

Notice of Opportunity

The WATER and Environmental Research Systems (WATERS, <http://watersnet.org>) Network Project Office (WNPO) is seeking a Chief Scientist/Engineer (hereafter referred to as “Chief Scientist” for simplicity) to lead Phase 2 of the WATERS Network Project Office. The Chief Scientist will develop a \$5.4M proposal to the National Science Foundation for a national network design study during Phase 2 and will serve as the Principal Investigator (PI) of the two-year project, if the proposal is successful. The unsolicited proposal will be submitted to the National Science Foundation’s Hydrologic Science program (HS) in the Geosciences Directorate and the Environmental Engineering program in the Engineering Directorate on June 1, 2008. Background information on the WATERS Network and proposed plans for the network design study are available (<http://www.watersnet.org/docs/WATERS-Bckgrd.pdf>). These plans resulted from preliminary discussions among the WATERS Network design team, but it will be the responsibility of the Chief Scientist to work with the design team and complete scoping of the Phase 2 project office proposal.

The Chief Scientist should be a nationally- and internationally-recognized research leader in a field related to water science and engineering. The ideal candidate would have a broad interdisciplinary and community-minded perspective; exposure to multiple field-based, model-based, and large experimental facility-based research approaches; experience with both natural and human-dominated environments; and significant prior leadership experience. The Chief Scientist is expected to be funded nearly full time on this two-year project and to be ready to limit other responsibilities during the project, although a half-time appointment could be possible during the first year. While a two-year commitment is requested, it is possible that the Chief Scientist could continue indefinitely if desired (pending funding availability). Relocation is not necessary, but arrangements for space remote from the home institution (e.g., in the Washington DC area) may be possible if desired. Given the short time available for developing the proposal, the Chief Scientist is expected to contribute to the proposal but will be able to work closely with the current design team and make use of prior WNPO documents and input from a Request for Information (RFI, see <http://www.watersnet.org/docs/RFI-Fnl.pdf>) in its formulation. NSF is expected to make a decision on the Phase 2 proposal by September 30, 2008 and the project will commence during Fall 2008, but a later start date may be possible if necessary.

To apply for this position, please send a curriculum vitae, names of three references, and a brief statement of interest to the WATERS Network Project Office (watersinfo@ncsa.uiuc.edu) no later than **February 17, 2008** at 12 midnight EST. The Statement of Interest should not exceed three pages and should include suggested approaches for the Phase 2 national network design study. Phone interviews of finalists will be held during the week of February 25, 2008, and selection will be made shortly thereafter. *Applicants should also make every effort to attend the March 24 and 25, 2008, community workshop, where the new Chief Scientist is scheduled to*

present his/her vision for Phase 2 and discuss plans with the community. For further information on this opportunity, please contact any member of the WATERS Network Chief Scientist/Engineer search committee:

- Pedro Alvarez, Rice University, alvarez@rice.edu
- Suzanne Anderson, University of Colorado at Boulder, Suzanne.Anderson@colorado.edu
- John Braden, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, jbb@uiuc.edu
- Amy Childress, University of Nevada Reno, amyec@unr.edu
- Efi Foufoula, University of Minnesota, efi@umn.edu
- Rick Hooper, Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologist Sciences Inc., rhooper@cuahsi.org
- Barbara Minsker, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Minsker@uiuc.edu.