

University of Alabama
University of Alaska, Fairbanks
University of Arizona
Arizona State University
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Auburn University
Baylor University
Boise State University
Boston College
Boston University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
California State University, East Bay
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
Carnegie Institution of Washington
Central Washington University
University of Colorado, Boulder
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia University
University of Connecticut
Cornell University
University of Delaware
Duke University
Florida International University
University of Florida
University of Georgia
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Houston
IGPP/Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
IGPP/Los Alamos National Laboratory
Idaho State University
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
Indiana University
Indiana University/Purdue University at Fort Wayne
James Madison University
Kansas State University
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
Lamar University
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Lehigh University
Louisiana State University
Macalester College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Memphis
University of Miami
Miami University, Ohio
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
Missouri University of Science & Technology
Montana Tech of the University of Montana
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Reno
New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
New Mexico State University
University of New Orleans
State University of New York at Binghamton
State University of New York at Stony Brook
North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Oklahoma State University
The University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Rochester University
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Saint Louis University
San Diego State University
San Jose State University
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
Southern Methodist University
Stanford University
Syracuse University
University of Tennessee
Texas A&M University
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at El Paso
Texas Tech University
University of Tulsa
University of Utah
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
University of Washington
Washington University, St. Louis
West Virginia University
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Wright State University
University of Wyoming
Yale University



May 20, 2010

Dr. Robert Detrick
Division of Earth Sciences
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington VA 22230

Dear Dr. Detrick,

IRIS plans to submit a proposal by the end of August to renew our Cooperative Agreement with NSF on operation the IRIS core programs – GSN, PASSCAL, DMS, and E&O.

We want to provide reviewers with a reasonable description of our numerous and wide ranging activities under the Cooperative Agreement, as well as the important scientific advances by Earth scientists that have been facilitated by IRIS programs. At the same time, we recognize that a very long proposal would be burdensome to mail reviewers, the Instrumentation and Facilities panel, and NSF staff charged with tasks related to evaluating the proposal.

To address these two issues, we request approval for a limited deviation from the standard NSF format and page limits for the renewal proposal, to be submitted to the EAR Instrumentation and Facilities Program, which would be comprised of:

- A “Project Description” of approximately 50 pages, to serve as the core of the proposal. It will provide an introduction to the IRIS Consortium and facilities, a summary of accomplishments under NSF awards, descriptions of proposed activities, intellectual merit, and broader impacts, and an overview of the budget request.
- Budgets, budget justifications and notes, biographical sketches, and other documents required by NSF.

In addition, we ask you to accept and distribute to the reviewers additional this supporting material

- Several “Program Sections” of 10 to 15 pages each, developed by senior IRIS staff and members of IRIS governance bodies from the academic community. The sections will have additional information about the history and current status of the individual program and contextual information about the proposed activities.
- A collection of “One-Pagers”, i.e., project descriptions contributed by the community of academic research projects that have been facilitated by the existence of IRIS and its programs.

We realize that mail reviewers and members of the I&F panel will not be required to read the Program Sections or the One-Pagers. Nevertheless, we believe that having this material readily to hand will facilitate an efficient and effective evaluation of IRIS

and our proposed work, partly by providing reference material that reviewers may find useful to address any questions that arise.

Best regards,

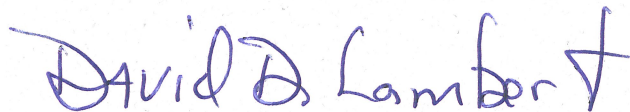


David Simpson
President

APPROVED:



Robert Detrick
Director, Earth Sciences Division



David Lambert
Director, Instrumentation and Facilities Program