



Letter of Intent

**Between the National Science Foundation and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
on the Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) program**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) intend to support PIRE awards that involve innovative international collaborative research and education partnerships with Germany that advance the frontiers of science and engineering. The level of support will be decided among the partners prior to making awards. DFG will be named as a collaborating agency partner in the NSF PIRE solicitation to be posted on the NSF website in the summer of 2016. DFG will also post a link to this opportunity on the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft website.

It is expected that NSF/OISE and DFG will jointly manage the PIRE program competition by following model one as attached in Appendix 1 of this agreement. The details of the program will be agreed upon by the parties in a Management Plan in due time. It is understood that changes to the Management Plan or specified model should only be made upon mutual written agreement of the Participants.

Should disagreement arise under this Letter of Intent, or amendments and/or revisions thereto, the area(s) of disagreement and/or revisions shall be stated in writing by each Participant for consideration.

The collaborative activity is expected to continue until the scheduled end date of the jointly funded projects unless terminated prematurely by either Participant. This Letter of Intent may be amended only by written agreement of the Participants, and can be terminated with 90 days advance written notice of termination by either Participant, or sooner by mutual written consent of both Participants. Any termination shall not affect collaborations or partnerships already granted or being implemented. If this Letter of Intent is terminated, NSF will be expected to pay for NSF termination costs and DFG will be expected to pay for DFG termination costs.

This Letter of Intent does not create binding obligations under either domestic or international law and any collaborative activity contemplated by this Letter is subject to the availability of funds.

National Science Foundation

Rebecca Lynn Keiser
Head, Office of International
Science & Engineering
NSF

Date

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V.

Dr. Annette Schmidtman
Head of Department, Scientific Affairs

Dr. Ulrike Eickhoff
Head of Department, Coordinated
Programmes and Infrastructure

Date

Appendix 1

Models of Collaboration with NSF

For PIRE-2017, select counterpart national and international funding organizations are partnering with the NSF to enhance opportunities for collaborative activities between U.S. investigators and their colleagues abroad, according to the following models:

Model 1. Joint Review (Preliminary and Full Proposals) - In this model agencies will work closely with NSF from the beginning of the PIRE process and will be sharing information during the preliminary proposal stage, the full proposal stage, the award stage, and the post award stage of the process. Information on PIRE proposals and awards (that involve partnerships with institutions served by that counterpart) will be shared with NSF counterpart agencies throughout the PIRE evaluation and award process. Representatives of each agency partnering according to Model 1 may recommend reviewers and panelists for the preliminary and full proposal stages, and may be present during panels when preliminary and full proposals involving researchers served by their agency are being discussed.

Model 2. Joint Review (Full Proposals) - In this model, agencies will work closely with NSF from the beginning of the PIRE process. However, coordination and sharing of information with counterpart agencies will not occur at the preliminary proposal stage and will begin only at the time full proposals are invited. Representatives of each agency partnering according to Model 2 may recommend reviewers and panelists for the full proposal stage, and be present during panels when full proposals involving researchers served by their agency are being discussed.

Model 3. Post-Award Recommendation Review - In this model, agencies will work closely with NSF from the moment that the PIRE invited proposals are recommended by the Office of International and Integrative Activities (OIIA) for award. Counterpart agencies will opt out of the preliminary and full proposal stage. Coordination and sharing of information with counterpart agencies will begin at the time full proposals are recommended for award.