

APPENDIX III: NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD CRITERIA FOR APPROVING AND PRIORITIZING LARGE FACILITY PROJECTS (LFPs)⁵

In presenting a Large Facility Project to the Board for final Board approval, NSF must document the following properties for that project:

- project plans are judged to be construction ready by the NSF BFA Deputy Director for Large Facility Projects,
- the budget for construction and for operations costs has been justified to the satisfaction of the Chief Financial Officer,
- the project has been evaluated by the community and the NSF MREFC Panel asserts that it is of high priority to meet specifically identified *NSF Science Objectives*,
- the science program to be supported by the facility is adequately planned, and
- the NSF Director proposes the project to move into the *Board approved* stage.

For the Board to approve a project to enter the *Board approved* stage, the Board considers the following:

- research enabled by the proposed facility,
- construction plans together with their risk and readiness,
- budget justification for construction and operation of the facility,
- imminent funding⁶ is likely to be available in the next two or so years, and
- priority of the project for achieving one or several of the *NSF Science Objectives* is validated by the community and the relevant Directorate Advisory Committees.

The Board will utilize the following criteria as part of its consideration to provide *Board approval* to each LFP:

- scientific and technical assessment within field or interdisciplinary area,
- community and advisory committee support,
- address reviews,
- potential to be transformative,
- essential for U.S. leadership in S&E,
- greatest leverage of researchers, educators and students enabled,
- time sensitive window of opportunity and commitments,
- impact national priorities and needs (include social),
- impact across fields and NSF, and
- balanced portfolio.

⁵ Not all criteria will be appropriate for every project under consideration, and additional criteria may be appropriate for some projects.

⁶ The certification of “imminent funding” is a clear statement from NSF of intent to include project funds as part of the next or following fiscal year budget request, along with some indication through informal discussions with OMB and the Hill that overall NSF next year funding levels will allow for new project funding requests to be made.

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