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**From:** Pham, Caroline B [<mailto:cpham@nsf.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:33 AM  
**To:** Tomblin, John  
**Cc:** NSF FOIA; Namboodiri, Vinod  
**Subject:** NSF FOIA Request #2017-211F, Proposal #1659396

Case #17-211F  
July 19, 2017

Dear **Mr. Tomblin** (Authorized Organizational Representative),

We have received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for a copy of National Science Foundation (NSF) funded grant proposal entitled “**REU Site: Enhancing Undergraduate Research Experiences in Networked Cyber-Physical Systems**” (Proposal # 1659396).

The Principal Investigator, **Vinod Namboodiri**, has been copied on this email.

The requester is Dr. M. Emre Celebi, University of Central Arkansas  
Records are available to the public on request except for material that is personal, privileged or confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under law. NSF will remove, before disclosure to the requester, personal information (SSN, date/place of birth, individual salaries, bios, pending and non-Federal grants) in the file about yourself or other individuals under Exemption 6 of the FOIA to protect personal privacy.  
The FOIA generally prohibits us from withholding records except to the extent that disclosure of proprietary information (trade secrets or commercial or financial information) in the record, if any, that you assert is privileged or confidential. Therefore, I request that you carefully review the proposal, identifying by page number, line or paragraph, the parts you consider confidential. You will need to include a detailed statement explaining how disclosure of this information would harm your organization or benefit your competitors, or why it is otherwise exempt from disclosure under FOIA. Understand that information you submit in response to this request may itself be subject to disclosure. Please do **not** send us a copy of the proposal

unless you have significant redactions. **When sending us a proposal with redactions, be sure to encrypt the message or apply the redactions in order to safeguard the information.**

Your response is not an agreement between us that the information you request us to withhold will not be disclosed. Under the law, we must decide what may be withheld and be prepared to defend the withholding in court. We will, however, notify you if we cannot agree.

Please send your response to NSF FOIA at [FOIA@nsf.gov](mailto:FOIA@nsf.gov) within ***five (5) working days*** after receipt of this letter. **Your prompt response enables us to comply with the statutory time for response to requests. Please refer to Case #17-211F in your response.**

If you have any questions regarding this request, you may wish to contact your institution's Intellectual Property or Sponsored Programs' office for guidance. If you have no objections to disclosure of the proposal – many submitters have none – simply let me know. If you are not responsible for this action, please kindly forward to the Action Officer.

Sincerely,

Caroline Pham  
Office of the General Counsel  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 1265  
Arlington, VA 22230  
(703) 292-8060