



Proposal Review Process: Logistical Considerations for Antarctic Science Proposals

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Science Proposals



- Basic Research
- Respond to best ideas from the community
 - Transformational, frontier, high-risk/high-reward
 - Ideas, not cost, is main driver
- Need for flexibility as project unfolds
- Need for flexibility as program evolves
- One principal deadline per year – early June
- Success rate – 20-40% over last 10 years
- Avenues for cooperation/joint consideration with other NSF Directorates, Agencies, and National Antarctic Programs



Review Process



- Science Merit Review
 - Confidential; ad hoc and/or panel; advisory to NSF
 - Two NSB approved criteria, plus:
 - Rationale for Antarctic field work
 - Logistical feasibility of proposed work
 - PI generates a statement of resource needs with input from the contractor; statement made available to reviewers/panelists
 - Reviewers/Panelists know some resources are expensive and/or involve significant opportunity costs – e.g., ship time, LC-130 support



Review Process



- Program Officers
 - PO's address field work; generally discuss with the panel
 - PO's have discretion to discuss specific logistical issues with the panel
 - PO judgment defines suite of fundable proposals for logistical and supportability evaluation



Logistical Review



- Prior to proposal submission – discussions with NSF and/or ASC strongly encouraged
- Prior to award decision –
 - Operational plan focused on technical requirements (PI/ASC/NSF)
 - NSF judgment regarding operational (and opportunity) costs
 - OPS Notice/Agreement
 - Some costs are discussed explicitly
 - NSF is responsible for overall cost and resource optimization



Making Awards



- Generally,
 - Science “Plan” (i.e. proposal)
 - Logistics Plan
 - Feasibility, Supportability, Costs
 - Award
- For some projects,
 - Planning award with milestones, additional review (options, costs, tradeoffs, etc.), decision points, exit ramps



Field Support



- Support plans and parameters in place at start of grant for entire field program – even if multiple years
- Structure and staffing are based on operational, environmental, and safety assessments
- NSF needs to
 - Remain flexible to allow for possibility of changes in scope
 - Have a deliberate and well-communicated process for changing field plans
- Continuous Improvement



Summary - Philosophy

- Apply good project management methods to field work for all projects – NSF and mission agency
 - Full understanding of project needs at start
 - Robust operational plan
 - Formal coordination with and leveraging of other NAPs and agency partnerships
 - Agreement on how to deal with dynamic factors
 - Schedule for Success
 - “Don’t leave resources and capacity on the table”
 - Integrate all projects in an overall program



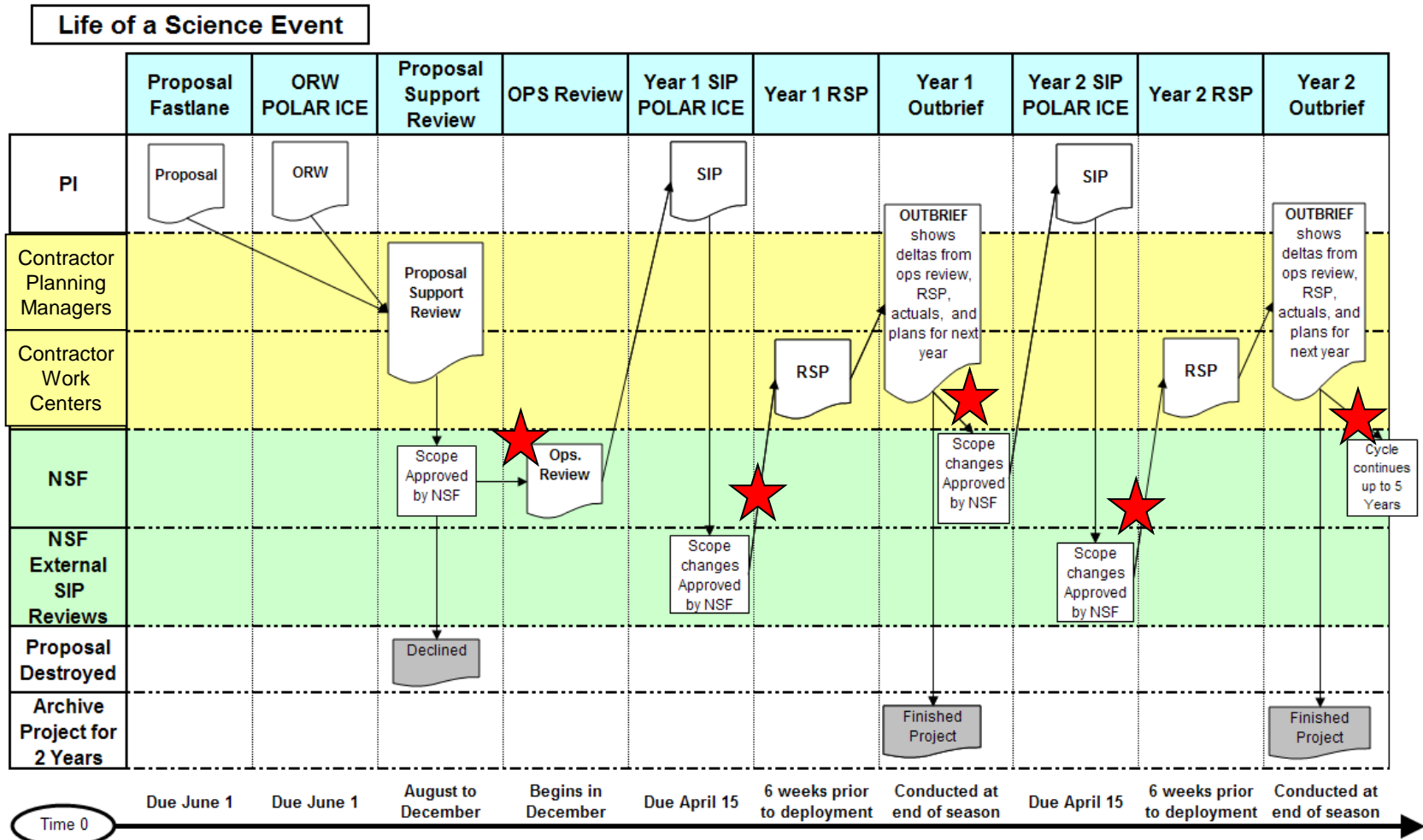
Questions?




Photo: S. G. Borg



POLAR ICE & Science Grant Lifecycle

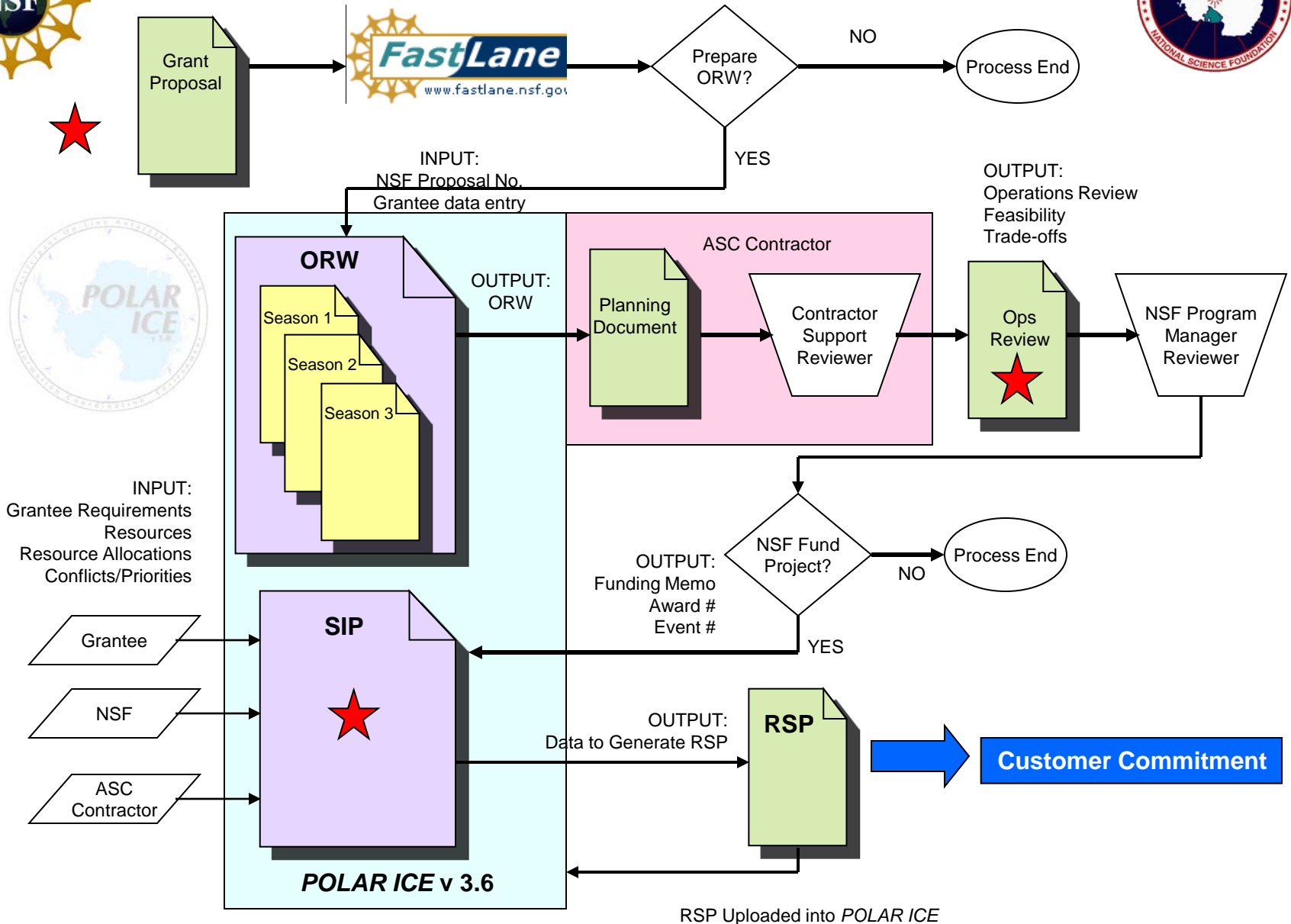


These dates are provided as a guideline only. The NSF OPP in conjunction with other divisions of the NSF, NASA, NOAA, and multiple other organizations work together to support science in Antarctica. Due to this and other scientific or logistical reasons grants are awarded and canceled at anytime throughout the year.

 Dialog – PI, ASC, NSF



POLAR ICE Integration with NSF Grant Proposal Process





Science Support Review Cycle



- June 1 NSF receives proposals
- September Review Panels
- October Contractor reviews support requirements
- November “Bucket Review”
- December NSF makes initial selection of new projects
- January Proposal Review Document produced
- Jan - Aug Detailed season planning





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