherein valid patent protection can still be obtained in the U.S., the period for election of title may be shortened by NSF to a date that is no more than 60 days prior to the end of the statutory period.

3. The grantee will file its initial patent application on an invention to which it elects to retain title within one year after election of title or, if earlier, prior to the end of any statutory period wherein valid patent protection can be obtained in the U.S. after a publication, on sale, or public use. The grantee will file patent applications in additional countries or international patent offices within either ten months of the corresponding initial patent application, or six months from the date when permission is awarded by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to file foreign patent applications when such filing has been prohibited by a Secrecy Order.

4. Requests for extension of the time for disclosure to NSF, election, and filing under subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3. may, at the discretion of NSF, be awarded.

d. *Conditions When the Government May Obtain Title.* The grantee will convey to NSF, upon written request, title to any subject invention:

1. if the grantee fails to disclose or elect the subject invention within the times specified in paragraph c. above, or elects not to retain title, provided that NSF may only request title within 60 days after learning of the failure of the grantee to disclose or elect within the specified times;

2. in those countries in which the grantee fails to file patent applications within the times specified in paragraph c. above, but prior to its receipt of the written request of NSF, the grantee shall continue to retain title in that country; or

3. in any country in which the grantee decides not to continue the prosecution of any application for, to pay the maintenance fees on, or defend in a reexamination or opposition proceeding on, a patent on a subject invention.

e. *Minimum Rights to Grantee.*

1. The grantee will retain a non-exclusive royalty-free license throughout the world in each subject invention to which the Government obtains title, except if the grantee fails to disclose the subject invention within the times specified in paragraph c. above. The grantee's license extends to its domestic subsidiaries and affiliates, if any, within the corporate structure of which the grantee is a party and includes the right to award sublicenses of the same scope to the extent the grantee was legally obligated to do so at the time the award was made. The license is transferable only with the approval of NSF except when transferred to the successor of that part of the grantee's business to which the invention pertains.

2. The grantee's domestic license may be revoked or modified by NSF to the extent necessary to achieve expeditious practical application of the subject invention pursuant to an application for an exclusive license submitted in accordance with applicable provisions at 37 CFR §404. This license will not be revoked in that field of use or the geographical areas in which the grantee has achieved practical application and continues to make the benefits of the invention reasonably accessible to the public. The license in any foreign country may be revoked or modified at discretion of NSF to the extent the grantee, its licensees, or its domestic subsidiaries or affiliates have failed to achieve practical application in that foreign country.

3. Before revocation or modification of the license, NSF will furnish the grantee a written notice of its intention to revoke or modify the license, and the grantee will be allowed thirty days (or such other time as may be authorized by NSF for good cause shown by the grantee) after the notice to show cause why the license should not be revoked or modified. The grantee has the right to appeal, in accordance with applicable regulations in 37 CFR §404 concerning the licensing of Government-owned inventions, any decision concerning the revocation or modification of its license.

f. *Grantee Action to Protect Government's Interest.*

1. The grantee agrees to execute or to have executed and promptly deliver to NSF all instruments necessary to: (i) establish or confirm the rights the Government has throughout the world in those subject inventions for which the grantee retains title; and (ii) convey title to NSF when requested under paragraph d. above, and to enable the Government to obtain patent protection throughout the world in that subject invention.

2. The grantee agrees to require, by written agreement, its employees, other than clerical and non-technical employees, to disclose promptly in writing to personnel identified as responsible for the administration of patent matters and in a format suggested by the grantee each subject invention made under this award in order that the grantee can comply with the disclosure provisions of paragraph c. above, and to execute all papers necessary to file patent applications on subject inventions and to establish the Government's rights in the subject inventions. The disclosure format should require, as a minimum, the information requested by paragraph c.1. above. The grantee shall instruct such employees through the

employee agreements or other suitable educational programs on the importance of reporting inventions in sufficient time to permit the filing of patent applications prior to U.S. or foreign statutory bars.

3. The grantee will notify NSF of any decision not to continue prosecution of a patent application, pay maintenance fees, or defend in a reexamination or opposition proceeding on a patent, in any country, not less than 30 days before the expiration of the response period required by the relevant patent office.

4. The grantee agrees to include, within the specification of any U.S. patent application and any patent issuing thereon covering a subject invention, the following statement: "This invention was made with Government support under (identify the award) awarded by the National Science Foundation. The Government has certain rights in this invention."

5. The grantee or its representative will complete, execute and forward to NSF a confirmation of a License to the U.S. Government and the page of a United States patent application that contains the Federal support clause within two months of filing any domestic or foreign patent application.

g. *Subcontracts.*

1. The grantee will include this Patent Rights clause, suitably modified to identify the parties, in all subcontracts, regardless of tier, for experimental, developmental or research work. The subcontractor will retain all rights provided for the grantee in this Patent Rights clause, and the grantee will not, as part of the consideration for awarding the subcontract, obtain rights in the subcontractors' subject inventions.

2. In the case of subcontracts, at any tier, when the prime award by NSF was a contract (but not a cooperative agreement), NSF, subcontractor, and contractor agree that the mutual obligations of the parties created by this Patent Rights clause constitute a contract between the subcontractor and the Foundation with respect to those matters covered by this Patent Rights clause.

h. *Reporting on Utilization of Subject Inventions.* The grantee agrees to submit on request periodic reports no more frequently than annually on the utilization of a subject invention or on efforts at obtaining such utilization that are being made by the grantee or its licensees or assignees. Such reports shall include information regarding the status of development, date of first commercial sale or use, gross royalties received by the grantee and such other data and information as NSF may reasonably specify. The grantee also agrees to provide additional reports in connection with any march-in proceeding undertaken by NSF in accordance with paragraph j. of this Patent Rights clause. As required by 35 USC §202(c)(5), NSF agrees it will not disclose such information to persons outside the Government without the permission of the grantee.

i. *Preference for United States Industry.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this Patent Rights clause, the grantee agrees that neither it nor any assignee will grant to any person the exclusive right to use or sell any subject invention in the U.S. unless such person agrees that any products embodying the subject invention or produced through the use of the subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the U.S. However, in individual cases, the requirement for such an agreement may be waived by NSF upon a showing by the grantee or its assignee that reasonable but unsuccessful efforts have been made to award licenses on similar terms to potential licensees that would be likely to manufacture substantially in the U.S. or that under the circumstances domestic manufacture is not commercially feasible.

j. *March-in Rights.* The grantee agrees that with respect to any subject invention in which it has acquired title, NSF has the right in accordance with procedures at 37 CFR §401.6 and NSF regulations at 45 CFR §650.13 to require the grantee, an assignee or exclusive licensee of a subject invention to grant a non-

exclusive, partially exclusive, or exclusive license in any field of use to a responsible applicant or applicants, upon terms that are reasonable under the circumstances and if the grantee, assignee, or exclusive licensee refuses such a request, NSF has the right to grant such a license itself if NSF determines that:

1. such action is necessary because the grantee or assignee has not taken or is not expected to take within a reasonable time, effective steps to achieve practical application of the subject invention in such field of use;

2. such action is necessary to alleviate health or safety needs which are not reasonably satisfied by the grantee, assignee, or their licensees;

3. such action is necessary to meet requirements for public use specified by Federal regulations and such requirements are not reasonably satisfied by the grantee, assignee, or licensee; or

4. such action is necessary because the agreement required by paragraph i. of this Patent Rights clause has not been obtained or waived or because a licensee of the exclusive right to use or sell any subject invention in the U.S. is in breach of such agreement.

k. *Special Provisions for Awards with Non-profit Organizations.* If the grantee is a non-profit organization, it agrees that:

1. rights to a subject invention in the U.S. may not be assigned without the approval of NSF, except where such assignment is made to an organization which has as one of its primary functions the management of inventions, provided that such assignee will be subject to the same provisions as the grantee;

2. the grantee will share royalties collected on a subject invention with the inventor, including Federal employee co-inventors (when NSF deems it appropriate) when the subject invention is assigned in accordance with 35 USC §202(e) and 37 CFR §401.10;

3. the balance of any royalties or income earned by the grantee with respect to subject inventions, after payment of expenses (including payments to inventors) incidental to the administration of subject inventions, will be utilized for the support of scientific or engineering research or education; and

4. it will make efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to attract licensees of subject inventions that are small business firms and that it will give preference to a small business firm if the grantee determines that the small business firm has a plan or proposal for marketing the invention which, if executed, is equally likely to bring the invention to practical application as any plans or proposals from applicants that are not small business firms; provided that the grantee is also satisfied that the small business firm has the capability and resources to carry out its plan or proposal. The decision whether to give a preference in any specific case will be at the discretion of the grantee. However, the grantee agrees that the Secretary of Commerce may review the grantee's licensing program and decisions regarding small business applicants, and the grantee will negotiate changes to its licensing policies, procedures or practices with the Secretary when the Secretary's review discloses that the grantee could take reasonable steps to implement more effectively the requirements of this paragraph k.4.

1. *Communications.* All communications required by this Patent Rights clause should be sent to:

Patent Assistant
Office of the General Counsel
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Room 1265
Arlington, VA 22230

16. Program Income

a. *Definition.* Program income means gross income earned by the grantee that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the award. Program income includes, but is not limited to, income from fees for services performed, the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under the award, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under the award, license fees and royalties on patents and copyrights, and interest on loans made with award funds. Interest earned on advances of Federal funds is not program income. Program income does not include the receipt of principal on loans, rebates, credits, discounts, etc., or interest earned on any of them.

b. *Standard Treatment.* Unless otherwise specified in the award, program income (except as noted in (1) below) received or accrued to the grantee during the period of this award shall be retained and added to the funds committed to the project by NSF and used to further project objectives. Also, unless otherwise specified, the grantee shall have no obligation to NSF with respect to: (1) license fees and royalties for copyrighted material, patents, patent applications, trademarks, and inventions received or accrued at any time; or (2) program income received beyond the period of this award.

c. *Records Retention.* The grantee is required to retain appropriate financial and other records relating to project income earned during the award period and for three years beyond the end of the award period.

17. Audit and Records

a. Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and other records pertinent to this award shall be retained by the grantee for a period of three years from submission of the final reports specified in Article 8.

1. Records that relate to audits, appeals, litigation or the settlement of claims arising out of the performance of the project shall be retained until such audits, appeals, litigation or claims have been disposed of.

2. Records relating to projects subject to special project income provisions shall be retained until three years from the end of the grantee's fiscal year in which the award requirement for reporting income expires.

b. Unless court action or audit proceedings have been initiated, the grantee may substitute microfilm copies of original records.

c. The Director of the National Science Foundation and the Comptroller General of the U.S., or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any pertinent books, documents, papers and records of the grantee organization and of the performing organization, if different, to make audits, examinations, excerpts and transcripts. Further, any negotiated contract in excess of the simplified

acquisition threshold (currently \$100,000) made by the grantee shall include a provision to the effect that the grantee, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Comptroller General of the U.S., or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to pertinent records for similar purposes.

d. In order to avoid duplicate record keeping, NSF may make special arrangements with the grantee to retain any records that are needed for joint use. NSF may request transfer to its custody of records not needed by the grantee when it determines that the records possess long-term retention value. When the records are transferred to, or maintained by NSF, the three-year retention requirement is not applicable to the grantee. In the rare event that this provision is exercised, NSF will negotiate a mutually agreeable arrangement with the grantee regarding reimbursement of costs.

e. Grantees that are States, Local Governments or Non-Profit Organizations, shall arrange for the conduct of audits as required by OMB Circular A-133 “*Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*” (including colleges and universities.) They shall provide copies of the reports of these audits to the cognizant Federal audit agency. Any Federal Audit of this project deemed necessary by NSF shall build upon the results of such audit(s).

18. Site Visits

The Foundation, through authorized representatives, has the right, at all reasonable times, to make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems and to provide such technical assistance as may be required. If any site visit is made by the Foundation on the premises of the Grantee or a subcontractor under the grant, the Grantee shall provide and shall require its subcontractors to provide all reasonable facilities and assistance for the safety and convenience of the Government representatives in the performance of their duties. All site visits and evaluations shall be performed in such a manner as will not unduly delay the work.

19. Suspension or Termination

a. The grant may be suspended or terminated in whole or in part, when the Foundation believes that the Grantee has materially failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant, including failure to provide satisfactory reports as required under Article 8, Grant Reporting Requirements, or when the Foundation has other reasonable cause, or for any reason by mutual agreement between the Foundation and the Grantee upon the request of either party, or when the parties cannot mutually agree to a termination.

b. Normally, action by the Foundation to suspend or terminate a grant will be taken only after the Grantee has been informed by the Foundation of any deficiency on its part and given an opportunity to correct it; but the Foundation may immediately suspend or terminate the grant without notice when it believes such action is reasonable to protect the interests of the Government.

c. No costs incurred during a suspension period or after the effective date of a termination will be allowable, except those costs which, in the opinion of the Foundation, the Grantee could not reasonably avoid or eliminate, or which were otherwise authorized by the suspension or termination notice, provided such costs would otherwise be allowable under the terms of the grant and 48 CFR Part 31.

d. Within 30 days of the termination date, the Grantee will furnish a summary of progress under the grant and an itemized accounting of costs incurred prior to the termination date or pursuant to c., above. Final allowable costs under a termination settlement shall be in accordance with the terms of the grant, including this article, and the commercial cost principles contained at 48 CFR Part 31, giving due

consideration to the progress under the grant. In no event will the total of NSF payments under a terminated grant exceed the grant amount, or the NSF pro rata share when cost sharing was anticipated, whichever is less.

e. A notice of termination other than by mutual agreement and/or the final settlement amount may be subject to review pursuant to Article 20.

20. Termination Review Procedure

a. A request for review of a notice of termination should be addressed to the Director, Division of Grants and Agreements, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington VA, 22230. It must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the postmarked date of such notice.

b. The request for review must contain a full statement of the Grantee's position and the pertinent facts and reasons in support of such position.

c. Review of a notice of termination will be conducted in accordance with standard NSF policies and procedures, as appropriate, which will be provided to the grantee upon request. Grant Policy Manual 910.

d. Pending resolution of the request for review, the notice of termination shall remain in effect.

21. Allowable Costs

a. The allowability of costs and cost allocation methods for work performed under this award, up to the amount specified in the award, shall be determined in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles in effect on the effective date of the award and the terms of the award.

b. The Federal cost principles applicable are contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation 31.2 [48 CFR §31.2] for commercial firms and those non-profit organizations specifically exempted from the provisions of OMB Circular A-122; and

c. Certain prior approval requirements contained in these Federal cost principles have been modified by Article 2.

22. Nondiscrimination

a. The award and any program assisted thereby are subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 [42 U.S.C. §2000d], the regulations issued pursuant thereto by NSF [45 CFR §611], and the Assurance of Compliance which the grantee has filed with NSF. No person on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under the award. In addition, if the project involves an education activity or program, as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 [20 U.S.C. §§ 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686], no person on the basis of sex shall be excluded from participation in the project. Further, by acceptance of the award, the grantee assures NSF that it will comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 [29 U.S.C. §794] and NSF's implementing regulations [45 CFR §605].

b. The grantee shall obtain from each organization that applies to be or serves as a subrecipient, subgrantee or subcontractor under the award (for other than the provision of commercially available supplies, materials, equipment or general support services) an Assurance of Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Civil Rights Act assurances may be filed with the grantee in one of two ways:

1. by written notification that the appropriate Assurance of Compliance form has been executed and filed either with NSF or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; or

2. by executing and filing with the grantee an NSF Assurance of Compliance Form. The grantee shall obtain assurances pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, from subrecipients by incorporating into the subagreement a provision that acceptance of the subagreement constitutes assurance.

c. The grantee agrees to comply with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 [42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq] as implemented by the Department of Health and Human Service regulations at 45 CFR §90 and the regulations of NSF at 45 CFR §617. In the event the grantee passes on NSF financial assistance to subrecipients, this provision shall apply to the subrecipients, and the instrument under which the Federal financial assistance is passed to the subrecipient shall contain a provision identical to this provision.

23. National Security: Classifiable Results Originating Under NSF Grants

a. NSF does not have original classification authority and does not normally support classified projects. It therefore does not expect that results of NSF-supported research projects will be classifiable, except in very rare instances.

b. Executive Order (E.O.) 12958, as amended, states that basic research information not clearly related to the national security may not be classified. Nevertheless, some information concerning, among other things, scientific, technological or economic matters relating to the national security or cryptology may require classification.

c. There may be cases when an NSF grantee originates information during the course of an NSF-supported project that the grantee believes requires classification under E.O. 12958.

d. In such a case, the grantee has the responsibility to promptly:

1. submit the information directly to the government agency with appropriate subject matter interest and classification authority or, if uncertain as to which agency should receive the information, to the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office, General Services Administration (GSA);

2. protect the information as though it were classified until the grantee is informed that the information does not require classification, but not longer than 30 days after receipt by the agency with subject matter interest or by the GSA; and

3. notify the cognizant NSF Program Officer.

e. The Executive Order requires the agency with appropriate subject matter interest and classification authority to decide within 30 days whether to classify the material. If it determines the information will require classification, the grantee shall cooperate with that agency, NSF or other appropriate agencies in securing all related project notes and papers.

f. If the information is determined to require classification, the grantee may wish or need to discontinue the project. (See Article 19 and [GPM 913](#), “[Termination by Mutual Agreement](#).”)

24. Animal Welfare

a. Any grantee performing research on vertebrate animals¹ shall comply with the Animal Welfare Act [7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.] and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the Secretary of Agriculture [9 CFR §§ 1.1-4.11] pertaining to the humane care, handling, and treatment of vertebrate animals held or used for research, teaching or other activities supported by Federal awards. The grantee is expected to ensure that the guidelines described in the National Academy of Science (NAS) Publication, "*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*" (1996) are followed and to comply with the *Public Health Service Policy and Government Principles Regarding the Care and Use of Animals* (included as Appendix D to the NAS Guide).

b. In the event the grantee's multi-project Assurance is cancelled or lapses, the grantee must immediately notify the cognizant Grants Officer identified in the award letter.

NOTE--The grantee may request registration of its facility and a current listing of licensed dealers from the Regional Office of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture, for the region in which its research facility is located. The location of the nearest APHIS Regional Office, as well as information concerning this and other APHIS activities, may be obtained at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>.

25. Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules

If this award supports research involving recombinant DNA molecules, the grantee agrees to comply with the requirements of [GPM Section 712](#).

26. Human Research Subjects

The Grantee is responsible for the protection of the rights and welfare of any human subjects involved in research, development and related activities supported by this grant. The Grantee agrees to comply with the NSF regulation, entitled, "Protection of Human Subjects, 45 CFR 690."

27. Resolution of Conflicting Conditions

Should there be any inconsistency between any special conditions contained in the grant and these Grant General Conditions, the special conditions in the grant shall control.

Should there be any inconsistency between these Grant General Conditions, any special conditions contained in the grant, and any NSF guides, brochures, etc., cited or included by reference in the grant, the matter should be referred to the NSF Grants Officer for guidance.

¹ In addition to vertebrate animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act, the requirements specified in this Article also are extended to rats, birds and mice.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

28. Liability

The Foundation cannot assume any liability for accidents, illnesses, or claims arising out of any work supported by a grant or for unauthorized use of patented or copyrighted materials. The Grantee institution is advised to take

such steps as may be deemed necessary to insure or protect itself, its employees and its property.

29. Government Permits and Activities Abroad

a. For awards that include activities requiring permits from appropriate Federal, state, or local government authorities, the grantee should obtain any required permits prior to undertaking the proposed activities.

b. The grantee must comply with the laws and regulations of any foreign country in which research is to be conducted. Areas of potential concern include: (1) requirements for advance approval to conduct research or surveys; (2) special arrangements for the participation of foreign scientists and engineers; and (3) special visas for persons engaged in research or studies. NSF does not assume responsibility for grantee compliance with the laws and regulations of the country in which the work is to be conducted.

c. The grantee also should assure that activities carried on outside the U.S. are coordinated as necessary with appropriate U.S. and foreign government authorities and that necessary licenses, permits or approvals are obtained prior to undertaking the proposed activities.

30. Sharing of Findings, Data, and Other Research Products

a. NSF expects significant findings from research and education activities it supports to be promptly submitted for publication, with authorship that accurately reflects the contributions of those involved. It expects investigators to share with other researchers, at no more than incremental cost and within a reasonable time, the data, samples, physical collections, and other supporting materials created or gathered in the course of the work. It also encourages Grantees to share software and inventions or otherwise act to make the innovations they embody widely useful and usable.

b. Adjustments and, where essential, exceptions may be allowed to safeguard the rights of individuals and subjects, the validity of results, or the integrity of collections or to accommodate legitimate interests of investigators.

31. Debarment and Suspension

Recipients shall fully comply with the requirements stipulated in Subpart C of 45 CFR §620, entitled “*Responsibilities of Participants Regarding Transactions.*” The recipient is responsible for ensuring that any lower tier covered transaction, as described in Subpart B of 45 CFR §620, entitled “*Covered Transactions,*” includes a term or condition requiring compliance with Subpart C. The recipient also is responsible for further requiring the inclusion of a similar term or condition in any subsequent lower tier covered transaction. The recipient acknowledges that failing to disclose the information required under 45 CFR §620.335 may result in the termination of the award, or pursuance of other available remedies, including suspension and debarment. Recipients may access the Excluded Parties List System at <http://epls.arnet.gov>.

32. Sense of the Congress on Use of Funds

Recent Acts making appropriations to NSF provide "It is the sense of the Congress that, to the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased with funds made available in this Act should be American-made" and require the Foundation to notify awardees of that statement.

33. Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States

In accordance with Executive Order 13043, Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States, dated April 16, 1997, "grantees are encouraged to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for their employees when operating company-owned, rented, or personally owned vehicles."