

So where are we with NEESR?

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The Agenda

- Status as of today
- The review schedule - when we will get the good (+/-) news?
- What about next year?



The Status

- NSF received 115 NEESR proposals
 - Grand Challenge - fewer than 12
 - Small Group and Individual Investigator proposals - about equally split
- Total requests \$178 million
- Total available funding \$9 million
- The NEESR money is in place



The Status

- Doing the math:
$$x = (9 / 178) * 100 =$$
$$x = 5\%$$

or 1 in 20



The Status

- Grand Challenge Schedule
 - The Panel
 - has been formed
 - has the proposals
 - is reviewing them now
 - The Panel will meet twice
 - first in early June
 - second meeting on June 30 with short listed PI's



The Status

- Small Group and Individual Investigator Proposals
 - Panels are being finalized now
 - We are indeed getting qualified, knowledgeable reviewers on these panels
 - No one from Mars... yet
 - Six panels will meet simultaneously in late June to review the proposals



The Status

- Final decisions to be made soon after the panels make their recommendations
- Grand Challenge proposal(s) will have the budget and schedule review conducted following the award decision
- Our target is to make awards as soon as possible in July -- right on schedule



The Status

- How many awards?
 - It depends on the reviews and how the panels rate the proposals
 - NSF can increase or decrease the number of GC, SG or IIA awards depending on the relative quality and ratings of the proposals



A word on the budget

- The NSF budget is slightly up in FY'04
- The anticipated NSF budgets in the near future are flat....
- The CMS budget is about flat - except for NEESR and NEES operational support
- The \$9 million for NEESR is in place - the result of hard work at NSF and support from Engineering and CMS programs
- Next year begins the process again



What about next year?

- We will look at the results and see what tweaks need to be made on NEESR
- We need to look at the process and how the proposals came out - did the instructions result in the right mix of proposals and projects?
- We will continue to work to improve the funding outlook
- For now - assume the same basic NEESR requirements as this past year



What about collaborative work?

- NSF has had several meetings with MEXT and NIED regarding cooperative research with NEES and E-Defense
- E-Defense and NEES complement one another
- There are on-going efforts to make the cooperative process as seamless as possible
- Keep this in mind as you develop future proposals
 - The large shake table in Miki City can be part of your proposal
 - For very large and complex problems, this may be the best option



What about collaborative work?

- Meetings with the Europeans also have been held to develop an MOU



What about collaborative work?

- Experimental facilities in Japan and elsewhere are candidates for use in proposals
 - It is not perfectly seamless - but it is doable
 - It is not a bad thing to supplement NEES with outside facilities - if you can make the case and meet NEESR rules
- The point is - consider including colleagues and facilities from outside the US if it makes sense for your project
- Questions - call Joy or me



What about collaborative work?

- And do not forget about the US facilities and laboratories that are not formal NEES Consortium equipment sites
- These also are candidates for use in proposals



Final thoughts

- Be *innovative* in your thinking
- Attack the *important* problems
- Look at the *possibilities*



Questions?

- Comments?
- Complaints?
- Rumors?
- Urban Legends?

