

## FY 2007 ANNUAL PART PERFORMANCE GOALS

In FY 2007, NSF monitored 20 quantitative performance goals associated with NSF's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) evaluations. These annual performance goals address program efficiency and effectiveness. Below is a table summarizing results of NSF's FY 2007 annual performance goals, where 14 of 20 Goals (70 percent) were achieved, followed by detailed goal descriptions.

<b>TIME -TO-DECISION</b>	
1. Research Grants: Time to Decision	●
2. Education Grants: Time to Decision	●
3. Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program: Time to Decision	●
4. Science and Engineering Centers: Time to Decision for Pre-Proposals	●
<b>BROADENING PARTICIPATION</b>	
5. Research Grants: Percentage of Proposals from Outside the Top 100 Institutions	●
6. Education Grants: Percentage of Proposals from Outside the Top 100 Institutions	■
7. Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program: Percentage of Proposals from Outside the Top 100 Institutions	●
8. CAREER Program: Number of Applicants from Minority-Serving Institutions	●
9. Graduate Research Fellowship Program: Number of Applicants from Underrepresented Groups	●
10. SBIR/STTR Programs: Percentage of Phase I Awards to New PIs	■
11. Science and Engineering Centers: Percentage of Non-Academic Partner Institutions	■
12. GRF, IGERT, GK-12 Programs: Number of Graduate Students Funded	■
<b>MANAGEMENT OF LARGE FACILITIES</b>	
13. MREFC Facilities: Construction Cost and Schedule	■
14. Major Multi-User Research Facilities: Operations	●
15. FFRDC Operational Facilities	■
16. National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO): Observing Time	●
17. National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR): Number of Users of Datasets	●
18. TeraGrid Users	●
19. Polar Programs: Support for Research in the Antarctic	●
20. Polar Programs: Construction Cost and Schedule	●

- Goal Achieved
- Goal Not Achieved

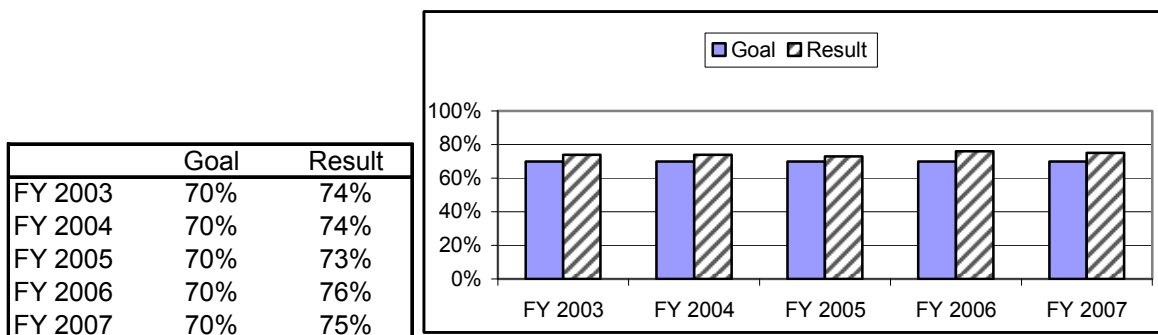
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 1:  
RESEARCH GRANTS: TIME-TO-DECISION**

**Goal:** For 70 percent of proposals submitted for Research Grants, inform applicants about funding decisions within six months of proposal receipt or deadline, or target date, whichever is later, while maintaining a credible and efficient merit review system.

**Program Description:** NSF’s Research Grants program is a set of proposals dealing primarily with “traditional” research projects. Excluded from this category are grants for equipment, education, postdoctoral fellowships, planning and travel grants, and symposia, as well as cooperative agreements for centers and facilities. Also excluded are most of the programs in the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. This goal is intended to ensure that proposal decisions will be made available in a timely manner and conveyed to investigators in order that they may plan activities more effectively. Given the increasing complexity and growing numbers of proposals being submitted to NSF each year, and the increased attention throughout the Foundation to improving the quality and transparency of the merit review process, this is an ambitious goal for all program officers as they manage their proposal workload and overall portfolio of awards.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** The time-to-decision goal was achieved Foundation-wide (under the Stewardship goal) and in three program portfolios: Research Grants, Education Grants, and the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program. NSF program officers are held accountable for making recommendations on funding of proposals in a timely manner (within six months from proposal receipt), and in notifying investigators about these recommendations, while maintaining a credible and efficient merit review system. The time-to-decision goal has been achieved despite the increasing numbers of proposals submitted each year to NSF.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Fundamental Science and Engineering (FSE) PART (PART ID: 10004400) conducted in FY 2005.

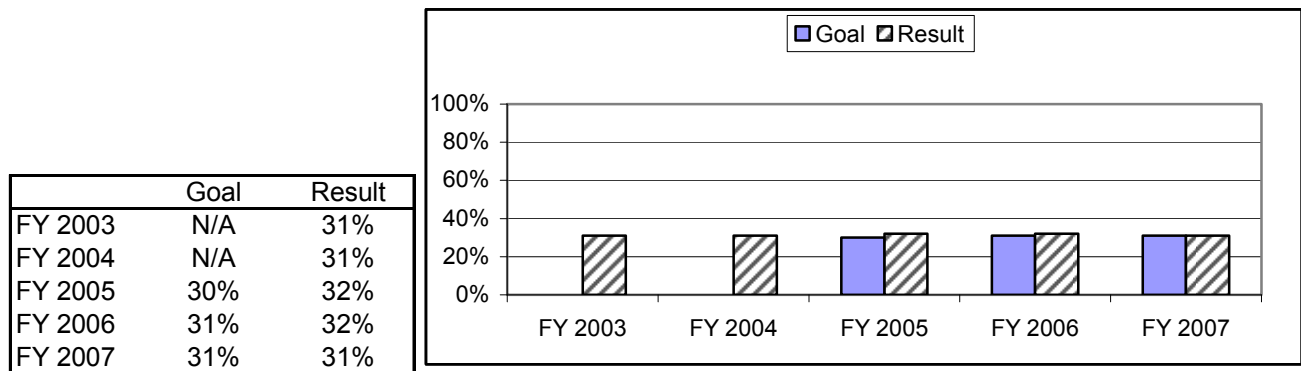
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 2:  
RESEARCH GRANTS: PERCENTAGE OF PROPOSALS FROM OUTSIDE THE TOP 100 INSTITUTIONS**

**Goal:** Increase the percentage of proposals for research grants from academic institutions not in the top 100 of NSF funding recipients.

**Program Description:** NSF’s Research Grants program is a set of proposals dealing primarily with “traditional” research projects. Excluded from this category are grants for equipment, education, postdoctoral fellowships, planning and travel grants, and symposia, as well as cooperative agreements for centers and facilities. Also excluded are most of the programs in the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. This goal is intended to expand NSF’s efforts to increase participation from underrepresented groups and diverse institutions throughout the United States in all NSF activities and programs.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** NSF continues to broaden participation in its Research Grants program portfolio through outreach to the institutions that are not in the top 100 of funding institutions. Examples of such activities are grants workshops and presentations on program opportunities by NSF staff at professional meetings throughout the country.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Fundamental Science and Engineering (FSE) PART conducted in FY 2005 (PART ID: 10004400).

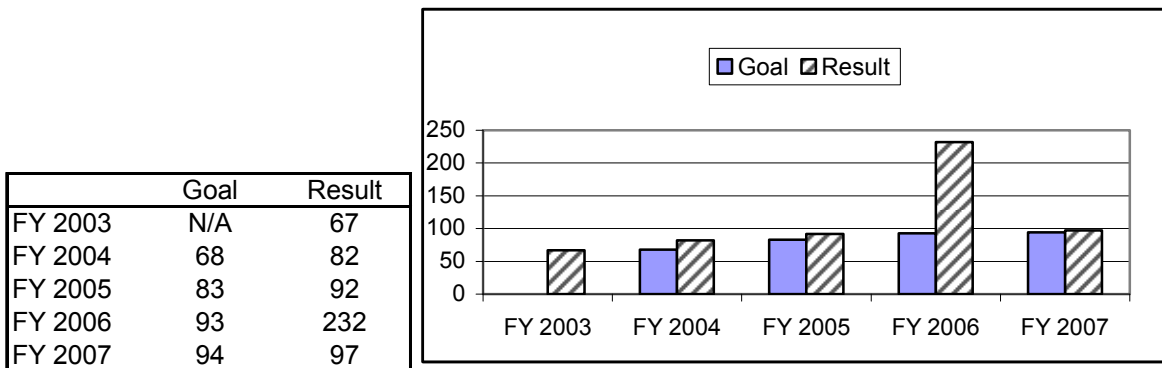
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 3:  
CAREER PROGRAM: NUMBER OF APPLICANTS FROM MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS**

**Goal:** Increase the number of applicants for Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) awards from investigators at Minority-Serving Institutions.

**Program Description:** The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards in support of the early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization. NSF encourages submission of CAREER proposals from junior faculty at all eligible organizations and especially encourages women, members of underrepresented minority groups, and persons with disabilities to apply. This goal is intended to expand NSF's efforts to increase participation from underrepresented groups and diverse institutions throughout the United States in all NSF activities and programs.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** The Foundation continues its efforts to broaden participation in all activities and programs from groups that are underrepresented in science and engineering. NSF is currently reviewing an agency-wide Broadening Participation Plan.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Support for Individual Researchers PART Program conducted in FY 2003 (PART ID: 10001148).

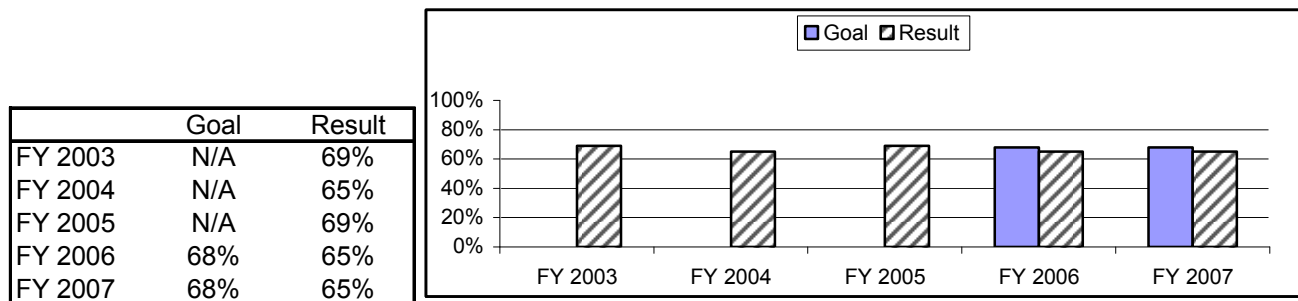
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 4:  
SBIR/STTR PROGRAMS: PERCENTAGE OF PHASE I AWARDS TO NEW PIs**

**Goal:** Maintain a high percentage of awards to new principal investigators (new companies) in Phase I of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs.

**Program Description:** The SBIR/STTR Programs stimulate technological innovation in the private sector by strengthening the role of small business concerns in meeting Federal research and development needs, increasing the commercial application of federally supported research results, and fostering and encouraging participation by socially and economically disadvantaged and women-owned small businesses. The significant difference between the SBIR and STTR programs is that STTR requires researchers at universities and other research institutions to play a significant intellectual role in the conduct of each STTR project. These university-based researchers, by joining forces with a small company, can spin off their commercially promising ideas while they remain primarily employed at the research institution. The SBIR/STTR Program is renewing efforts to attract and fund quality proposals from new principal investigators (new companies) through such means as co-funding with the EPSCoR Program; outreach at national, regional, state, and local small business events; supplementing NSF programs such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) and Research Experiences for Teachers (RET); and encouraging more participation from women and underrepresented groups.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF did not achieve this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** The SBIR/STTR Program directors took numerous steps to increase the percentage of Phase I awards to new investigators. Examples are co-funding with the EPSCoR Program; contacting new grantee candidates at national, regional, state, and local small business events; using supplements in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates and Research Experiences for Teachers Programs; and conducting extensive outreach among small businesses owned and operated by women and underrepresented groups. Despite the fact that a recent Committee of Visitors report found that the Program does have an adequate balance of awards to new investigators, the Program staff will continue their efforts to attract quality proposals from new companies.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Capability Enhancement of Researchers, Institutions, and Small Businesses PART Program conducted in FY 2006 (PART ID: 10004405).

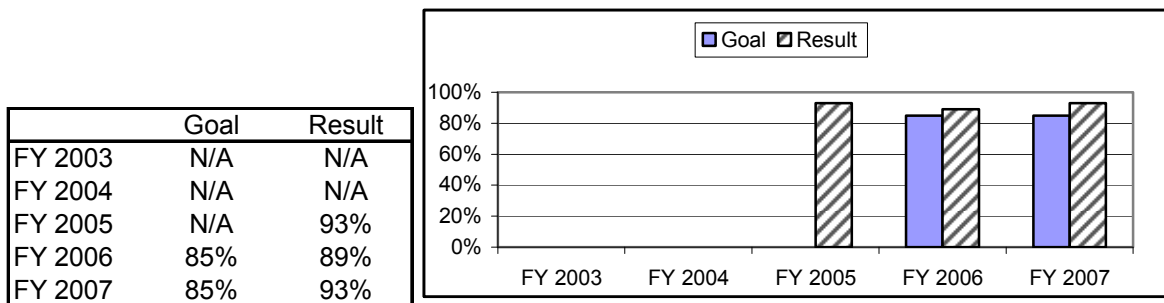
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 5:  
NSF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CENTERS: TIME TO DECISION FOR PRE-PREPOSALS**

**Goal:** For 85 percent of pre-proposals submitted to NSF Science and Engineering centers, be able to inform applicants within five months whether they will be invited to submit full proposals.

**Program Description:** NSF centers enable academic institutions, along with their non-academic partner institutions to integrate NSF’s strategic goals of *Discovery, Learning, and Research Infrastructure* on scales that will significantly impact important science and engineering fields and cross-disciplinary areas through large-scale organized efforts. NSF centers exploit opportunities in science, engineering, and technology in which the complexity of the research problems, or the resources needed to solve them, require the advantages of scope, scale, change, duration, equipment, facilities, and students that can only be provided by an academic research center. Included in this category are Centers for Chemical Innovation, Engineering Research Centers, Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers, Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centers, Centers for Analysis and Synthesis, Science and Technology Centers, and Science of Learning Centers. This goal is intended to ensure that decisions on pre-proposals will be made available and conveyed to investigators in order that they may have enough time to prepare full proposals if invited to do so.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** Because of the varying cycles of competition for NSF’s Centers, this goal covers two years: 2006-2007. Included in this period were Engineering Research Centers, Science of Learning Centers, Centers for Chemical Innovation, and Centers for Analysis and Synthesis. NSF program officers schedule review panels soon after the receipt of pre-proposals so that decisions on whether to invite full proposals may be made in a timely manner, thus affording more time for principal investigators to meet the requirements of submitting a full proposal.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Science and Engineering Centers PART Program conducted in FY 2006 (PART ID: 10004404).

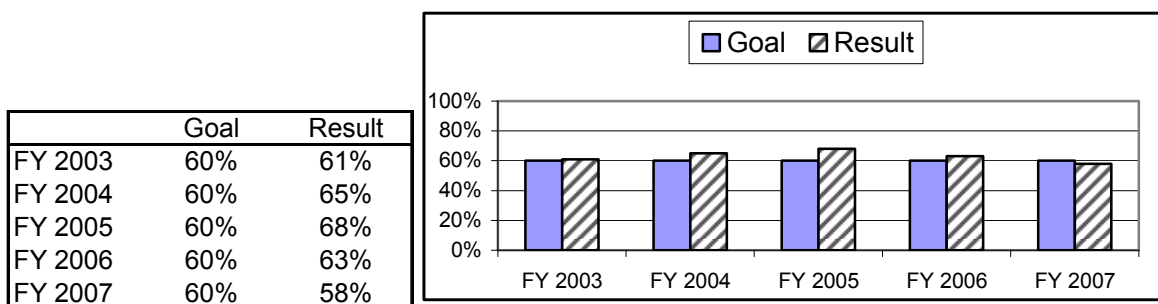
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 6:  
NSF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CENTERS:  
PERCENTAGE OF NON-ACADEMIC PARTNER INSTITUTIONS**

**Goal:** For all NSF centers, maintain a high percentage of partner institutions that are non-academic institutions (includes industry, state, local, and other Federal agencies).

**Program Description:** NSF centers program enable academic institutions, along with their non-academic partner institutions to integrate NSF's strategic goals of Discovery, *Learning*, and *Research Infrastructure* on scales that will significantly impact important science and engineering fields and cross-disciplinary areas through large-scale organized efforts. NSF centers exploit opportunities in science, engineering, and technology in which the complexity of the research problems, or the resources needed to solve them, require the advantages of scope, scale, change, duration, equipment, facilities, and students that can only be provided by an academic research center. Included in this category are Centers for Chemical Innovation, Engineering Research Centers, Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers, Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centers, Centers for Analysis and Synthesis, Science and Technology Centers, and Science of Learning Centers. This goal is intended to contribute to NSF's efforts to broaden participation in its programs by encouraging linkages with non-academic partners throughout the United States, such as national laboratories, research museums, private sector research laboratories, state and local government laboratories, and international collaborations.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF did not achieve this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** The size and complexity of NSF-supported centers vary greatly. The largest and most complex, the Science and Technology Centers, reported a percentage of 78 percent, and the Nanoscale Science & Engineering Centers and the Science of Learning Centers both reported 67 percent. The large Engineering Research Centers reported 48 percent. It must be recognized that the NSF-supported centers are not managed centrally and that each of these center programs has a different reporting period. The performance goal of 60 percent for all centers was set at an approximate target level, and the deviation from that level is slight. There was no effect on overall program or activity performance.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Science and Engineering Centers PART Program conducted in FY 2006 (PART ID: 10004404).

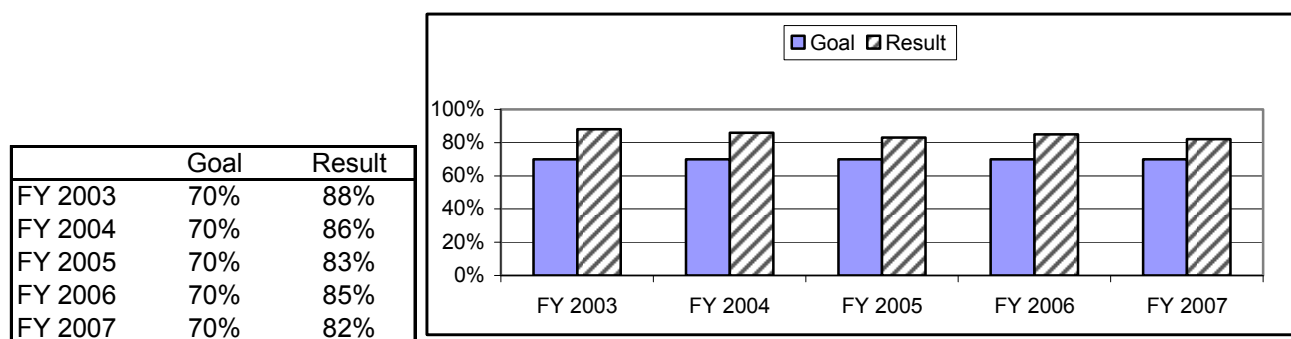
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 7:  
EDUCATION GRANTS: TIME-TO-DECISION**

**Goal:** For 70 percent of proposals submitted to the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), be able to inform applicants about funding decisions within six months of proposal receipt or deadline, or target date, whichever is later, while maintaining a credible and efficient merit review system.

**Program Description:** The mission of the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate is to achieve excellence in U.S. science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at all levels and in all settings (both formal and informal) in order to support the development of a diverse and well-prepared workforce. EHR Programs include opportunities for K-12 science and math education, undergraduate and graduate education, postdoctoral fellowships, and programs aimed at human resource development and at research on learning in formal and informal settings. A Directorate priority is to ensure that the STEM community is broadly representative of the nation's individuals, types of institutions, geographic regions, and STEM disciplines. Given the increasing complexity and growing numbers of proposals being submitted to NSF each year, and the increased attention throughout the Foundation to improving the quality and transparency of the merit review process, this is an ambitious goal for all program officers as they manage their proposal workload and overall portfolio of awards.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** The time-to-decision goal was achieved Foundation-wide (see Stewardship) and in three program portfolios: Research Grants, Education Grants, and the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program. NSF program officers are held accountable for making recommendations on funding of proposals in a timely manner (within six months from proposal receipt), and in notifying investigators about these recommendations, while maintaining a credible and efficient merit review system. The time-to-decision goal has been achieved despite the increasing numbers of proposals submitted each year to NSF.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established during two PART evaluations conducted in FY 2004: Support for Small Research Collaborations (PART ID: 10002322), and Support for Research Institutions (PART ID: 10002324).



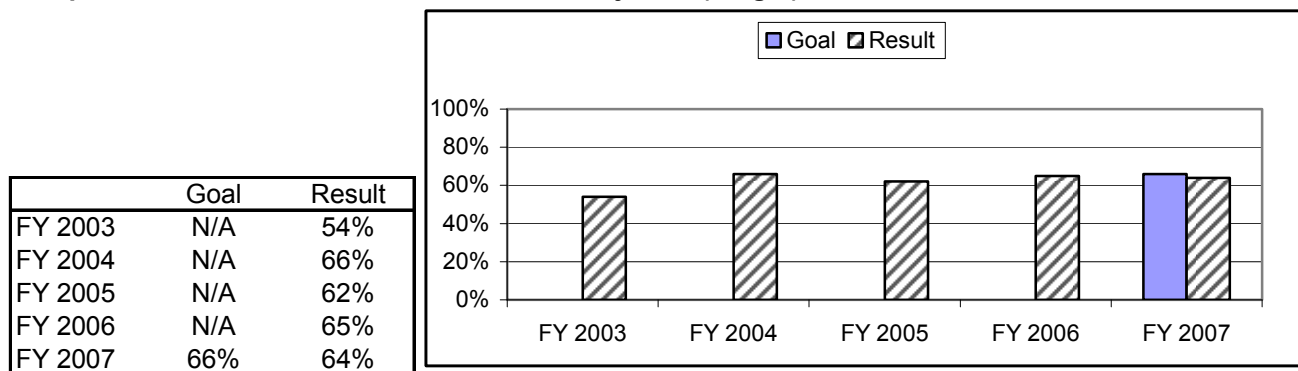
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 8:  
EDUCATION GRANTS: PERCENTAGE OF PROPOSALS  
FROM OUTSIDE THE TOP 100 INSTITUTIONS**

**Goal:** Increase the percentage of proposals submitted to the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) programs from academic institutions not in the top 100 of NSF funding recipients.

**Program Description:** The mission of the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate is to achieve excellence in U.S. science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at all levels and in all settings (both formal and informal) in order to support the development of a diverse and well-prepared workforce. EHR Programs include opportunities for K-12 science and math education, undergraduate and graduate education, postdoctoral fellowships, and programs aimed at human resource development and at research on learning in formal and informal settings. One of the Directorate's priorities is to ensure that the STEM community is broadly representative of the nation's individuals, types of institutions, geographic regions, and STEM disciplines. Therefore, this goal is intended to expand NSF's efforts to increase participation from underrepresented groups and diverse institutions throughout the United States in all NSF activities and programs.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF did not achieve this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** The Foundation will continue its efforts to broaden participation by increasing the percentage of proposals from academic institutions not in the top 100 of NSF funding recipients through outreach to those institutions, holding grant-writing workshops, and sponsoring presentations by staff at professional meetings throughout the country.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established during two PART evaluations conducted in FY 2004: Support for Small Research Collaborations (PART ID: 10002322), and Support for Research Institutions (PART ID: 10002324).

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 9:  
GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM:  
NUMBER OF APPLICANTS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS**

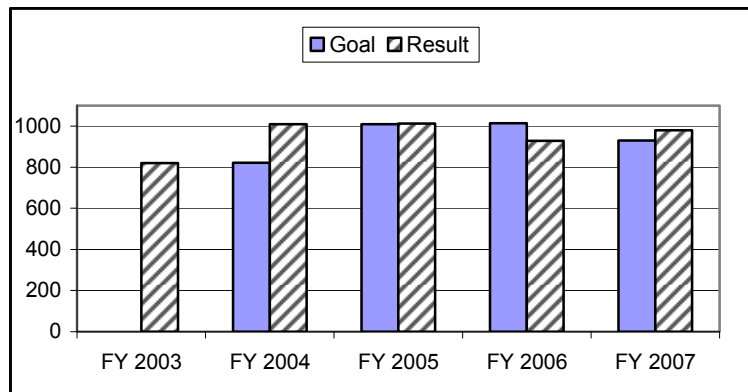
**Goal:** Increase the number of applicants to the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) from groups that are underrepresented in the science and engineering workforce.

**Program Description:** The National Science Foundation aims to ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the United States and to reinforce its diversity by offering approximately 1,000 graduate fellowships per year in this competition. The Graduate Research Fellowship provides three years of support for graduate study leading to research-based master's or doctoral degrees and is intended for students who are at the early stages of their graduate study. The Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) invests in graduate education for a cadre of diverse individuals who demonstrate their potential to successfully complete graduate degree programs in disciplines relevant to the mission of the National Science Foundation. This goal is intended to expand NSF's efforts to increase participation from underrepresented groups and diverse institutions throughout the United States in all NSF activities and programs.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**

	Goal	Result
FY 2003	N/A	820
FY 2004	821	1009
FY 2005	1010	1013
FY 2006	1014	929
FY 2007	930	980



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** NSF has begun a more aggressive outreach effort that includes holding workshops and webinars for undergraduate students at Minority Serving Institutions on how to prepare competitive fellowship applications, working with local and state organizations to reach out to middle and high school students to generate interest in science and engineering, and preparing students in the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Bridge to the Doctorate Program to apply to the GRFP.

**PART Evaluation:** The goal was established in the Support for Individual Researchers PART Program conducted in FY 2003 (PART ID: 10001148).

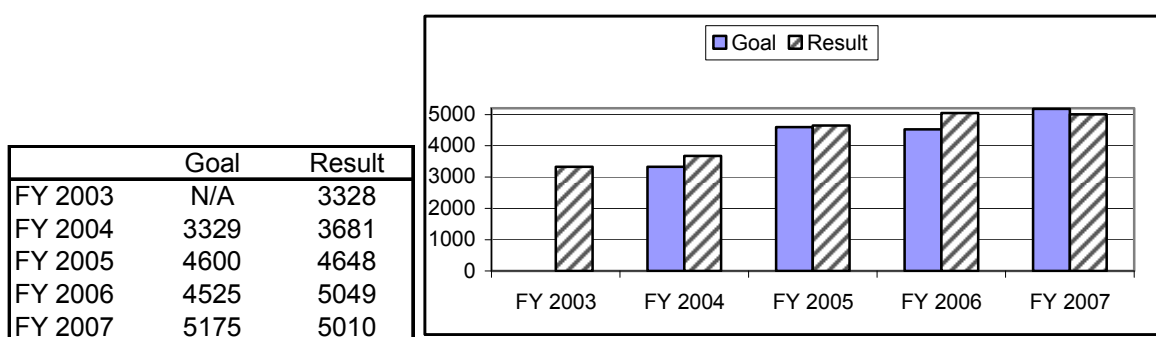
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 10:  
GRF, IGERT, GK-12 PROGRAMS: NUMBER OF GRADUATE STUDENTS FUNDED**

**Goal:** Increase the number of graduate students funded through fellowships or traineeships in the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP), the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeships (IGERT) Program, and the Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12) Program.

**Program Descriptions:** The **Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)** provides three years of support for graduate study leading to research-based master's or doctoral degrees and is intended for students at the early stages of their graduate study. The **Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program** aims to educate U.S. Ph.D. scientists and engineers who will pursue careers in research and education, with the interdisciplinary backgrounds, deep knowledge in chosen disciplines, and technical, professional, and personal skills to become, in their own careers, leaders and creative agents for change. The **Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12) program** provides funding to graduate students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines to acquire additional skills to prepare them for professional and scientific careers in the 21st century.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF did not achieve this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** NSF did not achieve this goal because funding for the three programs was decreased in FY 2007, resulting in fewer students being supported.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Support for Individual Researchers PART Program conducted in FY 2003 (PART ID: 10001148).

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 11:  
MREFC FACILITIES: CONSTRUCTION COST AND SCHEDULE**

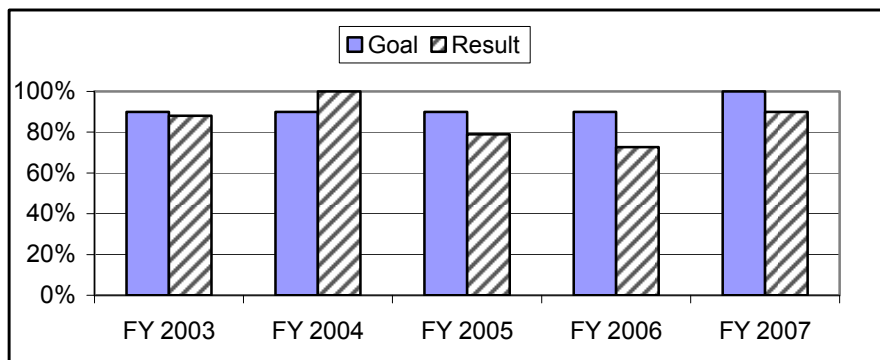
**Goal:** For all facilities in the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account, keep negative cost and schedule variances to less than ten percent.

**Program Description:** In FY 2007, cost and schedule were tracked for the five major facilities under construction: the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA), EarthScope, the IceCube Neutrino Observatory, the Scientific Ocean Drilling Vessel (SODV), and the South Pole Station Modernization (SPSM) project. Earned Value Management (EVM), a widely accepted project management tool for measuring progress, is used for this goal.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF did not achieve this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance for FY 2003 – FY 2006:**

	Goal	Result
FY 2003	90%	88%
FY 2004	90%	100%
FY 2005	90%	79%
FY 2006	90%	73%
FY 2007 *	100%	90%



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** Only one out of five MREFC projects, the Scientific Ocean Drilling Vessel (SODV) did not achieve the schedule goal. SODV schedule variance is principally due to delays associated with the main shipyard contract, the cumulative effect of which has resulted in behind schedule performance of the required outfitting; steel structure repairs; and piping, electrical, and HVAC systems installation. The delays were beyond the Foundation’s control.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Construction and Operations of Research Facilities PART Program (PART ID: 10001145), conducted in FY 2003. Through FY 2006, the goal applied to as many as 11 construction projects, and the target was set at 90 percent to stay within 10 percent of the approved project plan. In FY 2007, the goal was revised to apply to only the five projects named above, and the target was set at 100 percent.

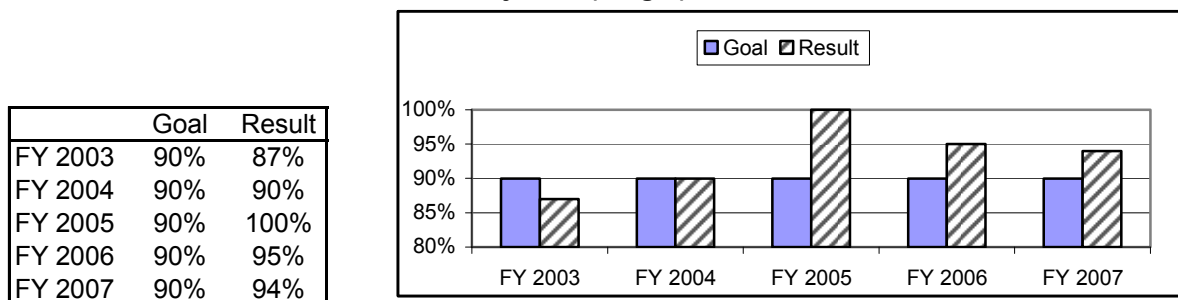
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 12:  
MAJOR MULTI-USER RESEARCH FACILITIES: OPERATIONS**

**Goal:** For 90 percent of NSF facilities in the operational phase, keep operating time lost due to unscheduled downtime to less than ten percent.

**Program Description:** NSF investments provide state-of-the-art tools for research and education, such as multi-user research facilities, distributed instrumentation networks and arrays, accelerators, telescopes, research vessels, aircraft, and earthquake simulators. In addition, investments in internet-based and distributed user facilities are increasing as a result of rapid advances in computer, information, and communication technologies. NSF's investments are coordinated with those of other organizations, agencies, and countries to ensure complementarity and integration. This goal applies to 18 operational facilities: Academic Research Fleet, A Toroidal Large Angle Spectrometer (ATLAS), Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS), Cornell Electron Storage Ring (CESR), Gemini Observatory, Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS), Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO), National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (NHMFL), National Nanofabrication Infrastructure Network (NNIN), National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSC), Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES), National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC), National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)-Earth Observing Laboratory, National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)-Scientific Computing Division, National Solar Observatory (NSO), National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), and U.S. Antarctic Program-Operations.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** To provide the flexibility necessary for NSF to report realistic goals for operational large facilities, the level of success is maintained at 90% of those facilities. Beginning in FY 2005, the threshold for reporting was raised to \$8M per year, to provide consistent definitions of "large facilities."

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Construction and Operations of Research Facilities PART Program conducted in FY 2003 (PART ID: 10001145).

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 13:  
FFRDC OPERATIONAL FACILITIES**

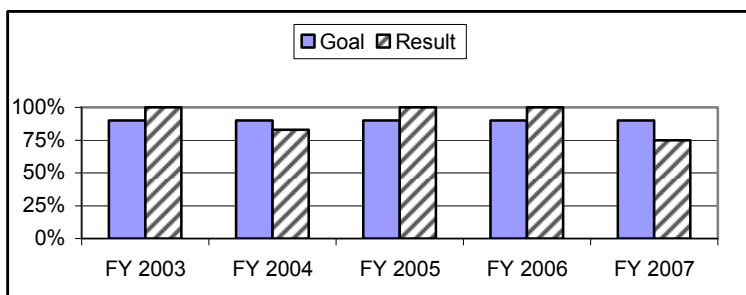
**Goal:** For 90 percent of NSF's Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), keep operating time lost to less than ten percent.

**Program Description:** This goal applies to four facilities: the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC), National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), and National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO).

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF did not achieve this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**

	Goal	Result
FY 2003	90%	100%
FY 2004	90%	83%
FY 2005	90%	100%
FY 2006	90%	100%
FY 2007	90%	75%



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** One of the four FFRDCs did not achieve the goal, resulting in a 75% success rate. That facility, NAIC Arecibo Telescope, was originally scheduled for 3436.25 hours for scientific research programs in FY 2007, but the result was only 3404.25 hours. The contributing factors were: (1) repair of instruments that developed faults during scheduled observations; (2) major maintenance that necessitated removing the telescope from service for nearly six months; and (3) implementation of the recommendation of the NSF/AST (Division of Astronomy) Senior Review, which reduced the NAIC operations funding by 24%.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Federally Funded Research and Development Centers PART conducted in FY 2005 (PART ID: 10004401).

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 14:  
NOAO OBSERVING TIME**

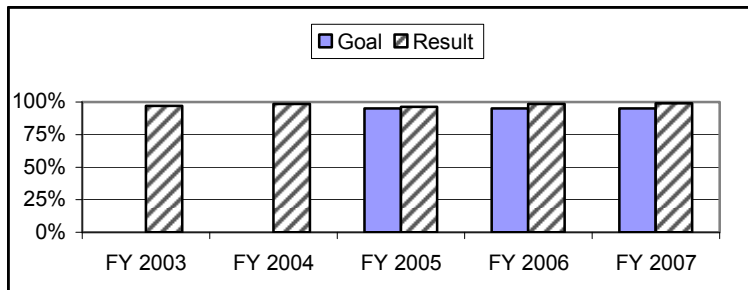
**Goal:** Award at least 95 percent of the operating time at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) through the NOAO allocation committee.

**Program Description:** The National Optical Astronomy Observatory supports research in ground-based, nighttime, optical, and infrared astronomy. NOAO is also the gateway for the U.S. astronomical community to the International Gemini Observatory. The percent of operating time awarded through NSF's competitive merit review system does not include engineering time, telescope time committed under international agreements, or fixed-term observing time awarded by limited competitive review through divestment of older telescopes or as a result of partnership with universities or consortia for technology development. The remaining five percent is time that the NOAO Director may award to worthy proposals, targets of opportunity, or NOAO staff after evaluation by the telescope allocation committee.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**

	Goal	Result
FY 2003	baseline	97.1%
FY 2004	baseline	98.6%
FY 2005	95%	96.4%
FY 2006	95%	98.5%
FY 2007	95%	99%



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** The Foundation's merit review criteria of intellectual merit and broader impacts are applied rigorously in all programs.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) PART conducted in FY 2005 (PART ID: 10004401).

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 15:  
NCAR: NUMBER OF USERS OF DATASETS**

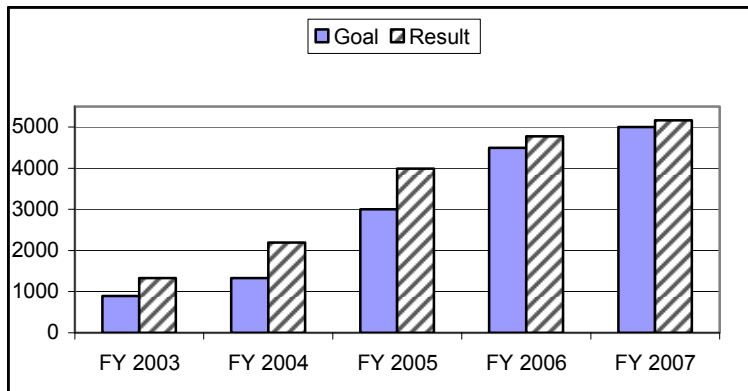
**Goal:** Increase the number of unique users of datasets at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

**Program Description:** The National Center for Atmospheric Research serves a broad research community in the atmospheric, environmental, and geosciences. NCAR facilities provide world-class supercomputing services for the development, validation, and execution of large computational models. NCAR is responsible for the curation, archiving, and manipulation of large datasets. This goal tracks the number of users of those datasets who have unique access addresses.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**

	Goal	Result
FY 2003	891	1331
FY 2004	1332	2191
FY 2005	3000	3990
FY 2006	4500	4779
FY 2007	5000	5168



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:**

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Federally Funded Research and Development Centers PART conducted in FY 2005 (PART ID: 10004401).



**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 16:  
MRI PROGRAM: TIME-TO-DECISION**

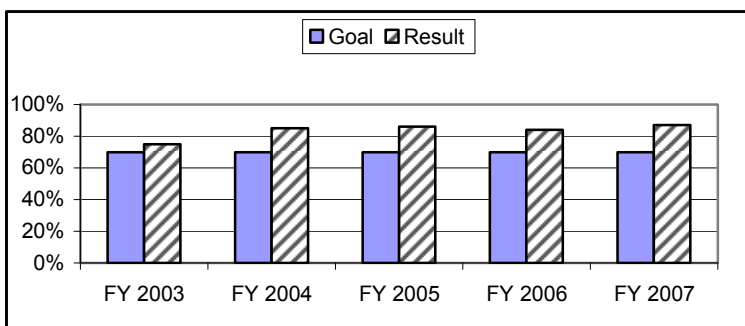
**Goal:** For 70 percent of the proposals submitted to the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program, be able to inform applicants about funding decisions within six months of proposal receipt or deadline, or target date, whichever is later, while maintaining a credible and efficient merit review system.

**Program Description:** The Major Research Instrumentation Program is a Foundation-wide, cross-cutting initiative that supports the acquisition and development of instrumentation in fields such as nanotechnology, computing, physical sciences, and materials sciences and engineering. The portfolio reflects state-of-the-art instrumentation, access and training to support modern research approaches, integration of research and education, public/private partnerships, and assistance to minority-serving institutions. Timely availability of proposal decisions enables the investigators to more effectively plan activities. Given the increasing complexity and growing numbers of proposals being submitted to NSF each year, and the increased attention throughout the Foundation to improving the quality and transparency of the merit review process, this is an ambitious goal for all program officers as they manage their proposal workload and overall portfolio of awards.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**

	Goal	Result
FY 2003	70%	75%
FY 2004	70%	85%
FY 2005	70%	86%
FY 2006	70%	84%
FY 2007	70%	87%



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** The time-to-decision goal was achieved Foundation-wide (see Stewardship) and in three program portfolios: Research Grants, Education Grants, and the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program. NSF program officers are held accountable for making recommendations on funding of proposals in a timely manner (within six months from proposal receipt), and in notifying investigators about these recommendations, while maintaining a credible and efficient merit review system. The time-to-decision goal has achieved despite the increasing numbers of proposals submitted each year to NSF.

**PART Evaluation:** A time to decision goal was established in the Investment in Research Infrastructure and Instrumentation PART conducted in FY 2006 (PART ID: 10004405).

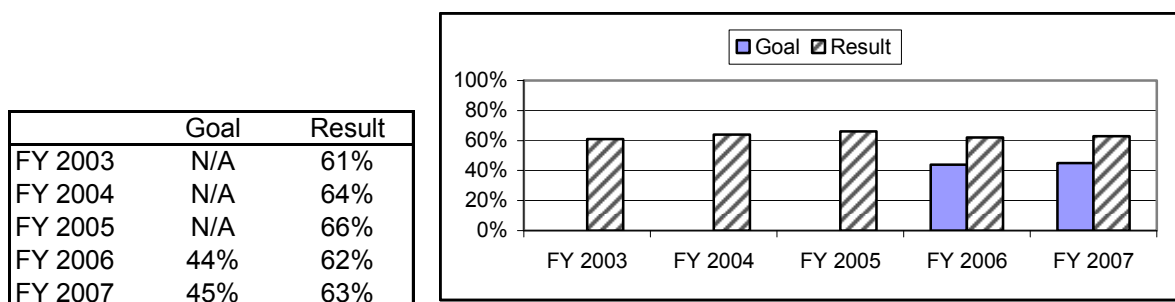
**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 17:  
MRI PROGRAM: PERCENTAGE OF PROPOSALS FROM OUTSIDE THE TOP 100 INSTITUTIONS**

**Goal:** Maintain a high percentage of proposals submitted to the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program from academic institutions not in the top 100 of NSF funding recipients.

**Program Description:** The Major Research Instrumentation Program is a Foundation-wide, cross-cutting initiative that supports the acquisition and development of instrumentation in fields such as nanotechnology, computing, physical sciences, and materials sciences and engineering. The portfolio of MRI awards reflects state-of-the-art instrumentation, access and training to support modern research approaches, integration of research and education, and public/private partnerships. To broaden participation from underrepresented groups and diverse institutions throughout the United States, the MRI Program provides extensive support to teaching-intensive and minority serving institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges, and community colleges, with a focus on research training.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**



**NOTE:** The goals for FY 2006-2009 shown in the charts above were established in FY 2006 during the PART evaluation on NSF’s Research Infrastructure and Instrumentation (I&I) Program, which had several disparate program components (Digital Library, Science Resources Statistics, Shared Cyberinfrastructure Tools, and the Major Research Instrumentation Program). However, under the new Strategic Plan, which covers FY 2006 - 2011, the I&I Program category does not exist. Therefore, NSF is reporting results only for the MRI Program component (see PART Evaluation, below).

**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** NSF continues to broaden participation in its MRI Program by increasing the percentage of proposals from academic institutions not in the top 100 of NSF funding recipients through outreach to those institutions, holding grant-writing workshops, and presentations by staff at professional meetings throughout the country.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Investment in Research Infrastructure and Instrumentation PART conducted in FY 2006 (PART ID: 10004405). Because the Research Infrastructure and Instrumentation program category no longer exists under NSF’s new Strategic Plan, the Foundation established a related performance measure for one of its major components, the MRI Program.

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 18:  
TERAGRID USERS**

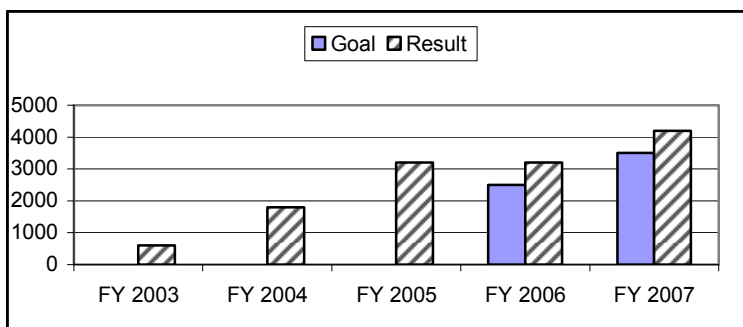
**Goal:** Increase the number of unique users of the Teragrid from among the science, engineering, and education community.

**Program Description:** The Extensible Terascale Facility, also called TeraGrid, is the world's largest, most comprehensive distributed cyberinfrastructure for open scientific research. Through high-performance network connections, TeraGrid integrates high-performance computers, data resources and tools, and high-end experimental facilities throughout the United States. TeraGrid is coordinated through the Grid Infrastructure Group (GIG) at the University of Chicago, working in partnership with the Resource Provider sites: Indiana University, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center, Purdue University, San Diego Supercomputer Center, Texas Advanced Computing Center, University of Chicago/Argonne National Laboratory, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Access to the network is open to the science, engineering, and education community on the basis of merit-reviewed proposals. This goal tracks the number of users with unique user accounts and those who access the network through internet science gateways.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**

	Goal	Result
FY 2003	N/A	600
FY 2004	N/A	1800
FY 2005	N/A	3200
FY 2006	2500	3200
FY 2007	3500	4195



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** Using high-performance network connections, the TeraGrid integrates high-performance computers, data resources and tools, and high-end experimental facilities around the country. Currently, TeraGrid resources include more than 250 teraflops of computing capability and more than 30 petabytes of online and archival data storage, with rapid access and retrieval over high-performance networks. Researchers can also access more than 100 discipline-specific databases. With this combination of resources, the TeraGrid is the world's largest, most comprehensive distributed cyberinfrastructure for open scientific research

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Investment in Research Infrastructure and Instrumentation PART conducted in FY 2006 (PART ID: 10004405).

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 19:  
POLAR PROGRAMS: SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH IN THE ANTARCTIC**

**Goal:** Provide the necessary research support for researchers in the Antarctic at least 90 percent of the time they are scheduled to perform research.

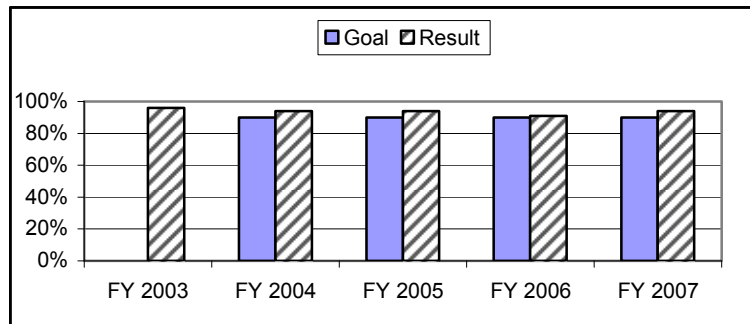
**Program Description:** NSF's Office of Polar Programs supports most of the research in polar regions funded by the National Science Foundation. The Antarctic is a premier natural laboratory whose extreme environment and geographically unique setting enable research on phenomena and processes not feasible elsewhere. Polar regions also offer unusual opportunities for environmental research, as the sensitivity of polar ecosystems to small changes in climate renders them important bellwethers for abrupt or potential future change.

This goal accounts for the number of days that investigators were able to conduct research at the South Pole Station because the necessary research support was provided. It excludes research conducted off site in preparation for deployment to the Pole and lost time due to circumstances beyond the program's control (e.g. severe weather). Research support for the approximately 165 current projects includes laboratory operations; facilities engineering, maintenance, and construction; communications operations; remote field camp support; cargo and passenger transportation; and housing management and janitorial services.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**

	Goal	Result
FY 2003	N/A	96%
FY 2004	90%	94%
FY 2005	90%	94%
FY 2006	90%	91%
FY 2007	90%	94%



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:** The United States Antarctic program is managed by NSF with support from the primary support contractor, Raytheon Polar Services Company (RPSC). This goal is used to measure and maximize the research time for each PI while on location in Antarctica. It captures the number of operational onsite days successfully accomplished by each PI. During FY 2007, RPSC implemented a web-based survey collection resource, which captured information from the majority of PIs. This method of data collection is a critical process improvement.

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Polar Research Tools, Facilities, and Logistics PART Program conducted in FY2004 (PART ID: 10002326).

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOAL 20:  
POLAR PROGRAMS: CONSTRUCTION COST AND SCHEDULE**

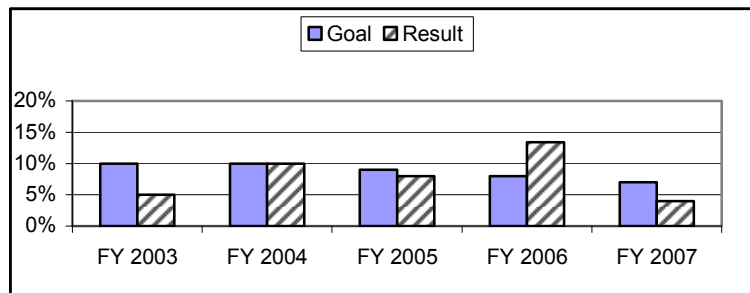
**Goal:** Keep the percent of cost and schedule variances for major Polar projects, as monitored by Earned Value Management, to seven percent or less.

**Program Description:** The goal applies to planned cost and schedule for construction projects with a total project cost of at least \$5 million. Three major Polar projects are in this category: the South Pole Station Modernization, the IceCube Neutrino Observatory, and the McMurdo Power Plant. The goal result is calculated by taking an average of cost and schedule variances.

**FY 2007 Result:** NSF achieved this goal.

**Comparison of Actual Performance with the Projected (Target) Levels of Performance:**

	Goal	Result
FY 2003	10%	5%
FY 2004	10%	10%
FY 2005	9%	8%
FY 2006	8%	13%
FY 2007	<7%	4%



**Agency Efforts to Improve Performance and Efficiency:**

**PART Evaluation:** This goal was established in the Polar Research Tools, Facilities, and Logistics PART Program conducted in FY 2004 (PART ID: 10002326).