

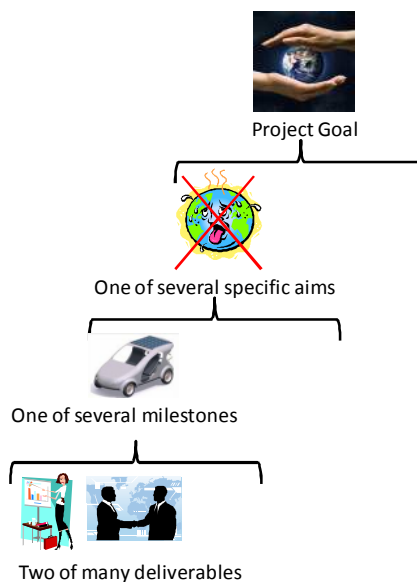
## How to Integrate a Research Plan and a Project Plan

This page is to be used in conjunction with the 2009 Request for Proposals (RFP) for Science Foundation of Arizona (SFAz) Strategic Research Groups (SRG)

In the 2009 SFAz RFP, the applicants are asked to provide a research plan and a separate project plan. This format is a significant deviation from proposals for federal agencies such as the NIH, centered on a hypothesis and specific aims.

What does this mean?

- A “central hypothesis” will be replaced by “a project goal.” For instance, a goal would be: “To save the world.”
- **Specific Aims: will be described in the research plan** as you would for any other grant, with the same level of scientific detail to convince the reviewers that you have the necessary expertise to perform the work, particularly if you are less experienced in certain areas of the proposed research. Specific aims are generally the broad tasks which are necessary to prove or disprove the hypothesis. In the case of SFAz proposals, they are **the broad tasks needed to accomplish the project goal**. For instance, using the previous example, specific aims may look like: 1. To stop and reverse global warming. 2. To achieve peace in the Middle East. 3. To solve hunger and poverty.
- **Milestones, to be stated in the project plan, are those tangible major achievements that will tell us you are making real progress to accomplish your specific aims.** For instance, in order to reverse global warming (aim #1), the following milestones would be appropriate: A. All nations agree to adopt stringent regulations for all major greenhouse gas producing industries by 2010 B. Attractive automobiles using sustainable energies, achieving highway speeds, and retailing for less than \$10,000 are designed, produced, and made readily available by 2015.3. Off-grid homes are designed to be as attractive and as cost-effective as conventional homes by 2020. **Note that milestones have set deadlines, unlike specific aims.**
- **Deliverables, also stated in the project plan are action items which make the milestones achievable.** For instance, in order to get all nations to agree to the greenhouse gas regulations (milestone A), you would need to get the following done: a. Give a convincing presentation at the next United Nations conference (June 2009) b. Negotiate economic incentives for developing nations so they can afford to take such measures (July 2009) c. Establish a deadline to implement these regulations (August 2009) etc. **Note that deliverables also have set deadlines.**



### In conclusion

**We need your research plan and project plan to be carefully integrated with one another.**

**Show us how:**

**Use a comprehensive roadmap, workflow diagram, or Gantt chart in your proposal.**

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