

(from email distribution, 6 Sept. 2005)

The Directorate for Engineering at the National Science Foundation (NSF) through its Divisions of Electrical and Communications Systems and Civil and Mechanical Systems will be accepting proposals from the research community to support reconnaissance teams to enter the Gulf Coast disaster area to capture data from Hurricane Katrina. Proposals will conform to the rules for the Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER) program and submitted via FastLane. These funds will be used to fund teams to document damage and collect perishable data in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane. Historically post disaster reconnaissance awards for SGER's are in the range of \$10,000 to \$30,000.

The number of awards will depend on the quality of proposals and the availability of funds. Proposals shall be submitted via FastLane in conformance with the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (NSF 04-23). For full consideration, proposals should be submitted by September 15, 2005.

Prior to submission, the appropriate NSF/ECS program officer must be contacted: Dr. Rajinder P. Khosla ([rkhosla@nsf.gov](mailto:rkhosla@nsf.gov) <<mailto:rkhosla@nsf.gov>>) on behalf of NSF will work with Dr. Dennis Wenger ([dwenger@nsf.gov](mailto:dwenger@nsf.gov) <<mailto:dwenger@nsf.gov>>), who is the overall coordinator of this SGER program. Please direct your enquiries to them or to the appropriate program officer.

Subjects for consideration by the ECS Division for the research community include but are not limited to:

1. Electric power systems
  - a. Incipient failure detection
  - b. Restoration process
  - c. Power quality issues
  - d. Fault data
2. Telecommunications
  - a. Fiber optic link assessment and restoration
  - b. Wired/wireless link assessment and restoration
  - c. Sensor networks for integrated damage assessment
3. Intersystem dependencies
  - a. Communication system dependencies on power supply
  - b. Power system performance dependence on communication networks
4. Robotics and Sensor networks
  - a. Autonomous Damage Assessment
  - b. Sensor Fusion and Decision Systems
  - c. Use of Adaptation and Computational Intelligence to speed up response

Usha Varshney

Dr. Usha Varshney, Director

Division of Electrical and Communications Systems  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230  
e-mail: [uvarshne@nsf.gov](mailto:uvarshne@nsf.gov)  
Phone: 703 292 8339, Fax: 703 292 9147