



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

July 7, 2005

Professor Wojciech Zielinski, Ph.D.
Rector, Silesian University of Technology
General Chair, ICEE-2005
Gliwice, Poland

Dear Professor Zielinski:

I congratulate you and your associates on the opening of ICEE-2005. I also congratulate you on the 60th anniversary of the founding of Silesian University of Technology, the host and home of the conference.

I appreciate the importance of the work that you and your colleagues in the iNEER Network are doing in building international partnerships. We all recognize that we are living and working in a new age of scientific and engineering discovery. The conduct of science has changed—thanks in part to new information and communications technologies. Work at the frontiers of discovery has accelerated. The time between discovery, development and commercialization is compressing. Science and engineering is also growing more complex, and the boundaries between disciplines are blurring. This naturally makes interdisciplinary and collaborative research the norm rather than the exception. International collaboration is yet another iteration of this process, greatly facilitated by our new communications and computer technologies.

In today's world, scientists and engineers must be able to operate in teams comprised of partners from different nations and cultural backgrounds. What you do at ICEE-2005 is very important. We believe that the concept of mutual progress through international partnership can and does work.

Once again, my heartiest congratulations.

Sincerely,

Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director