



Work-in-Progress

National Science Foundation Use of Cooperative Agreements to Support Large Scale Investment in Science and Technology

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ACADEMY

The National Academy of Public Administration is a non-profit, independent organization of top public management and organizational leaders who tackle the nation's most critical and complex public management challenges. With a network of more than 800 distinguished Fellows and an experienced professional staff, the National Academy is uniquely qualified and trusted across government to provide objective advice and practical solutions based on systematic research and expert analysis. Established in 1967 and chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Academy continues to make a positive impact by helping federal, state and local governments respond effectively to current circumstances and changing conditions. Learn more about the National Academy and its work at www.NAPAwash.org

BACKGROUND

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; [and] to secure the national defense..." NSF provides nearly one-quarter of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities. The Foundation and its policy-making body, the National Science Board (NSB), commissioned the National Academy of Public Administration (the Academy) to review NSF's use of cooperative agreements to support the development, construction and operations of state-of-the art, large scale research facilities. Cooperative agreements, as described in the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1978, are a form of financial assistance for projects that require substantial involvement of the awarding agency, beyond routine monitoring or technical assistance.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this study, the Academy will (1) assess how cooperative agreements are being used at NSF; (2) identify other funding mechanism options; and (3) determine how NSF can improve the mechanisms used to support large scale investment in science and technology. The eight-month study will also investigate how a small number of comparable agencies use cooperative agreements and other procurement instruments.

The Academy formed an expert Panel and study team to evaluate NSF's use of cooperative agreements. The Panel will evaluate current and alternative funding mechanisms for large research facilities, identify respective advantages and disadvantages, and analyze the resource and policy implications associated with each mechanism. The Panel will issue a comprehensive report of findings, along with recommendations to help NSF improve its current use of cooperative agreements.

PANEL

Earl Devaney* (Chair), Former Chairman, Recovery and Transparency Board and Inspector General, Department of the Interior; Inspector General, Department of the Interior; Director, Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training, Environmental Protection Agency; various positions including as Special Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service.

Melvin Dubnick* Professor, University of New Hampshire and Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University-Newark; former Professor at the University of New Hampshire; The State University of New Jersey-Rutgers; Bernard M. Baruch College/City University of New York; University of Kansas; Loyola University of Chicago; and Emporia Kansas State University; Northern Ireland International Research Fellow, Queen's University, Belfast and Visiting Professor/Senior Fellow, Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research, Fulbright Fellowship, Queen's International Fellow; former Policy Analyst, Office of Regulatory Economics and Policy, Department of Commerce.

Richard Meserve, Senior of Counsel, Covington & Burling, President, Carnegie Institution of Washington and Chairman, International Nuclear Safety Group chartered by the International Atomic Energy Agency and Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board of the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering; former Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); member of American Philosophical Society and National Academy of Engineering; fellow of American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and American Physical Society; Board of Directors, PG&E Corporation, member of an independent advisory board to UniStar Nuclear Energy, LLC; Harvard University Overseer; and former legal counsel to President Carter's science and technology advisor.

Pamela Haze* Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance, and Acquisition, U.S. Department of the Interior. Former positions with Office of Budget, U.S. Department of Interior: Director, Co-Director, Deputy Director.

Sean O'Keefe* Howard G. and S. Louise Phanstiel Chair in Strategic Management and Leadership, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University. Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, EADS North America; Vice President, General Electric Company; Chancellor, Louisiana State University; Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Deputy Director, U.S. Office of Management and Budget; Louis A. Bantle Chair in Business and Government Policy, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University; Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Research, Dean of Graduate School, Professor of Business Administration, Pennsylvania State University; Secretary of the Navy; Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Defense; Staff Director, Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, U.S. Senate.

Beth Robinson* Chief Financial Officer, Air Line Pilots Association, International; Former Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Assistant Director for Budget, Budget Review Division, U.S. Office of Management and Budget; Deputy Director, Congressional Budget Office; Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Review and Concepts, and Program Examiner for Energy Issues, U.S. Office of Management and Budget; Staff Member, House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, U.S. House of Representatives; Project Director and Expert, Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress; Congressional Science Fellow, Geological Society of America; Fellow, National Science Foundation; Assistant Professor of Geophysics, Stanford University.

*Academy Fellow

PROJECT STAFF

Joseph Mitchell, Ph.D., *Director of Project Development*
Cynthia Heckmann, *Project Director*
Allison Brigati, *Senior Advisor*
Nicole Camarillo, *Project Advisor*

Chloe Yang, *Research Analyst*
Dan Orr, *Senior Research Associate*
Eric Christensen, *Research Associate*