



January 7, 2010

Dear Potential Title Sponsor:

Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair core values are closely aligned with your company's ideals and values. The process of scientific investigations and engineering design teaches real-life skills, such as innovative, creative and critical thinking, communication and public speaking, discipline and self motivation. Science investigations support curiosity and the understanding of science, technology, energy and the environment, and utilizing innovative designs by allowing students to determine their own avenue of inquiry and determining the most appropriate engineering design or method to answer a scientific question. Students are also taught the ethics of scientific inquiry and the importance of honesty, integrity, and fairness when designing procedures, collecting and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions based on their data.

Who We Are

For over 50 years, the Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair, Inc. (NEFRSEF), a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation formed to promote science, engineering, mathematics and technology careers in our local community. The Fair has provided opportunities for students from Nassau and Duval counties to highlight their talents and compete for recognition, awards, and scholarships in regional, state and international science and engineering competitions. Each year, more than 8,000 students prepare science projects for competition in the regional science fair program. They all aspire to be among the 350 students who attend the Northeast Florida regional fair, the 38 students that are sponsored to compete in the Florida State Science Fair, the 38 who are nominated for the Discovery Young Scientists Challenge, and the 8 who will compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Over the past 50 years, more than a half million students have participated in our programs, experiencing the excitement of science and engineering investigations while networking with other students to exchange ideas and concepts.

Community-centric, Bring Science to the Forefront

Our organization directly touches students' lives by reviewing all student projects which involve humans, animals, potentially hazardous biological agents, hazardous devices, chemicals, and activities. Because the safety of our students is extremely important to us, projects dealing with these topics must receive prior Safety Review Committee/Intuition Review Board approval before students are permitted to begin their experimentation. This committee is composed of teachers, school administrators, psychologists, medical doctors, and nurses, which ensures the students' safety when conducting experimentation. NEFRSEF also provides teacher workshops to help new teachers introduce scientific inquiry to their students. As students begin to ask questions, NEFRSEF encourages and contacts community based mentors from hospitals, research institutions, industry, and universities to assist our students with their research. The culminating experience for the students is the Regional Science and Engineering Fair held each February. This event spans three days, one day consists of set-up and final safety review of project display boards, day two is judging day,

and on day three, the general public is invited to view the students' displays. The finale is the Awards Ceremony on the evening of day three, when the celebration of all the students' hard work, determination, and completion of a complex process is recognized.

Grant's Purpose

The purpose of this grant is to provide funding to operate the regional fair and finance student costs associated with attending state and international science competitions. Our affiliation agreement with these organizations prohibits the solicitation of funds from parents and it is the sole responsibility of NEFRSEF to provide a safe learning environment where our community's brightest students compete on a regional, state, and international level.

Performance/Financial Objectives

The performance objectives are to provide regional competition to 350 students, and completely fill our quotas of students attending the State Science and Engineering Fair (38) and International Science and Engineering Fair (8). Our annual budget varies from year to year, depending on the location of each event; however, for the past three years, it has ranged between \$50,000-\$55,000 per year. We are requesting \$25,000. At this level of contribution your company will become the "Title Sponsor" of the 2010 Regional Science & Engineering Fair. The largest portion of our budget has traditionally been provided by our local school district and city government; however, due to current economic conditions, we have lost funding from these sources. We are appealing to the generosity of the business community to help us provide life-altering opportunities to our students. As an example of the impact science competitions and our organization makes, this past year, one of our International Science and Engineering Fair finalists, was the recipient of a \$120,000 scholarship to Drexel University.

Operational Effectiveness

Everyone within the organization, from the board of directors, officers, teachers, mentors, and parents, are all volunteers. All costs associated with NEFRSEF have been scaled back as much as possible, but with continuing to provide the maximum participation by students to all competitions. As an example, our fair was previously held in a local college venue that only permitted 214 students to attend. Last year, we were fortunate to enlist the sponsorship of a local university and business to move the competition to a larger venue at no cost to the organization. We are committed to strive to enlist new volunteers, mentors, and judges to minimize costs and involve our community in this important and worthwhile enterprise.

Below is a list of NEFRSEF officers and their contact information. Please feel free to contact anyone on the list, we will be happy to provide any additional information necessary.

Northeast Florida Regional Science & Engineering Fair
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Federal ID# 23-7407444

Officers:

Name	Title	Email Address	Phone
Susan Biehler	Fair Director	biehlers@bellsouth.net	(904) 234-1134
Douglas Meeks	President	Swamp1sg@aol.com	(904) 396-7132
Marion Zeiner	Treasurer	zeinerm@episcopalhigh.org	(904) 396-5751
Andy Thompson	VP/Secretary	athompson@teainc.org	(904) 616-8958

We are a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit corporation, formed to promote science, engineering, mathematics and computer careers through the operation of science and engineering fair competition. Attached is our IRS documentation to verify our tax exempt status. Our sales representative for Duval County Public Schools is Felicia McDade, Felicia.a.mcdade@jci.com.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward in having your company as our Fair's Title Sponsor for the 2010 Northeast Florida Regional Science & Engineering Fair. If you have any questions, please contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Susan Biehler

Susan Biehler, Fair Director

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