

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN

CONSULT

AND

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

A. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CONSULTING on behalf of the US Intelligence Community (IC) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) outlines a jointly funded research initiative in the area of mathematics and physical sciences. The initiative is entitled "*Approaches to Combat Terrorism: Opportunities for Basic Research*", referred to as "ACT" in this MOU. The goals of this initiative are to encourage long-term, high-risk research approaches to scientific research in support of the nation's fight against terrorism.

B. Background

The events of 11 September 2001 and the ensuing fight against terrorism have presented the IC with a series of daunting challenges as it seeks to protect the nation from this threat. The IC needs a broad spectrum of capabilities to combat this threat and many of these capabilities can be significantly enhanced with advanced technology. The defense of the nation has depended greatly on technology for most of the last century and the US scientific community has been the key to providing that technology to the national security community. Now a new threat has emerged and once again the national security community needs the best, most advanced technology. The National Science Foundation, in its role of furthering the role of science in the nation's defense, is uniquely positioned to spur the scientific community to develop this new, advanced technology and open the way to development of the new capabilities, which the IC needs. In response to this critical need the scientific community and the IC came together in a joint IC/NSF Workshop in November of 2002. The Workshop Report, entitled "*Approaches to Combat Terrorism: Opportunities for Basic Research*", identified promising areas of research where increased investment in basic and applied research could lead to advanced technology solutions to IC problems.

**C. Objectives**

The goals of this initiative are to develop new capabilities to combat terrorism through advanced technology. Particular emphasis is placed on the need to develop advanced technology in Energy Sources, Sensors and Detectors, Image Reconstruction and Analysis, Optical Spectroscopy and Mathematical Techniques. If successful, the basic and applied research will lead to technology that the IC can acquire and integrate into systems through industry.

**D. Specific Responsibilities**

1. In order to foster the long-term perspective required to reach the research objectives of this initiative, a multiyear program is planned. The table below indicates the base funding that each agency intends to provide, according to fiscal year, beginning in FY 2003. In all cases, and especially in succeeding years, funding is subject to availability and agency budget appropriations. The initiative sponsors are committed to continuing the initiative beyond FY 2004, but this is too far in the future to reliably predict funding at this time. Each agency reserves the right to increase its share of funding of this initiative at any time.

	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	Total	Percentage
NSF	\$2.50 M	\$2.50 M			70
			CONSULT		

**TABLE 1: ACT Program Proposed Funding Levels**

2. NSF and the IC will jointly prepare the program solicitation for this initiative, specifying areas to be supported, levels and durations of expected support, and procedures for submitting proposals and selecting and administering awards that are consistent with this MOU and NSF policies.

3. NSF and the IC will conduct the review of proposals

received as a result of this program solicitation.

4. A panel consisting of representatives from the IC and NSF will jointly select research projects to be funded under this initiative from among those recommended for funding by the above NSF merit review process. Awards will be based on the selection criteria and themes specified in the ACT announcement. Projects may be awarded for single or multiple years.

5. Awardees are required to appear at workshops as appropriate to report on the progress of their research. One workshop per year is anticipated to involve only ACT awardees, sponsoring agency representatives, and other invited guests.

6. NSF will issue and administer all awards as either standard or continuation grants in accordance with NSF policies and procedures.

CONSULT 7. [redacted] will transfer funds, based on availability, to NSF for the joint funding of these awards each year of the initiative.

8. There will be a standard 4.4% charge for NSF administration deducted from the funds provided by the IC for FY 2003. The NSF overhead rate for succeeding years will be negotiated and agreed upon by the participating agencies.

9. The IC will designate as point of contact: [redacted]

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10. NSF will designate as point of contact: Dr. Adriaan de Graaf, Directorate of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, NSF.

11. Nothing in this agreement is meant to prevent the sponsoring agencies from funding any other efforts in the area of mathematics and physical science, either jointly or separately.

This MOU is executed under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1861-75) and the Central Intelligence Agency under the authority of the National Security Act of 1947.

This MOU will be effective upon signature at each

organization. It will remain in effect through FY 2004, unless terminated, by mutual agreement or by either agency giving 30 days written advance notice. This MOU also may be modified as needed by mutual agreement of the two agencies.

SIGNATURES:

John B. Hunt  
John B. Hunt  
Acting Assistant Director  
Directorate of Mathematical  
and Physical Sciences  
National Science Foundation

Date 16 April 2003

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Date 14 April 2003