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2005-2006 Short-Term Travel Grant Program for Armenian Scientists and Engineers (TGP-4)

On a competitive basis, the National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT) will provide up to US$2,500 each to promising scientists and engineers from the Republic of Armenia to facilitate their participation in international meetings of scientific and engineering professional societies in the United States and Europe[1].

The major goal of this activity is to encourage the integration of Armenian scientists with the international scientific community through participation in international scientific meetings and conferences.

The duration of this program is approximately one year starting June 2005 and ending June 2006, or until funding has been exhausted. With the requested funds, NFSAT hopes to support 12-14 grants at approximately US$2,500 each, depending on the location of the scientific meetings. Assuming sufficient meritorious proposals are received, a total of approximately US$25,000 will be awarded.

The Short-Term Travel Grant Program is carried out under an award provided to NFSAT by the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF). Funding for the Short-Term Travel Grant Program is provided by the U.S. Department of State.

NFSAT is an independent nonprofit foundation that was established in 1997 with funding from the CRDF according to the legislation of the Government of Armenia. NFSAT promotes scientific research and technological development in Armenia through competitive grants, training, and technical resources. Further information on the NFSAT may be found on-line at http://www.nfsat.am.

The CRDF is a nonprofit organization authorized by the U.S. Congress and established in 1995 by the National Science Foundation. This unique public-private partnership promotes scientific and technical collaboration between the United States and other countries, primarily through Eurasian countries, through grants, technical resources, and training. Further information on the CRDF may be found on-line at http://www.crdf.org.

Eligibility and Funding Guidelines:

- This program is open to all scientists and engineers conducting basic research in the physical and natural sciences.
- Travel must not exceed 1 month in duration (including pre- or post-conference meetings).

[1] Eligible European countries include European Union nations, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Monaco, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Serbia-Montenegro. Please contact NFSAT for clarification on questions regarding the eligibility of European countries for planned travel.

- All applicants must be citizens of and currently reside in Armenia.
- All applicants must provide confirmation from the conference organizers that they have waived conference fees and have accepted the applicant's request to make a presentation at the conference.
- All applicants must demonstrate proof of additional financial support from other sources for at least 10% of the total cost of travel. Acceptable sources of support include, but are not limited to, the conference organizers, scientific institutions, state budget, and other grants.
- Applicants attending conferences in Europe must demonstrate that there are U.S. scientists who will participate in the conference.
- As a rule, only one participant from each institution will be supported for each conference. However, NFSAT will allow more than one participant from each institution to attend large conferences, as long as they demonstrate that they will attend different sections of the conference.
- Applicants who have received NFSAT Short-Term Travel Grant Program awards within the past two years are not eligible to apply for this program unless they will attend pre- or post-conference meetings with potential U.S. partners.
- Travel grants will be subject to U.S. Government travel guidelines, including the Fly America Act.

Recommendations for Applicants Meeting with For-Profit Companies:

- Applicants who are in the process of commercializing their technologies or who will travel to the United States to meet with representatives of for-profit companies are encouraged to apply to the CRDF Travel Grants Program instead of the NFSAT Short Term Travel Grants Program.
- For more information on the CRDF Travel Grants Program, please consult the CRDF website at www.crdf.org or contact CRDF Industry Programs staff at tgp@crdf.org.

NFSAT will give the highest priority to proposals submitted by:

- Scientists and engineers who were formerly engaged in weapons research and who are currently employed full-time at civilian research institutions;
- Young scientists (up to 35 years of age), graduate students, and undergraduate students at Armenian universities who have completed at least three years of study;
- Applicants from outside the Yerevan area (which includes Yerevan, Ashtarak and Byurakan);
- First-time visitors to scientific meetings in Europe or the United States;
- Applicants presenting letters from American counterparts indicating interest in pre- or post-conference meetings to discuss an area of potential scientific or engineering cooperation.

Application Guidelines:

- Applicants must submit two hard copies of their applications to NFSAT. Unless otherwise noted below, all application materials must be in English.
- Applications must include the following materials:
  1. A signed Application Form (see Form A);
  2. Completed Budget Form (see Form B);
  3. Curriculum Vitae for the applicant that includes the full name, date and place of birth, contact address, information on the applicant's education, prior and current employment, honors received, research interests, and long-term educational and professional goals (maximum 2 pages);

4. Abstract submitted to the conference that includes a brief description of the scientific work (maximum 1-2 pages);
5. A statement from the conference organizer waiving registration fees for the applicant;
6. Proof of additional financial support from other sources (in Armenian or English);
7. Short letter of recommendation or endorsement from the applicant's organization, which MUST contain the full name of applicant, titles of conference and presentation (in Armenian);
8. For applicants who apply for support for European conferences, proof that U.S. scientists will participate. Acceptable materials include a conference program or a list of individual participants, exhibitors, organizing committee members, presenters, course instructors, keynote speakers, etc.
9. For those attending other meetings while in the U.S., copies of any invitations from U.S. colleagues for specific pre- or post-conference meetings (mandatory for applicants who have received a NFSAT travel grant within the past two years).

Applications without these documents will not be considered for support.

Allowable Costs:

- The maximum award amount is US$2,500. No application requesting more than US$2,500 from NFSAT will be considered.
- Travel must not exceed 1 month in duration (including pre- or post-conference meetings).
- Proof of additional financial support from conference organizers, scientific institutions, international hosts, state budget or other sources (excluding private individuals) is strictly required for all applicants. This support must be at least 10% of the total amount requested from NFSAT and can be 'in-kind support,' such as free lodging.
- The following costs are allowable under this program:
    a. International Transportation. Lowest-cost applicable round-trip airfare. Air travel must comply with the provisions of the Fly America Act. Specifically, transoceanic air tickets must be purchased from U.S. carriers. For more information on this regulation, please contact the NFSAT office or refer to the following website: http://www.crdf.org/AwardsAdministration/fly_america_act.pdf
    b. Per Diem. Lodging and meals and incidentals based on U.S. Government per diem guidelines. Please refer to the following websites for detailed per diem rates: http://www.govexec.com/travel and http://policyworks.gov/org/main/mt/homepage/mtt/perdiem/perd05d.html.
    c. Visa Fees. Not to exceed US$100.
    d. Air passenger exit duty. 10,000 Armenian dram (approximately US$22) at the Yerevan airport.
    e. Health insurance. Mandatory for all travelers.
    f. Ground Transportation. Cost of transport to and from airports. Ground transportation expenses may not exceed US$100 and receipts are required for reimbursement.

Review of Proposals:

- Each proposal will be screened for eligibility and completeness upon receipt by NFSAT. Members of the NFSAT Scientific Board who have appropriate expertise in the field of the proposal will review all proposals.

- NFSAT may turn to external reviewers if additional consultations are needed or if none of the Scientific Board members has the expertise to review the proposal.
- During the decision-making process, NFSAT will give special consideration to proposals that meet the priorities listed above. The anticipated duration of the review process is a maximum of 20 days.
- NFSAT will notify the applicants of the results in writing approximately 40 days prior to the meeting. The grant will be activated approximately 30 days prior to travel. All travel grantees are required to sign the awards documents and agree to the grant conditions before any payments or travel arrangements can be made for the awards.

Deadlines:

- NFSAT must receive requests for travel support at least 45 calendar days prior to the intended date of travel.

Applications should be sent directly to:

Anna Baghramyan, Senior Program Manager
Travel Grant Program, NFSAT
Azatutian Ave., 26,
Yerevan
Tel: 28 81 92
E-mail: anna@nfsat.am

Checklist of Application Contents
☐ 1. Application Form (Form A)
☐ 2. Budget Form (Form B)
☐ 3. Curriculum Vitae
☐ 4. Abstract
☐ 5. Statement from Conference Organizer
☐ 6. Proof of Additional Financial Support
☐ 7. Letter of Endorsement from Applicant's Organization
☐ 8. Proof that U.S. Scientists Will Participate (if attending a European conference)
☐ 9. Pre or Post-Conference Meeting Invitations (if applicable)

NFSAT SHORT TERM TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM
FOR ARMENIAN SCIENTISTS
FORM A

I. Name

A. Last_____ First_____ Patronymic_____

B. Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)_____

C. Highest Degree Earned _____Field_____ Year Awarded_____

D. Office Phone_____ Fax_____ E-mail_____

E. Professional Title/Position _____

F. Institution/Address _____

_____

II. Status

A. Do you have experience in weapons research? ___YES; ___NO.

If YES, please provide the appropriate weapons scientist code from **Appendix 1** describing your experience to the right and a brief description of your previous weapons experience below. Defense Code_____

_____

B. Have you previously visited the U.S.? ___YES; ___NO;

If YES, please provide a brief 3-4 word description of the reasons for your previous visit(s)_____

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C. Have you previously received an award from NFSAT? ___YES; ___NO;

If YES, please provide information about the previous award: Award #_____; Year _____

III. Conference Information

Name of Conference _____

_____

Contact information for conference organizers_____

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Location: _____ Date(s) of Conference _____

Topic of Presentation _____

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IV. Pre/Post Meetings (Please provide available contact data)

Full Name of U.S. Contact	Affiliation and Contact Information (Tel., Fax, E-mail)	Proposed Dates of Visit

V. Budget (Applicants may not request more than US$2,500 from NFSAT and must have at least 10% of the total amount of travel expenses come from other sources.)

VI. _____ _____

Signature* Date

*By signing this application, I certify that I meet all the eligibility requirements in this announcement, and that all information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

RECEIVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

NFSAT staff signature

NFSAT SHORT TERM TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM FOR ARMENIAN SCIENTISTS BUDGET FORM B				
Category		Amount Requested from NFSAT		Support from Non-NFSAT Sources
International Transportation		US$		
Air Passenger Exit Duty		US$22		
Visa Fees		US$		
Per Diem (Including Lodging)		US$		
Health Insurance **		US$		
Ground Transportation***		US$		
Total Amount Requested from NFSAT		US$		
Total Amount of Travel Expenses including support from Non-NFSAT Sources		US$		

**** Health insurance is mandatory for all travelers.**
*****Reimbursement up to US$100 upon presentation of receipts.**

Applicant's Signature _____

Appendix 1

FORMER FSU WEAPONS SCIENTIST CODE LIST

Former Weapons Scientist – defined as project participants that were engaged in research at a current or former weapons laboratory or institution. Five categories of former defense researchers are provided below (Categories B, C, and D are classified as Weapons of Mass Destruction researchers):

CATEGORY A: MISSILE TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS	
CODE	**DESCRIPTION**
A1	Design, construction and performance of air, space, surface and underwater - launched missiles. Materials and technologies for these missiles. Production of engines, fuels, composites, integrated elements, radio-electronic equipment, different testing devices for missiles.
A2	Techniques for guidance and control of missiles from launching to impact. Includes optical guidance, television guidance, wire guidance, present and terminal guidance, internal guidance, command guidance, and homing guidance.
A3	Missile handling and launching, including transportation, storage, and preparation for launching. Air, space, surface and underwater launching and support equipment and technologies; Checkout equipment and procedures. Guided missile ranges.
A4	Techniques and systems for tracking missiles as defensive measures. Can be from surface installations or air and space-borne platforms.
CATEGORY B: CHEMICAL WEAPONS EXPERTS	
B1	Design and performance of missile warheads and rockets for delivery of chemical weapons.
B2	Materials, facilities and performance processes needed for the production of chemical weapon agents and their key precursors.
B3	Dissemination of chemical weapon agents.
B4	Basic knowledge on CW design and their effect on human system.
CATEGORY C: BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS EXPERTS	
C1	Design and performance of missile warheads and rockets for delivery of biological weapons.
C2	Biopolymer production related to biological warhead capabilities.
C3	Dissemination of biological weapon agents.
C4	Basic knowledge on BW design and their effect on human system.
CATEGORY D: NUCLEAR WEAPONS EXPERTS	
D1	Basic knowledge of Nuclear Weapons design, construction, characteristics and the effect on human system,
D2	Design, construction and performance of missile warheads for delivery of nuclear weapons.
D3	Design, construction and performance of the equipment and Components for Uranium and Plutonium separation.
D4	Design, construction and performance of the equipment connected with Heavy Water Production.
D5	Design, construction and performance of the equipment for Development of Detonators.
D6	Design, construction and performance of Explosive Substances and Related Equipment.
D7	Design, construction and performance of the equipment and Components for Nuclear Testing.
D8	Design, construction, performance and operation of production-type nuclear reactors for fissile and tritium-content materials production (breeding).
D9	Design, construction, performance of nuclear reactors and units for submarine and for military space program.
CATEGORY E: OTHER	
E1	Design, construction, and performance of powerful laser facilities for military applications.
E2	Design, construction and performance of accelerator facilities for military applications in space programs
E3	Others