

5. *Justification that the information or advice provided by the Federal advisory committee or subcommittee is not available from another Federal advisory committee, another Federal Government source, or any other more cost-effective and less burdensome source.*

Panel review allows experts to assess the merits of a group of proposals or a complex multidisciplinary proposal in ways that cannot be achieved through other evaluation methods. Members often bring complementary expertise, and no single member typically has all the knowledge needed to evaluate a proposal or an entire set of proposals independently.

6. *If the consultation is a committee renewal, a summary of the previous accomplishments of the committee and the reasons it needs to continue.*

Panel deliberations led to the review and ranking of proposals in areas of special emphasis within the Division of Undergraduate Education. The inputs assisted NSF in making informed funding decisions. For example, one proposal that was reviewed by a panel during FY25 was subsequently recommended for funding which provides scholarships to 22 students pursuing bachelor's and master's degrees in artificial intelligence, applied mathematics, computer science, cybersecurity, data science, operations research, and statistics at the Illinois Institute of Technology. The scholars receive mentoring from faculty and peers, participate in experiential and interdisciplinary learning experiences, and undertake other professional development activities that will help them advance in their careers. This award was funded by the NSF Scholarships in STEM (S-STEM) program, which seeks to increase the number of academically talented, low-income students with demonstrated financial need who earn degrees in STEM fields.

7. *Explanation of why the committee/subcommittee is essential to the conduct of agency business.*

Panels are essential for both advancing scientific research and enabling effective business operations.

This public interest determination documents that renewing the committee is in the public interest, essential to the conduct of agency business, and that the information to be obtained is not already available through another advisory committee or source within the Federal Government.

Dated: May 26, 2026.

Crystal Robinson,

Committee Management Officer, National Science Foundation.

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Proposal Review Panel for Physics; Committee Renewal

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Committee Management Renewal.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is renewing the committee for Proposal Review Panel for Physics.

DATES: NSF approves the continuation of this committee on 4/20/2026. Effective date for renewal is June 26, 2026. For more information, please contact Crystal Robinson, NSF, at (703) 292-8687.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Crystal Robinson, Committee Management Officer, NSF, at (703) 292-8687, or by mail to National Science Foundation, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NSF management officials having responsibility for the advisory committee listed below have determined that renewing this committee for another two years is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed upon the Director, National Science Foundation (NSF), by 42 U.S.C. 1861 *et seq.* This determination follows consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration.

Committee

Proposal Review Panel for Physics, #1208

Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 102-3.60(a), to establish, renew, reestablish, or merge a discretionary (agency discretion) advisory committee, an agency must first consult with the General Services Administration's Committee Management Secretariat (the Secretariat) and, as part of the consultation, provide a written public interest determination approved by the head of the agency to the Secretariat with a copy to the Office of Management and Budget. In addition, pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 102-3.35, an agency shall follow the same consultation process and document in writing the same determination of need before creating a subcommittee under a

discretionary committee that is not made up entirely of members of a parent advisory committee. Information on the following factors for the committee is provided to the Secretariat to demonstrate that renewing the committee is in the public interest:

1. *Annual budget:* \$232,600.
- a. *Federal personnel on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis:* 4.2 FTE.
- b. *Other Federal internal costs:* \$1,591.
- c. *Proposed payments to members:* \$200,985.
- d. *Proposed number of members:* 360.
- e. *Reimbursable costs:* \$30,024.
2. *If applicable, the total dollar value of grants expected to be recommended during the fiscal year:* \$118,483,900.
3. *Criteria for selecting members to ensure the committee has the necessary.*

The membership of all review panels was selected to include individuals with scientific expertise in physics research, familiarity with the training process for young scientists, and, in the case of the technical reviews, advanced technical expertise in areas of construction, environmental impact, safety, and project management.

Members were also selected to have a broad range of experience and viewpoints, including a mixture of junior and senior scientists, a variety of large and small institutions, and a geographical distribution from across the Nation.

4. *List of all other Federal advisory committees of the agency:*

- 84684 Advisory Committee for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships
- 1172 Alan T. Waterman Award Committee
- 13883 Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee
- 1173 Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering
- 1186 Proposal Review Panel for Astronomical Sciences
- 10751 Proposal Review Panel for Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences
- 10747 Proposal Review Panel for Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences
- 10743 Proposal Review Panel for Biological Infrastructure
- 1189 Proposal Review Panel for Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems
- 1191 Proposal Review Panel for Chemistry
- 1194 Proposal Review Panel for Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation
- 1207 Proposal Review Panel for Computer and Network Systems

- 1192 Proposal Review Panel for Computing & Communication Foundations
- 1185 Proposal Review Panel for Cyberinfrastructure
- 1569 Proposal Review Panel for Earth Sciences
- 1196 Proposal Review Panel for Electrical, Communications, and Cyber Systems
- 44011 Proposal Review Panel for Emerging Frontiers in Biological Sciences
- 173 Proposal Review Panel for Engineering Education and Centers
- 10744 Proposal Review Panel for Environmental Biology
- 1756 Proposal Review Panel for Geosciences
- 57 Proposal Review Panel for Graduate Education
- 1200 Proposal Review Panel for Information and Intelligent Systems
- 84685 Proposal Review Panel for Innovation and Technology Ecosystems
- 2469 Proposal Review Panel for Integrative Activities
- 10745 Proposal Review Panel for Integrative Organismal Systems
- 10749 Proposal Review Panel for International Science and Engineering
- 1203 Proposal Review Panel for Materials Research
- 1204 Proposal Review Panel for Mathematical Sciences
- 10746 Proposal Review Panel for Molecular and Cellular Biosciences
- 10752 Proposal Review Panel for Ocean Sciences
- 34558 Proposal Review Panel for Emerging Frontiers and Multidisciplinary Activities
- 1209 Proposal Review Panel for Polar Programs
- 59 Proposal Review Panel for Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings
- 10748 Proposal Review Panel for Social and Economic Sciences
- 1766 Proposal Review Panel for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences
- 84683 Proposal Review Panel for Translational Impacts
- 1214 Proposal Review Panel for Undergraduate Education

5. *Justification that the information or advice provided by the Federal advisory committee or subcommittee is not available from another Federal advisory committee, another Federal Government source, or any other more cost-effective and less burdensome source.*

Proposals submitted to Mathematical and Physical Sciences/PHY programs, as well as those reviewed as part of NSF-wide activities, typically represent

complex projects that require a broad range of expertise in physics research and education that no one person has. In addition, panel review in combination with mail review is used to provide better judgment regarding the merits of a proposal. Site visits constitute the most critical component of oversight of large-scale projects such as centers and facilities operations, which by their very nature require a breadth of input to reliably cover all aspects of the activity.

6. *If the consultation is a committee renewal, a summary of the previous accomplishments of the committee and the reasons it needs to continue.*

Past committees have been instrumental in identifying cutting edge projects that pursue innovative research addressing national needs, strengthening U.S. leadership, fostering advances in new research areas, seeding new technologies, and making significant progress towards addressing grand challenges, notably in current priority areas including quantum information science, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and other critical and emerging technologies. An example of a groundbreaking area identified by the committee is neutral atom optical tweezer arrays, a breakthrough technology in quantum computation with error correction. Continuation of the committee's work is necessary to maintain high quality scientific research programs and to identify emerging opportunities to advance science and technology.

7. *Explanation of why the committee/subcommittee is essential to the conduct of agency business.*

The committees/subcommittees are essential to advancing scientific research and supporting effective business operations. It brings together experts from diverse backgrounds who collectively review proposals and provide funding recommendations based on the best scientific judgment of the research community. Through the panel review process, NSF is able to evaluate proposals' intellectual merit and broader impacts in a fair and transparent manner across a broad range of disciplines.

This public interest determination documents that renewing the committee is essential to the conduct of agency business and that the information to be obtained is not already available through another advisory committee or source within the Federal Government.

Dated: May 26, 2026.

Crystal Robinson,

Committee Management Officer, National Science Foundation.

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Proposal Review Panel for Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems; Committee Renewal

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Committee Management Renewal.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is renewing the committee for Proposal Review Panel for Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems. **DATES:** NSF approves the continuation of this committee on 4/20/2026. Effective date for renewal is June 26, 2026. For more information, please contact Crystal Robinson, NSF, at (703) 292-8687.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Crystal Robinson, Committee Management Officer, NSF, at (703) 292-8687, or by mail to National Science Foundation, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NSF

management officials having responsibility for the advisory committee listed below have determined that renewing this committee for another two years is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed upon the Director, National Science Foundation (NSF), by 42 U.S.C. 1861 *et seq.* This determination follows consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration.

Committee

Proposal Review Panel for Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems, #1189

Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 102-3.60(a), to establish, renew, reestablish, or merge a discretionary (agency discretion) advisory committee, an agency must first consult with the General Services Administration's Committee Management Secretariat (the Secretariat) and, as part of the consultation, provide a written public interest determination approved by the head of the agency to the Secretariat with a copy to the Office of Management and Budget. In addition, pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 102-3.35, an agency shall follow the same