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Issued in Morgantown, WV on October 17, 2003.

Dale A. Siciliano,

Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division.
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program—Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-01

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Annual notice of continuation of availability of grants and cooperative agreements.

SUMMARY: The Office of Science (SC) of the Department of Energy (DOE) hereby announces its continuing interest in receiving grant applications for support of work in the following program areas: Basic Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics, Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, and Energy Research Analyses. On September 3, 1992, DOE published in the **Federal Register** the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program (now called the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program), 10 CFR part 605, Final Rule, which contained a solicitation for this program. Information about submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation and selection processes and other policies and procedures are specified in 10 CFR part 605.

DATES: Applications may be submitted at any time in response to this Notice of Availability.

ADDRESSES: Formal applications referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-01 must be sent electronically by an authorized institutional business official through DOE's Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at: <http://e-center.doe.gov> (see also <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>). IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS your business official will need to register at the IIPS Web site. IIPS offers the option of using multiple files; please limit submissions to one volume and one file if possible, with a maximum of no more than four files. Color images should be submitted in IIPS as a separate file in PDF format and identified as such. These images should be kept to a minimum due to the limitations of reproducing them. They should be numbered and referred to in the body of the technical scientific application as Color image 1, Color image 2, etc. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be E-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at: HelpDesk@pr.doe.gov, or you may call the help desk at: (800) 683-0751. Further information on the use of IIPS by the Office of Science is available at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

If you are unable to submit the application through IIPS, please contact the Grants and Contracts Division, Office of Science at: (301) 903-5212 or (301) 903-3604, in order to gain assistance for submission through IIPS or to receive special approval and instruction on how to submit printed applications.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Notice is published annually and remains in effect until it is succeeded by another issuance by the Office of Science. This annual Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-01 succeeds Notice 03-01, which was published October 17, 2002.

It is anticipated that approximately \$400 million will be available for grant and cooperative agreement awards in Fiscal Year 2004. The DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of an application. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this Notice.

The following program descriptions are offered to provide more in-depth

information on scientific and technical areas of interest to the Office of Science:

1. Basic Energy Sciences

The Basic Energy Sciences (BES) program supports fundamental research in the natural sciences and engineering leading to new and improved energy technologies and to understanding and mitigating the environmental impacts of energy technologies. The four long-term measures of the program are:

- Design, model, fabricate, characterize, analyze, assemble, and use a variety of new materials and structures, including metals, alloys, ceramics, polymers, biomaterials and more—particularly at the nanoscale—for energy-related applications.

- Understand, model, and control chemical reactivity and energy transfer processes in the gas phase, in solutions, at interfaces, and on surfaces for energy-related applications, employing lessons from inorganic, organic, self-assembling, and biological systems.

- Develop new concepts and improve existing methods for solar energy conversion and other major energy research needs identified in the 2003 Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee workshop report, Basic Research Needs to Assure a Secure Energy Future.

- Conceive, design, fabricate, and use new instruments to characterize and ultimately control materials.

The science areas and their objectives are as follows:

(a) Materials Sciences and Engineering

The objective of this program is to increase the fundamental understanding of phenomena, properties, and behavior important to materials that will contribute to improving current energy technologies and developing new energy technologies. Disciplinary areas where basic research is supported include materials physics, condensed matter physics, materials chemistry, engineering physics, and related disciplines where the emphasis is on the science of materials. Product development, demonstration, and surveys and process optimization studies for existing commercial materials are not within the scope of this solicitation.

Program Contact: Phone—(301) 903-3427; Web site: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/bes/dms/index.htm>.

(b) Chemical Sciences

The objective of this program is to develop and enhance fundamental understanding in the chemical sciences that contributes to the overall goal of developing new sources of energy and