NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

NSF 16-027

Dear Colleague Letter: Enabling US-Netherlands Collaboration for Privacy Research

November 23, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

In fall 2015, the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) jointly funded a workshop between U.S. and Dutch researchers (see http://www.heinz.cmu.edu/~acquisti/NSFNWO/index.htm for a workshop report) to help build long-term research collaboration among scientists from the two countries who are studying technical and social aspects of privacy. The research themes formulated during the workshop could be a sound, but need not be an exclusive, basis for collaborative research in privacy.

NSF and NWO encourage now submission of joint research proposals, one for US-based researchers to collaborate with Netherlands-based researchers, and one for Netherlands-based researchers to collaborate with US-based researchers. The research topics should fit the privacy research goals of NSF's Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) program (https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504709)[1]. NSF expects to fund a small number of EArly-Concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) proposals to enable U.S.-based researchers to collaborate with Netherlands-based researchers. NWO (physical and social sciences) expects to fund the same number of grants based on its Cybersecurity and Privacy program to enable Netherlands-based researchers to collaborate with U.S.-based researchers. Investigators interested in submitting a proposal are required to submit a two-page description of the proposed joint research via the NSF and NWO channels, using a template in which most fields are common but, when required, also adhering to organization-specific rules and processes:

1. Each proposal must include at least one US-based PI and at least one Dutch PI.
2. There is a limit of one proposal per PI. This limit does not count towards the proposal limits of the SaTC or CISE core programs.
3. US-based researchers should send their descriptions via email to the cognizant program directors, Heng Xu (hxu@nsf.gov) and Nan Zhang (nanzhang@nsf.gov), including the name(s) of the US-based principal investigators and their intended Dutch collaborator(s), and the proposed collaboration plan.
4. Netherlands-based researchers send their descriptions through the NWO webportal (http://www.nwo.nl/en), including the name(s) of the Netherlands-based principal investigators and their intended US collaborator(s), and the proposed collaboration plan.

The deadline for the two-pager is January 15, 2016.

NSF and NWO will share these descriptions with one another.

The investigators will be provided with non-binding feedback by February 16, 2016, regarding the novelty of the proposed research and how well their submission fits the priorities of NSF and NWO.

Based on this feedback, investigators may submit a full proposal through the NWO channel and an EAGER proposal in accordance with NSF's *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG) II.D.2 (see http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg), with the NWO proposal budgeting funding for the Netherlands-based researchers, and the NSF proposal budgeting funding for the US-based researchers. While each proposal needs to meet the corresponding agency's guidelines, where possible, the technical sections should be identical. Full proposals will be due April 1, 2016.

For further information, please contact the cognizant NSF program directors, Heng Xu (hxu@nsf.gov) and Nan Zhang (nanzhang@nsf.gov), and/or the NWO Program Manager Jan Piet Barthel (j.barthel@nwo.nl).

Sincerely,

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1 SaTC is a multidisciplinary activity led by NSF's Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE). NSF strongly encourages new collaborations.