



## 2. The Panel

The proposal is for a panel consisting of experts who can discuss the strategies of key funding agencies such as NSF (USA), Mombusho/MITI (Far East), European Commission (Europe) as a first set - possibly with more panellists from other or more detailed geographic regions. The differences in their strategies should be highlighted, explained and justified. The community as a whole, and perhaps the funding agency panellists, should learn much from such an exercise.

## 3. Issues:

In an attempt to focus the discussion, the following issues could be used to structure panellist presentations and the subsequent discussion:

- (1) who decides the strategy?
- (2) how do they do it - do they take advice and from whom?

- (3) does industry / commerce participate in the strategy? If so, in what way?
- (4) what are the proposal evaluation criteria? Do they evolve with needs for research and development?
- (5) what are the project (completed) evaluation criteria? Is peer review more important than commercial success?
- (6) is there a need for technical audit of projects during their lifetime? Does this give better value -for-money to the taxpayer, or industry funding the project?

## 4. Conclusion

The conclusion to such a discussion should be of great interest to the community. The only way to know the conclusion is to attend the panel!