



National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies

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Supporting the Participation of Armenian Researchers on International Scientific Conferences - 2009

On a competitive basis the National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT) will provide up to US\$1,600 each special support for Armenian scientists in all areas of basic and applied sciences to participate in International Scientific conferences and engineering professional societies meetings in the United States and Europe.

NFSAT will cover the transportation expenses only to Armenian researchers demonstrating intense interest by the organizers for their participation in scientific conference.

In accordance with the NFSAT's principles of operation, support for the proposed activity will be determined exclusively by the scientific merit of applications.

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 February and ending December 2009, or until funding has been exhausted. With the available funds, NFSAT hopes to support 10-12 grants costing maximum US\$1,600 each, depending on the location of the scientific meetings.

Applications may be submitted to NFSAT beginning 15 February 2009. Applications must be submitted at least 10 days prior to travel, and the applicant must have obtained any needed entry or transit visas by the time of submission.

“Supporting the Participation of Armenian Researchers on International Scientific Conferences – 2009” is possible through an award to NFSAT from the U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF).

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>.

CRDF promotes scientific and technical collaboration between the United States and other countries through grants, technical support, and training. More information about CRDF can be found at <http://www.crdp.org>.

Eligibility and Funding Guidelines:

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

- All applicants must be citizens of Armenia, must reside in Armenia and be a permanent employee in an Armenian organization having non-profit status.
- All applicants must provide confirmation that they have at least 50% of conference fees waived and that the conference organizers have accepted the applicant's request to make a presentation at the conference.
- All applicants must demonstrate proof of additional financial support, at least 50% of the total travel cost, from the traveler's organization or government.
- 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 only eligible to apply for this program if they attend meetings with potential U.S. partners before or after the planned conference.
- All travel grants will be subject to the U.S. flag carrier rule (details under "Allowable Costs" section).

Funding Priorities

Among applications of equal merit, 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 Ashtarak and Byurakan);
- First-time visitors to 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

Applications must meet the following requirements to be considered eligible for support.

- 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 the applicant's organization or Government, which MUST contain the full name of applicant, titles of conference and presentation (in Armenian or English);
7. The copies of entrance visa and health insurance for the conference period.

Allowable Costs:

- The maximum award amount is US\$1,600. No application requesting more than US\$1,600 from NFSAT will be considered.
- The following costs are allowable under this program:
 - a. International Transportation. Lowest-cost applicable round-trip airfare and receipts are required for reimbursement. 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. Air passenger exit duty. 10,000 Armenian drams at the Yerevan airport.
 - c. Ground Transportation. Cost of transport to and from airports. Ground transportation expenses may not exceed US\$100 and receipts are required for reimbursement.

Detailed budget with a breakdown of the anticipated costs

With the requested US\$14,000 in funding, NFSAT hopes to support about 10-12 grants. The maximum award size will be US\$1,600, depending on the location of the scientific meeting. The awards may include the following expense categories:

- 1) International transportation. Travel must be on U.S. carriers on all segments for which they are available and is mandatory on transoceanic flights.
- 2) Air passenger exit duty. 10,000 Armenian dram (approximately US\$34) at the Yerevan airport.
- 3) Ground transportation. Cost of transport to and from airports. Ground transportation expenses may not exceed US\$100 and receipts are mandatory for reimbursement.

Co-funding

Applicants will be required to demonstrate proof of one or more sources of additional financial support:

- a) waiver of any type of organizational fee such as lodging, registration fee, etc. by the organizing committee,
- b) at least 50% of the total cost of travel, including per-diem, health insurance etc by the traveler's organization or government.
- c) additional financial support from the conference organizers.

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 screened and complete proposals.
- NFSAT may turn to external reviewers if additional reviews are needed or if none of the Scientific Board members has the expertise to review a 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 5 business days.
- NFSAT will notify the selected applicants in writing and activate the grant approximately one week or 5 days prior to the meeting and travel. All travel grantees are required to sign award documents and must agree to the grant conditions before any payments or travel arrangements are made.

All funding decisions are final. Appeals of funding decisions will not be considered.

B. Evaluation criteria:

1. **Personnel Capacity:** The expertise of the applicant in the field of the conference presentation and the applicant's record of accomplishment.
2. **Research Merit and Impact:** The likelihood that the conference presentation will substantively advance knowledge in the discipline; the degree of innovation and novelty of the research; likelihood that the applied component of the research will result in beneficial new technologies (if applicable).
3. **Professional Benefit:** Relevance of the proposed work to the applicant's career goals and areas of specialization and interest. Potential for proposed conference attendance to facilitate the applicant's career goals and development. The likelihood that the conference may lead to new collaborations, future successful funding, the successful completion of a dissertation (where applicable), and publication of results in an international, peer-reviewed journal.
4. **English Language Proficiency:** How well the applicant writes, understands, and speaks English.

Deadlines:

NFSAT must receive requests for travel support at least 10 calendar days prior to the intended date of travel.

Applications should be sent directly to the NFSAT office (Yerevan, Azatutian Ave., 26, tel: 28 81 92) or should be sent by E-mail: info@nfsat.am

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

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BUDGET FORM B

Category	Amount Requested from NFSAT	Support from Non-NFSAT Sources
International Transportation	US\$	
Air Passenger Exit Duty	US\$34	
Ground Transportation*	US\$	
Total Amount Requested from NFSAT	US\$	
Total Amount of Travel Expenses including support from Non-NFSAT Sources	US\$	

*****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