

Office of Sponsored Programs

The mission of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is to conduct centrally organized administrative, business, and financial functions related to proposal development and award administration and to assist faculty, principal investigators, and their administrators in identification of resources for and management of individual sponsored projects consistent both with MIT's academic and research policies and with stewardship requirements of and obligations to external sponsors. Primary functions of the office are:

- Proposal review to ensure adherence to sponsor requirements and compliance with Institute and sponsor policies
- Review and negotiation of agreements, including outgoing subawards, to ensure consistency with (1) the Institute's corporate charter and status as a tax-exempt educational institution and (2) compliance with Institute academic and research policies such as those relating to freedom to disseminate research results, access for all foreign faculty, staff, and students to MIT's educational and research activities, control of intellectual property, and full cost reimbursement.
- Post-award administration to provide assistance to departments, labs, and centers (DLCs) in meeting MIT and sponsor requirements.
- Calculation, audit defense, and negotiation of MIT's facilities and administrative (F&A) and employee benefit (EB) rates.

Research Volume

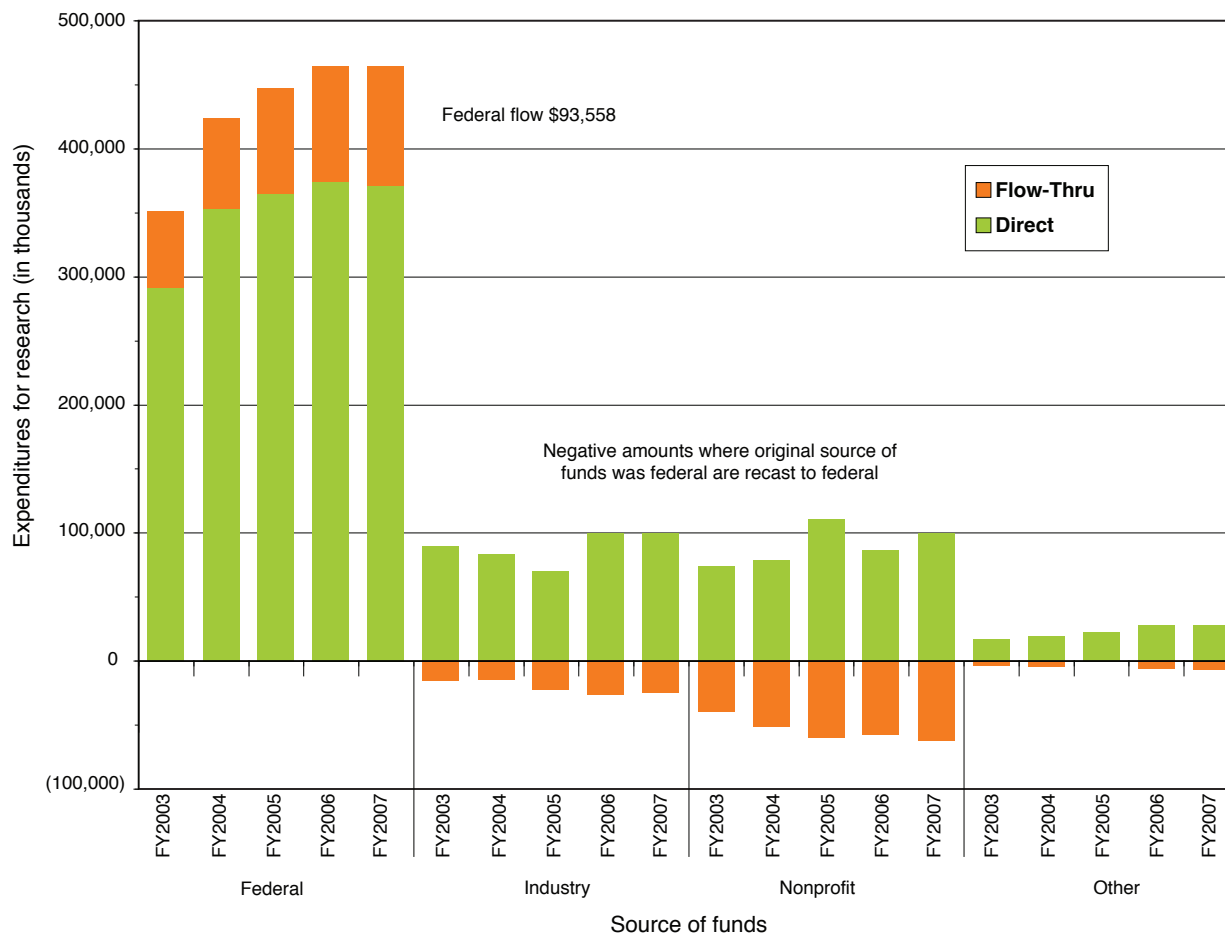
The MIT total research volume (expenditures) for FY2007, excluding Lincoln Laboratory, was \$598.3 million, which represents an increase of 1.8% over FY2006. The volume breakdown by major sponsor is shown in the following table.

Research volume by sponsor (in thousands of dollars), FY2003–FY2007

	FY2003		FY2004		FY2005		FY2006		FY2007	
	Original source	Proximate sponsor	Original source	Proximate sponsor	Original source	Proximate sponsor	Original source	Proximate sponsor	Original source	Proximate sponsor
Federal										
DHHS	93,254	81,837	159,029	141,015	180,682	162,170	195,573	174,171	201,557	177,175
DOE	65,175	59,210	69,183	63,936	69,927	62,722	67,265	60,179	64,741	55,990
DOD	85,866	62,904	86,811	61,146	85,866	54,403	89,535	54,196	90,571	57,113
NSF	57,695	48,804	65,443	54,406	66,686	56,206	65,040	54,412	65,057	52,006
NASA	35,735	26,252	31,442	21,949	32,170	19,258	31,229	19,405	27,889	16,536
Other	13,172	12,452	12,250	10,765	12,267	10,164	15,709	11,569	14,589	12,026
Subtotal	350,897	291,459	424,158	353,217	447,598	364,923	464,351	373,932	464,404	370,846
Nonfederal										
Industry	73,265	89,105	68,038	82,895	47,196	69,789	73,179	99,712	75,190	99,771
Nonprofit	34,275	73,916	27,112	78,744	50,409	110,442	28,306	86,015	37,590	99,934
Other	13,318	17,275	14,661	19,113	22,221	22,270	21,660	27,837	21,084	27,717
Subtotal	120,858	180,296	109,811	180,752	119,826	202,501	123,145	213,564	133,864	227,422
Total	471,755	471,755	533,969	533,969	567,424	567,424	587,496	587,496	598,268	598,268

Note: Original source funding is US government dollars that come to MIT via subaward from industry or another university or institution; proximate source funding reflects the entity that actually made the award to MIT.

Expenditures for research and source of funds, fiscal years 2003–2007



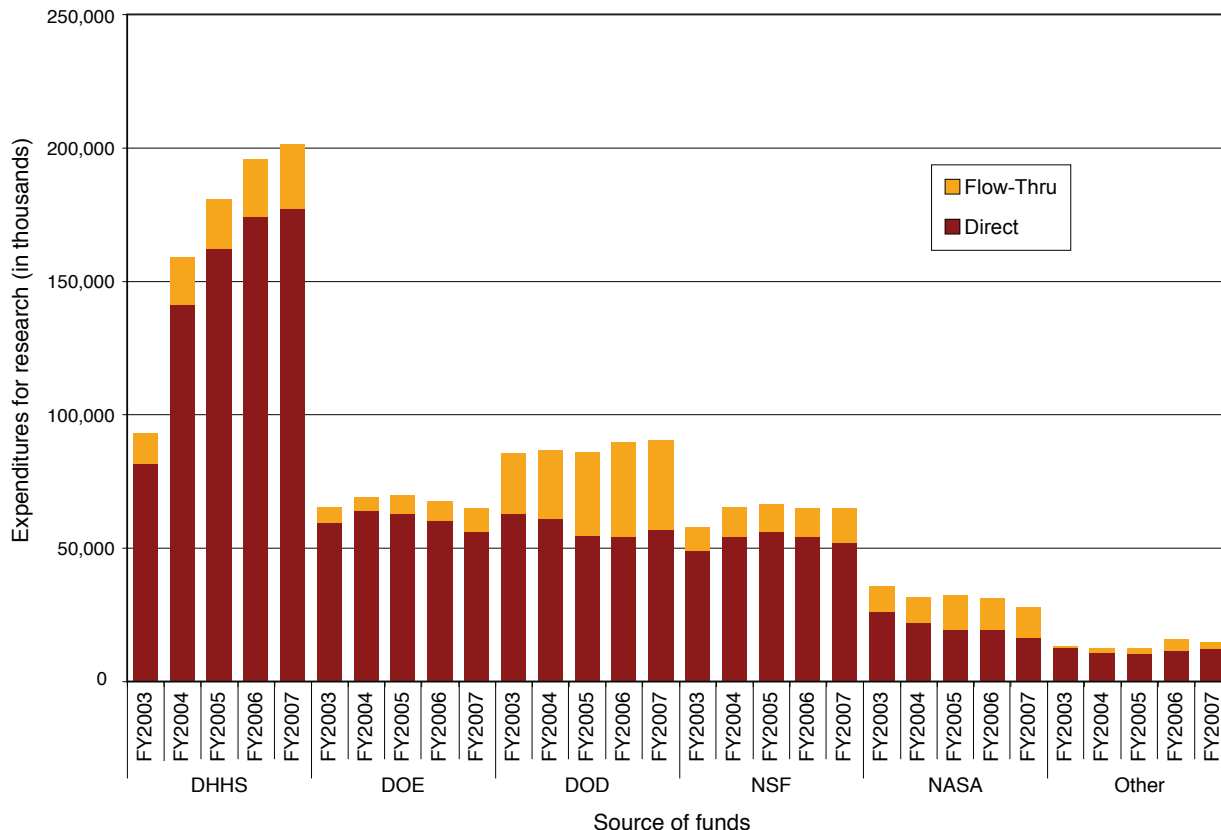
Challenges and Accomplishments

Electronic Research Administration

The work of OSP, and particularly its data team, has been a major advantage to the Institute over the past two to three years as the federal government's move toward e-commerce (particularly the submission of proposals via Grants.gov) has increased substantially. Beginning in FY2007, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the federal agency that represents the greatest percentage of campus research expenditures in FY2007, mandated that all proposals for its major research programs be submitted electronically. MIT's sponsored project development and management software, Coeus, was the first system in the country to submit (in FY2006) a grant application successfully to the Grants.gov portal using a system-to-system interface. To date, more than 250 proposals have been submitted to federal agencies using the system-to-system interface from Coeus to Grants.gov.

A major challenge in FY2007 was helping faculty and administrators at the Institute develop the skills required to use the new Coeus application software. The office offered several dozen training programs to the Institute community and developed team approaches within the office to review (at three levels) proposals the Institute submitted to NIH via Grants.gov. MIT's success rate in the first mandatory submission, February

Expenditures for research, direct federal and federal flow-thru, fiscal years 2003–2007



Notes:

DHHS—Department of Health and Human Services
 DOE—Department of Energy
 DOD—Department of Defense
 NSF—National Science Foundation
 NASA—National Aeronautics and Space Administration

2007, was the highest in the country among major research institutions, and that success rate has been maintained in the months following the initial submission date.

To enable adequate time for review of these electronic proposals not only to NIH but to other federal sponsors, the Institute revised (and extended) its required submission date for proposals to OSP from three to five working days. This has been beneficial in providing adequate review time in OSP and revision time (when necessary) to ensure that proposals submitted system-to-system to the government are not rejected.

Another new initiative this past year has been OSP's involvement with the Quali Foundation. The Quali Foundation is a nonprofit organization responsible for sustaining and evolving a comprehensive suite of administrative software that meets the needs of all Carnegie Class institutions. Its members are colleges, universities, commercial firms, and interested organizations that share a common vision of open, modular, and distributed systems for their software requirements. The goal of Quali is to bring the proven functionality of legacy applications to the ease and universality of online services. MIT's Coeus software was selected as the basis for the research administrative component of the Quali suite of products. Work is progressing in making Coeus the preferred, open-source solution for use throughout higher education.

Research Administration Improvement Initiative

Last year's report included a summary of the scope and focus areas for this initiative. Significant accomplishments this year included the development of a reference manual of policies across the Institute that affect or impact research. This electronic, searchable reference manual is available online at http://web.mit.edu/osp/www/RAII/docs/research_policy.xls.

In addition, the specialized training for administrators of research subteam cochaired by Eileen Nielsen (OSP) and Judith Stein (Human Resources) made the first five modules of the online basic training curriculum available for testing in spring and summer 2007. Administrators in units from all five schools and the units reporting to the vice president for research took advantage of this pilot program. Feedback is being evaluated, and two additional modules will be made available in July or August 2007. The entire electronic, web-based curriculum will be made available Institute-wide in fall 2007.

Costing Issues

In May 2007, the Office of Cost Analysis (part of OSP) negotiated employee benefit (EB) rates for FY2008, including—for the first time—a separate 8% rate for part-time employees. Rates decreased for FY2008, from 27% to 24% on-campus, and from 23.5% to 21% off-campus. Provisional facilities and administrative (F&A) rates were established at 67% on-campus for FY2008 and 68% on-campus for FY2009 and remained at 8% off-campus for both years. Final rates will be negotiated in fall 2007.

In addition, OSP was engaged with our federal auditors, the Defense Contract Audit Agency and the Office of Naval Research, in routine audits of F&A, EB, allocation, and service center rates. Also covered were specialized compensation, information technology audits, and the initiation of an audit of MIT's Coeus system.

National Policy Impacting Research Activities

Export Control Issues

Issues relating to export controls continue to dominate many of the initiatives of the faculty and of OSP. In addition to increased visibility of the OSP export control website (http://web.mit.edu/osp/www/Export_Controls/index.htm), MIT is now utilizing a new export control tool called Visual Compliance, which allows faster determination of whether any specific technology is export controlled. This provides faster service to the faculty in this important area.

In August 2006, MIT was one of the institutions selected by the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) for a site visit to look at the interaction between institutions and the federal agencies responsible for export controls (the Departments of State and Commerce), with particular emphasis on issues surrounding deemed exports. The Institute provided the GAO with background materials dating to 1991, the year in which MIT first provided written counsel to its faculty and researchers related to export control issues. GAO representatives commented favorably on MIT's approaches and particularly on the new website.

In June 2007, MIT hosted the US Department of Commerce's Deemed Export Advisory Committee at one of its regional meetings to learn more about how universities and industry deal with deemed export issues. In several presentations to the blue-ribbon committee, Institute faculty described the impacts of the current export control regulations on institutions of higher education. Final deliberations and a comprehensive report with recommendations for changes in the regulations and the Commerce Control List will be forthcoming in fall or winter of 2007–2008.

“Troublesome Clauses”

Unfortunately, the Institute has been faced with negotiating an increasing number of publication, access, or dissemination issues, because restrictions are appearing in contracts from both federal and industrial sponsors. It is becoming increasingly difficult to negotiate these restrictions out of contracts, and the Institute has not been able to accept several awards this past year because of the restrictions. Equally disturbing is the number of requests for proposals to which the Institute could not respond because of restrictions identified as nonnegotiable.

Three years ago, the former OSP director chaired a study of “troublesome clauses” under auspices of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR). The study focused on clauses restricting publication of research results and/or the access to or dissemination of those results (most often expressed in restrictions on access to the research by foreign nationals). Because of the increase in the number of these clauses appearing in research proposals and contracts, the National Academy of Sciences has asked AAU/COGR to do a follow-up study to determine the current status of such clauses and negotiations. This study is being done jointly with the Federal Demonstration Partnership (of which MIT is a member), and MIT is again taking a leadership role in developing the study questionnaire and analyzing the data, which will be collected between July 1 and December 31, 2007.

Personnel Changes

In October 2006, Patrick Fitzgerald, OSP's director, announced he was leaving the Institute. In February 2007, MIT established a search committee to select a new director. In May 2007, the Institute announced that Michelle Christy, who served as director of the Office of Research and Project Activities at Princeton University, will join the Institute August 1, 2007, as the new director of sponsored programs. We welcome her to the Institute community and look forward to new initiatives she will undertake in FY2008.

Between December 2006 and August 2007, Julie Norris (MIT's former OSP director) returned as interim director. In a period during which there have been substantial challenges from the federal government, as well as a change in leadership in OSP, the accomplishments of this past year can only be attributed to the dedication, knowledge, and expertise of the staff in OSP.

Julie T. Norris
Interim Director

More information about the Office of Sponsored Programs can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/osp/>.