

proposal, based on the evaluation criteria described below.

Reviews will be conducted on a quarterly basis, and all proposals received during the quarter will be ranked based on the reviewers' scores. Second, the Division Chief or Office Director will make application selections. In making application selections, the Division Chief or Office Director will take into consideration the results of the reviewers' evaluations, the compatibility of the applicant's proposal with the program objectives of the particular division or office that the proposal addresses, the availability of funding, and relevance to the objectives of the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program, as described above. The final approval of selected applications and award of financial assistance 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. Applicants should allow up to 90 days processing time.

**Evaluation Criteria:** For the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program, the evaluation criteria and weights to be used by the technical reviewers in evaluating the proposals are as follows:

Proposal addresses specific program objectives as described in this notice (25%);

Proposal provides evidence of applicant's expertise in relevant technical area (20%);

Proposal offers innovative approach (20%);

Proposal provides realistic schedule with defined milestones (20%);

Proposal provides adequate rationale for budget (15%).

**Award Period:** For the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program, proposals will be considered for research projects from one to three years. When a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. If an application is selected for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award. Continuation of an award to increase

funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NIST. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress, continued relevance to the mission of the Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program, and the availability of funds. The multi-year awards must have scopes of work that can be easily separated into annual increments of meaningful work that represent solid accomplishments if prospective funding is not made available to the applicant, (i.e., the scopes of work for each funding period must produce identifiable and meaningful results in and of themselves).

**Matching Requirements:** The Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program does not require any matching funds.

**Application Kit:** An application kit, containing all required application forms and certifications is available on the web at [http://www.eeel.nist.gov/eeel\\_grants/](http://www.eeel.nist.gov/eeel_grants/) or by contacting: Sheilda Bryner, (301) 975-2220, [sheilda.bryner@nist.gov](mailto:sheilda.bryner@nist.gov).

#### **Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory (MEL) Grants Program**

**Dates:** The MEL Grants Program proposals must be received no later than the close of business September 30, 2003. Proposals received after June 30, 2003, will continue to be processed and considered for funding but may be funded in the next fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds. Each applicant must submit one signed original and two copies of each proposal along with a Grant Application (Standard Form 424 REV. 7/97 and other required forms).

**Addresses:** For the MEL Grants Program, submit one signed original and two copies of the proposal, clearly marked to identify the field of research, to: Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory, Attn: Mrs. Barbara Horner, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8200, Building 220, Room B322, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8200. Tel: (301) 975-4345. E-mail: [barbara.horner@nist.gov](mailto:barbara.horner@nist.gov).

**Authority:** As authorized under 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the MEL conducts a basic and applied research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

**Program Description and Objectives:** All proposals submitted must be in accordance with the program objectives listed below. The appropriate Program Manager for each field of research may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives.

**I. Precision Engineering Division, 821—**The primary objective is to support laboratory programs in the areas of Engineering Metrology, Large-Scale Metrology, Nanometer-Scale Metrology, and Surface Metrology. The contact person for this division is: Dr. Dennis Swyt, and he may be reached at (301) 975-3463; [dennis.swyt@nist.gov](mailto:dennis.swyt@nist.gov).

**II. Manufacturing Metrology Division, 822—**The primary objective is to support laboratory programs in Mechanical Metrology; Advanced Optics Metrology; Predictive Process Engineering; and Smart Machine Tools. The contact person for this division is: Dr. E. Clayton Teague, and he may be reached at (301) 975-6600; [clayton.teague@nist.gov](mailto:clayton.teague@nist.gov).

**III. Intelligent Systems Division, 823—**The primary objective is to support laboratory programs in Intelligent Open Architecture Control of Manufacturing Systems, Intelligent Controls of Mobility Systems, and Intelligent Systems. The contact person for this division is: Mr. Albert Wavering, and he may be reached at (301) 975-3418; [albert.wavering@nist.gov](mailto:albert.wavering@nist.gov).

**IV. Manufacturing Systems Integration Division, 826—**The primary objective is to pursue semantics- and ontology-based systems integration technology and standards through support of laboratory programs in Manufacturing Enterprise Integration; Manufacturing Simulation and Visualization; Integrated Simulations for Homeland Defense and Emergency Response; Product Engineering; Healthcare Informatics; and Meso-Micro-Nano-Manufacturing. The contact person for this division is: Dr. Steven R. Ray, and he may be reached at (301) 975-3508; [steven.ray@nist.gov](mailto:steven.ray@nist.gov).

**Eligibility:** The MEL Grants Program is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; State, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

**Funding Availability:** In fiscal year 2003, the MEL Grants Program anticipates funding of approximately \$750,000, including new awards and continuing projects. Individual awards are expected to range from approximately \$25,000 to \$300,000.

**Proposal Review Process:** Responsive proposals will be reviewed in a two-step process. First, at least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described in the section above that the proposal addresses will conduct a technical review of proposals,