PI/CO-PI Management - Proposal Functions | HOME

Proposal Status | MAIN

Organization: University of Maryland College Park

Review #3

Proposal Number: 1305368
NSF Program: Computing Research Infrastructure
Principal Investigator: Raschid, Louiqa
Proposal Title: CI-P: Developing the Next Generation of Community Financial CyberInfrastructure for Monitoring and Modeling Financial Eco-Systems and for Managing Systemic Risk
Rating: Excellent

REVIEW:

In the context of the five review elements, please evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal with respect to intellectual merit.

Description of project (short):

This proposal for a planning grant focuses on trying to assemble datasets, algorithms, and other resources for monitoring and modeling financial systems. It requires contributions from the CS, finance, and math/econ fields. It follows 2 workshops led by the PI.

Intellectual Merit:

Strengths:

The need to have better analytical and predictive models of the financial system and its constituent institutions seems clear, and also a difficult challenge. Issues range from privacy and access to data, to data heterogeneity, to building models. If resources were made available, there clearly are deep technical challenges that need to be addressed. The proposal includes exemplars of some of this work, although putting it together and making it more data-driven are still open questions.

The PI has also engaged the community in two prior workshops, and has a good plan for areas of work and a panel of experts.

Weaknesses:

The biggest potential downside of this area of research is simply whether it will be legally feasible, and whether sufficient data will be made available (given that institutions may not have sufficient incentives to provide it). But the payoff is high enough that the risk is worth it.

In the context of the five review elements, please evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal with respect to broader impacts.

Strengths:

The broader impacts of a successful platform in this area are high, as the entire finance sector, as well as public policy decisions, could benefit.

Weaknesses:

The connections to the educational aspects are not as strong as they could be. However, this is only a planning grant so such issues can be remedied later.
Please evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal with respect to any additional solicitation-specific review criteria, if applicable.

- Does the proposal document the potential community involvement in the planning process?
  Yes, a panel of experts is listed, and the PI has run two prior workshops.

- Comment on the national need for and validity of the research infrastructure being explored.
  The need for greater transparency and modeling of the economic and financial sector is clear and well-acknowledged.

Summary Statement

Include a general overall summary of the quality of the proposal. Indicate the rationale for the rating you gave the project.

This is proposal seems extremely strong with respect to its potential impacts, and is backed by a PI who has credibility in the area, two past workshops, and a team of experts. The PI does a good job of laying out some examples of the kinds of resources they are hoping to promote, and it is convincing that there is an opportunity here.

There is some risk about what resources will actually be made available, but the potential payoffs seem to heavily outweigh this risk. The infrastructure to be developed in this proposal seems to have great potential national benefit.