

and relevance to the program objectives described above.

Finalists will then be asked to submit full proposals containing a description of the proposed project, including sufficient information to address the evaluation criteria, with a length of no more than ten (10) double spaced pages in addition to the federally mandated forms and certifications, to the mailing address given above in the **ADDRESSES** section. The same independent reviewers will then evaluate the detailed proposals based on the same evaluation criteria, and the proposals will be ranked as previously described. In selecting proposals that will be recommended for funding, the selecting official will take into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, including rank, and relevance to the program objectives described in the Program Description and Objectives section for this program.

The final approval of selected applications and award of grants or cooperative agreements will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, compliance with Federal policies that best further the objectives of the Department of Commerce, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible.

Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award.

The decision of the Grants Officer is final.

**Evaluation Criteria:** The evaluation criteria to be used in evaluating the abbreviated application proposals and full proposals are:

1. *The importance of the proposed research*—Does it have the potential of answering some currently pressing question or of opening up a whole new area of activity?

2. *The relationship of the proposed research to NIST's ongoing work*—Will it support one of NIST's current efforts to develop a new or improved fundamental measurement method or physical standard, test the basic laws of physics, or provide an improved value for a fundamental constant?

3. *The feasibility of the research and the potential impact of the grant*—Is it likely that significant progress can be made in a three year time period with the funds and personnel available and that the funding will enable work that would otherwise not be done with existing or potential funding?

4. *The qualifications of the applicant*—Does the educational and employment background and the quality of the research, based on recent publications, of the applicant indicate that there is a high probability that the proposed research will be carried out successfully?

Each of these factors is given equal weight in the evaluation process.

**Matching Requirements:** The Precision Measurement Grants Program does not require any matching funds.

**Application Kit:** For the Precision Measurement Grants Program, an application kit, containing all required application forms and certifications will be provided to the finalists by Ms. Bonnie Whipp, (301) 975-4750.

#### **EEEL, MEL, CSTL, PL, MSEL, BFRL, and ITL SURF Programs**

**Dates:** All SURF Program proposals must be received no later than the close of business March 24, 2003.

**Addresses:** For all SURF Programs, applicant institutions must submit one signed original and two copies of the proposal to: Attn.: Ms. Anita Sweigert, Administrative Coordinator, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8400, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8400. Tel: (301) 975-4200. E-mail: [anita.sweigert@nist.gov](mailto:anita.sweigert@nist.gov). Web site: <http://www.surf.nist.gov/surf2.htm>.

Technical questions for the programs should be directed to the following contact persons: For the EEEL SURF Program, Dr. David Newell, Tel: (301) 975-4228, E-mail:

[david.newell@nist.gov](mailto:david.newell@nist.gov); for the MEL SURF Program, Ms. Lisa Jean Fronczek, Tel: (301) 975-6633, E-mail:

[lfronczek@nist.gov](mailto:lfronczek@nist.gov); for the CSTL SURF Program, Dr. Albert Lee, Tel: (301) 975-2857, E-mail: [albert.lee@nist.gov](mailto:albert.lee@nist.gov) or Jeanice Brown Thomas, Tel: (301) 975-3120, E-mail:

[jeanice.brownthomas@nist.gov](mailto:jeanice.brownthomas@nist.gov); for the PL SURF Program, Dr. Marc Desrosiers, Tel: (301) 975-5639, E-mail:

[marc.desrosiers@nist.gov](mailto:marc.desrosiers@nist.gov); for the MSEL SURF Program, Dr. Terrell A. Vanderah, Tel: (301) 975-5785, E-mail:

[terrell.vanderah@nist.gov](mailto:terrell.vanderah@nist.gov); for the BFRL SURF Program, Dr. Chris White, Tel: (301) 975-6016, E-mail:

[cwhite@nist.gov](mailto:cwhite@nist.gov), or Dr. Chiara Ferraris, Tel: (301) 975-6711, E-mail:

[chiara.ferraris@nist.gov](mailto:chiara.ferraris@nist.gov); and for the ITL SURF Program, Dr. Larry Reeker, Tel: (301) 975-5147, E-mail:

[larry.reeker@nist.gov](mailto:larry.reeker@nist.gov).

**Authority:** The authority for the SURF Programs is as follows: 15 U.S.C. 278g-1 authorizes NIST to fund financial assistance awards to students at institutions of higher learning within the United States. These

students must show promise as present or future contributors to the missions of NIST. Cooperative agreements are awarded to assure continued growth and progress of science and engineering in the United States, including the encouragement of women and minority students to continue their professional development.

**Program Description and Objectives:** The objective of the SURF Programs is to build a mutually beneficial relationship between the student, the institution of higher learning, and NIST.

The program description for the SURF Programs is as follows: NIST is one of the nation's premiere research institutions for the physical and engineering sciences and, as the lead Federal agency for technology transfer, it provides a strong interface between government, industry and academia. NIST embodies a special science culture, developed from a large and well-equipped research staff that enthusiastically blends programs that address the immediate needs of industry with longer-term research that anticipates future needs. This occurs in few other places and enables the EEEL, MEL, CSTL, PL, MSEL, BFRL, and ITL to offer unique research and training opportunities for undergraduates, providing them a research-rich environment and exposure to state of the art equipment.

NIST's EEEL strives to be the world's best source of fundamental and industrial-reference measurement methods and physical standards for electrotechnology. To be a world-class resource for semiconductor measurements, data, models, and standards focused on enhancing U.S. technological competitiveness in the world market, research is conducted in semiconductor materials, processing, devices, and integrated circuits to provide, through both experimental and theoretical work, the necessary basis for understanding measurement-related requirements in semiconductor technology. To provide the world's most technically advanced and fundamentally sound basis for all electrical measurements in the United States, the EEEL's research projects include maintaining and disseminating the national electrical standards, developing the measurement methods and services needed to support electrical materials, components, instruments, and systems used for the generation, transmission, and application of conducted electrical power, and related activities in support of the electronics industry including research on video technology and electronic product data exchange.