



National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies

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PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

International Scientific Meetings and Conferences Support (ISMCS) Program – 2005-2006

I. Introduction

The National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT) will sponsor, on a competitive basis, international scientific meetings or conferences to be held in Armenia on a topic in the basic or applied sciences. NFSAT will sponsor two and possibly three international conferences or scientific meetings, which will be organized at Armenian research organizations with “non-profit” juridical status. Depending on the number of participants from abroad and the number of meritorious proposals received, NFSAT will support up to three conferences for a maximum of US\$4,000 each.

The main goal of this program is to promote the integration of Armenian scientists and engineers with the international scientific community. In addition, NFSAT hopes to improve the contacts between scientists and engineers of the Eurasian countries that existed before the break-up of the Soviet Union. It is also NFSAT’s hope that such scientific contacts will help reduce political tensions in the region.

A priority for funding will be given to proposals that include participation of scientific representatives from other Eurasian countries, Europe and the United States. Other funding priorities are listed in Section II.B. below.

Financial support for this program is provided to NFSAT by the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) with funding from the U.S. Department of State.

The National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT) is an independent nonprofit and self-governed foundation that was established in 1997, according to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. NFSAT promotes scientific research and technological development in Armenia through competitive grants, training, and technical resources.

The U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) is a nonprofit charitable organization created by the United States Government in 1995 to promote international scientific and technical collaboration. Further information on the CRDF may be found on-line at <http://www.crdf.org>.

The proposed conferences must be scheduled between **August 15, 2005 and March 31, 2006**.

Applications for this program must be submitted to NFSAT no later than 6:00pm local time on May 3, 2005. NFSAT expects to announce the results of this competition on July 1, 2005.

II. Program Guidelines

A. Eligibility Requirements

Each Armenian organizer must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Possess the degree of Ph.D. (Kandidat), M.D. or the equivalent;
- Be a citizen of and reside permanently in Armenia;
- Work full-time at a non-profit research organization or university in a civilian research environment.

B. Priorities

NFSAT will give the highest priority to proposals that include:

- Scientists and engineers formerly engaged in weapons research, in particular, work on weapons of mass destruction. All former weapons scientists and engineers must briefly describe their weapons research experience and provide the appropriate weapons researcher code listed in Appendix 1 which best illustrates this experience in the necessary sections of Form A and Form B.
- Scientists and engineers who have completed their M.D. or Ph.D. (Kandidat) degrees within the last six years at the time they apply.
- Conference participants from the U.S.
- Participants from at least one other South Caucasus country.
- Institutes with non-profit status that are located outside the Yerevan area.
- Institutes that have not previously received ISMCS awards from NFSAT.
- Co-funding commitments from other sources, including the host institution, Government of Armenia, for-profit companies, and other international funding agencies.

C. Proposal Submission

No proposal may exceed 12 pages in length, including all forms. Any proposal exceeding 12 pages in length will be deemed ineligible.

Applicants are required to submit their proposals to NFSAT in the following manner:

- Two hard copies in Armenian and one hard copy in English, with the original signature of the Armenian Organizer and the original signature and seal of the Host Institution Director on each hard copy.
- An electronic copy in Armenian and an electronic copy in English.
- Applicants must send electronic copies of the proposal in Microsoft Word or PDF format to gmanas@nfsat.am with the subject heading “ISMCS Activity” in the message.
- All applications should be typed with 1.5-spacing in Armenian, point 12-font size, with margins of 2.5cm (one inch) at the sides and on the top and bottom, with all pages, including forms, numbered consecutively in the upper right corner. The requirements for the English version are the same.

D. Proposal Content

Each proposal must include all the following materials, in the order prescribed below. Only applications that include this information will be considered.

- **Cover Sheet (Form A).** The cover sheet must contain the original signature of the Armenian Organizer and the original signature and seal of the Host Institution Director.

- **Abstract.** In half a page, summarize the objectives of the conference and explain its importance in integrating scientists and engineers from Armenia with the international scientific community.
- **Conference Narrative (5 pages maximum).** Describe:
 - a) The subject area and goals of the planned conference.
 - b) How the discussions and activities planned at the conference will help achieve the conference goals.
 - c) How the individual and combined abilities of the organizers will enable the conference to be carried out.
 - d) How the organizers will coordinate the implementation of the conference.
 - e) The relevant prior work that has been previously carried out by the Armenian organizers and the host institution.
 - f) The benefits and expected impact of the proposed conference for all participating sides.
- **Proposed Attendee Data (Form B).** Provide biographical data for up to 10 proposed attendees from Eurasia, Europe and the U.S.
- **Budget (Form C).**
- **Budget Narrative (1 page).** A separate sheet must be included to explain all budget items. This sheet must be clearly marked “Budget Narrative.”
- **Copies of Signed Solicitations.** Letters in Armenian, Russian or English regarding the participation of organizations or scientists from Eurasia, Europe or the U.S.
- **Letter(s) of Third Party Contribution Commitments from Other Funding Sources.** Required only for applications where financial or in-kind support will be provided from other sources besides NFSAT. Acceptable sources of additional funding include (but are not limited to) the Government of Armenia, Armenian Institution(s), for-profit companies, and international organizations. Letter(s) of support clearly referencing the workshop proposal must include the signature of the organization authority.

E. Evaluation Criteria

The NFSAT Scientific Board and reviewers will use the following criteria in the evaluation of proposals for this program:

- 1) **Performance Excellence:** The capability of the conference organizers and participants to manage and coordinate the conference and the scientific interest and technical soundness of the proposed conference.
- 2) **Impact:** The likelihood that the proposed conference will identify promising lines of research and or result in collaborative research proposals to NFSAT and other funding agencies.
- 3) **Mutuality of Benefit:** The likelihood that the proposed conference will result in substantive, mutually beneficial collaboration among the participants. The likelihood of comparable scientific or technical benefits to Armenia and the international scientific community.
- 4) **Implementation:** The feasibility, soundness and cost-effectiveness of the plan for the proposed conference.
- 5) **Leverage:** The extent to which the host institution and local officials will help with the general administration of the conference, including operation and management of conference facilities, if applicable, and/or cost-sharing.

All NFSAT decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.

III. Budget Guidelines

A. Allowable Costs

- The total amount requested for conference expenses may not exceed US\$4,000. No proposal requesting more than US\$4,000 will be considered.
- The following costs are permitted under the guidelines for this program:
 1. **International Transportation Expenses for Participants from Eurasian Countries:** A maximum of US\$2,000 or its AMD equivalent can be requested for this category.
 2. **Lodging:** A maximum of US\$2,000 can be requested for lodging for Eurasian conference participants. The maximum amount requested for lodging should not exceed 50% of the amount required by conference organizers.
 3. **Meals:** Up to US\$10 per person per day for a daily allowance for meals for Eurasian participants. The amount requested for meals should not exceed 30% of the amount required by conference organizers.
 4. **Materials and Services.** Up to US\$1,400 can be requested. Includes any necessary printing and reproduction costs, including a conference abstract book. Also includes stationery, conference supplies and rental of audiovisual and translation equipment.
 5. **Local Transportation.** If necessary, up to US\$500 may be requested for daily local transportation expenses for travel of the participants between the lodging and conference site.
 6. **Communication Services.** Up to US\$300 can be requested for communication costs, including Internet and fax expenses.
 7. **Other.** Includes interpretation costs.

IV. Other Information

A. Armenian Organizer Responsibilities

- Serve as the liaison between NFSAT and the proposed conference attendees.
- Recommend and recruit the proposed conference participants.
- Oversee the coordination of all local conference arrangements including: conference meeting space, meeting logistics, and visiting attendee lodging accommodations.
- Upon conclusion of the conference, develop a final report for submission to NFSAT.

B. NFSAT Responsibilities

- NFSAT will notify the applicants of the results in writing after the decision process is complete.
- If a proposal is selected for an award, NFSAT will notify the applicants accordingly to begin award activation and payment disbursement.

C. Timetable

- NFSAT must receive applications no later than 18:00 local time on **May 3, 2005**.
- NFSAT will announce the results on approximately **July 1, 2005**.
- The proposed conference must occur sometime between **August 15, 2005 and March 31, 2006**.

D. Confidentiality

NFSAT will treat all proposals as confidential material and will require all reviewers to respect the confidentiality of proposals. However, proposal authors are advised that successful proposals will be treated as being in the public domain. Therefore, at the author's discretion, specific information in the proposal which is business-confidential and not intended for public dissemination should be clearly labeled as such at the top and bottom of the applicable paragraph(s) of the proposal. Such pages will be withheld from public distribution if the proposal is successful. Proposals which do not result in awards are not subject to public dissemination by NFSAT.

E. Regulations and Policies

Please refer to the policies and regulations for awards as stated in the following website:

http://www.crdf.org/AwardsAdministration/awards_admin_main.html

NFSAT and CRDF comply with all U.S. laws and regulations pertaining to export control and the participation of foreign nationals or institutions in these activities. It is the policy of NFSAT and CRDF not to conduct any transactions with U.S. restricted entities without appropriate authorization from the U.S. Government. NFSAT and CRDF reserve the right to restrict the participation of any individual or institution in our programs.

F. Contact Information

For questions about the proposal submission process, or for further information about this program, please contact NFSAT. Applications should be sent directly to:

Grigory Manasaryan, Program Manager
 NFSAT
 International Scientific Meetings or Conferences Support Program
 26, Azatutian Ave
 Yerevan 375014
 Tel: 28 81 92
 Email: gmanas@nfsat.am

Checklist of Application Contents

<input type="checkbox"/> Cover Sheet (Form A)	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstract
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference Narrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Attendee Data (Form B)
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget (Form C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Budget Narrative
<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of Signed Solicitations	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter(s) of Third Party Contribution Commitments from Other Funding Sources (optional)

Appendix 1
FORMER WEAPONS RESEARCHER CODE LIST

Former Weapons Researcher –Former weapons researchers are defined as project participants that were engaged in weapons research at a current or former weapons laboratory or institution. Five categories of former weapons researchers are listed 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

FORM A. Cover Sheet for “International Scientific Meetings and Conferences Support Program” Application

I. ISMSC ACTIVITY							
CONFERENCE TITLE							
SCIENTIFIC FIELD of CONFERENCE				EXPECTED CONFERENCE DATE(S)			
TOTAL NUMBER of PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS							
NUMBER of PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS FROM ARMENIA							
NUMBER of PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSIDE ARMENIA							
Number of Proposed Participants from US		From Eurasia		From Europe		From Other Countries	
BRIEF DESCRIPTION of the PROPOSED CONFERENCE							

II. HOST INSTITUTION	
FULL NAME	
FULL ADDRESS	

III. HOST INSTITUTION DIRECTOR					
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		PATRONYMIC NAME	
HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED		Field		Year	
PROFESSIONAL TITLE/POSITION					
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION					
OFFICE PHONE		Fax		E-mail	
MAILING ADDRESS					
SIGNATURE		SEAL of ORGANIZATION		DATE	

IV. ARMENIAN ORGANIZER – <i>The Armenian Organizer is the primary person responsible for planning the proposed conference.</i>					
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		PATRONIMIC NAME	
DATE of BIRTH (date/month/year)					
HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED		Field		Year	
PROFESSIONAL TITLE/POSITION					
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION					
OFFICE PHONE		Fax		E-mail	
MAILING ADDRESS					
DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE IN WEAPONS RESEARCH?				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If “Yes,” please provide the appropriate defense code from Appendix 1 describing this individual’s experience				Weapons Researcher Code	
Brief description of the weapons research experience:					
SIGNATURE				DATE	

*** By signing this application, I certify that I meet all the eligibility requirements in this announcement and that I will honor all conditions of the program.**

FORM B: PROPOSED ATTENDEE DATA

(For up to 10 Proposed Attendees from Armenia, Eurasia, Europe, the U.S. or other countries. Please copy this page as necessary.)

Full Name (Last, First Patronymic/Middle)		Institution Name				
Complete Mailing Address		Professional Title/ Position				
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) <i>(Armenian participants only)</i>		Highest Degree and Year Awarded				
Email Address		Sex (Male or Female)				
Please indicate where this participant is from:		Armenia <input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasia <input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. <input type="checkbox"/>	Europe <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the listed individual have experience in weapons research? <i>(Armenian and Eurasian participants only)</i>				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If "Yes," please provide the appropriate weapons researcher code from Appendix 1 describing this individual's experience in the area to the right and provide a brief description of the weapons research experience in the space below.						

Full Name (Last, First Patronymic/Middle)		Institution Name				
Complete Mailing Address		Professional Title/ Position				
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) <i>(Armenian participants only)</i>		Highest Degree and Year Awarded				
Email Address		Sex (Male or Female)				
Please indicate where this participant is from:		Armenia <input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasia <input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. <input type="checkbox"/>	Europe <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the listed individual have experience in weapons research? <i>(Armenian and Eurasian participants only)</i>				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If "Yes," please provide the appropriate weapons researcher code from Appendix 1 describing this individual's experience in the area to the right and provide a brief description of the weapons research experience in the space below.						

Full Name (Last, First Patronymic/Middle)		Institution Name				
Complete Mailing Address		Professional Title/ Position				
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) <i>(Armenian participants only)</i>		Highest Degree and Year Awarded				
Email Address		Sex (Male or Female)				
Please indicate where this participant is from:		Armenia <input type="checkbox"/>	Eurasia <input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. <input type="checkbox"/>	Europe <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the listed individual have experience in weapons research? <i>(Armenian and Eurasian participants only)</i>				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If "Yes," please provide the appropriate weapons researcher code from Appendix 1 describing this individual's experience in the area to the right and provide a brief description of the weapons research experience in the space below.						

**FORM C:
BUDGET FORM FOR ISMCS ACTIVITY APPLICATION**

	Amount Requested from NFSAT	Amount Contributed by Host Institution	Amount Contributed by Other Sources	Total
Expenses for International Participants				
1. International Transportation Expenses				
2. Lodging Expenses				
3. Meals				
4. Local Transportation				
5. Other (Specify)				
Total				
Organizing Expenses, including:				
1. Materials and Services				
2. Communications Expenses				
3. Other (Specify)				
Total				
Salary for Organizers				
1.				
2.				