Update on Office of Science Early Career Research Program and Data Systems

Linda G. Blevins, Ph.D.
Office of the Deputy Director for Science Programs
Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee
November 5, 2009
Office of Science Early Career Research Program

- **Purpose:** To support the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers and to stimulate research careers in the disciplines supported by the Office of Science.

- Principal investigators are within 10 years of receiving a Ph.D. and are either untenured academic assistant professors on the tenure track or full-time DOE national laboratory employees.

- About 65 awards expected in FY10 with $85M in Recovery Act funds. Future annual competitions will be supported through regular research appropriations.

- University grants are at least $150,000 per year for five years to cover summer salary and expenses; Lab awards are at least $500,000 per year for five years to cover full annual salary and expenses.

- Announcements posted 7/2/09; ~2200 Letters of intent arrived by 8/3/09; ~1750 full proposals arrived 9/1/09; Announcements expected by 2/1/09. (BES is reviewing ~850 proposals)

- Research will be competitively awarded based on peer review. Review and award management will take place in the six science programs.

- Eligibility criteria, review criteria, and program rules are common across the Office of Science.

• In May 2008, the SC Office of Business Management initiated a project to develop requirements for a grants management data system.

• A team was formed to provide input
  – SC Information Technology group
  – Science programs, as represented by the Office of the Deputy Director for Science Programs (SC-2)
  – Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program
  – SC Office of Grants and Contracts

• Program input developed by SC-2 with advice from ASCR, BER, BES, FES, HEP, and NP
  – A team of six program managers, one from each SC program
  – Input from support staff members across SC
Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS): The Basic System

- Core database with flexibility to add data manipulation modules
- Exchanges data with existing systems
- Allows direct data input from outside and inside DOE
  - Reviews, revised budgets, progress reports, people profiles, workforce forms, etc.

- Proposal record
  - Electronic proposal from a lab or university
  - Correspondence
  - Reviews and review information
  - Documentation of decision
  - Post-award management documents
  - Various metadata

- People record
  - Information about reviewers and principal investigators
  - Contact information; optional demographics; keywords; proposal/review history
PAMS Additional Features

- Time and date stamping, tracking, built-in notifications and reminders
- Data aggregation, sorting, and calculations
- Easy access for program manager to portfolio
- Searchable on all data fields
- Spreadsheet-based reporting
- Defined roles and access controls
- Flexible routing
- Privacy issues addressed
- Facilitation of a public abstracts database
The Data Challenge for PAMS

- SC employs about 150 federal program managers
- At any given time, SC manages about 3,000 financial assistance awards and more than 1,000 lab awards
- SC annually receives about 2,500 new, renewal, and supplemental financial assistance applications  
  - Each proposal receives three to five reviews
- SC collects more than 10,000 reviews annually
- SC annually supports about 25,000 people  
  - Ph.D.’s, grad students, undergrads, engineers, technicians
Thank You

linda.blevins@science.doe.gov