Initiative on Ice Initiation

Perspective From NSF

Physical Meteorology Program

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Some Funding Background

- Falls in Physical Meteorology, ATM/GEO
- Program annual budget: about $9 M
  - >60% usually committed from previous years
  - No increase this year; none expected next year
- For scale: RICO, mostly supported by PMP, funded at about $2.5 M in FY2004. This required restrictions and planning ahead to accomplish.
- Lesson: NSF support at $2 M/year level is a large commitment; more requires sharing among programs.

Field Programs

- NSF Deployment Pool Funding: ca $3.9 M
- For scale: $2.6 M for RICO support
- Competition is intense: HEAT, AMMA, RIME, RAINEX, TEXMEX II, TWPICE, MIRAGE, ISPA II, VORTEX II, etc.
- HIAPER will require reduced support in 2005
- Lesson: Need to be planning now, and need to make the case very well, to succeed

Schedules

- For NSF proposals: expect about 6 mo, normally
- For field deployment:
  - Now:
    - Small requests: Proposal and Facility Request 10-16 months in advance of field deployment
    - Large requests: SOD 4-6 months earlier.
  - Likely change (under discussion):
    - At least 6 months earlier for large requests

Working with NSF

- Help develop arguments, jointly, that can support planning for special funds
- Consider other complementary support:
  - Lab and theory from other programs
  - Field support from other agencies
  - International cooperation
- Coordinate the efforts so there is a single point of contact, both ways
- Keep program and facilities officers informed of schedules and plans

Conclusions

- $1-2 M/year could be possible (probably not until 2006 because of existing and expected commitments); smaller scale ($1 M/year) is better matched to other needs.
- Significant field deployment: 2006 at earliest (with much competition expected that year).
- Individual proposals: always considered.
- To some extent, support will come from other ongoing research; redirection of effort helps.
- Good arguments needed in a very competitive setting.