

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Awards - Examples of Appropriate vs. Unacceptable Justifications for No-Cost Extensions (NCEs)

Justification	Acceptable or Not	Reasoning
<p>The no cost extension is requested in order to utilize the travel funds from the workshop that resulted from lower travel expenses for invited panelists than budgeted. This largely occurred due to the participation of 1 international panelist, rather than two as planned in the original budget. Also, there were lower travel costs for domestic participants due to geographic reasons. The remaining travel funds will be used to support travel expenses of early career participants of the next workshop, which will take place in June 2021. The travel funds will enable us to complete the deliverables for the workshop.</p>	<p>X</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * NCEs cannot be requested simply to use unspent funds. * No mention of specific project deliverables that remain to be completed. * Lacking explanation of delay in finishing project as proposed.
<p>This first no-cost extension request is being submitted for a 12-month period to complete the following remaining tasks under the original scope of work. The extension is necessary as the former student involved in the project departed the beginning of last fall and we have just recently found a replacement. This newly hired student will be performing research on the following remaining tasks: Task T5: Generalize LMIs for robust analysis of systems with parameter-varying uncertainty to the LPI framework; Task T6: Formulate the sampled data problem as a differential difference equation (DDF); Task T7: Use a robot model to formulate the network optimization problem, reduce the dimension of the problem and solve the associated optimal control problem with input and output delays. The remaining funds will be used for graduate student support for the aforementioned activities. The costs of student support for the one year are as follows: \$24,900 for salary, \$2,490 for employee-related expenses, \$18,324 for tuition, and \$15,612 in facilities and administrative expenses.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Detailed description of remaining project objectives under original scope of work. * Explanation of delay in research progress and project completion. * Provision of plan for use of unspent funds.
<p>The funding was for a joint international US-German meeting. But for various reasons we managed to come in under budget, and are seeking to use the funds for a smaller, follow-up meeting in Germany. We have completed the original project deliverables (a joint US-German collaborative workshop), but wish to leverage the remaining funding in order to solidify, extend and deepen the intentionally collaborative lines of work developed through the original workshop by holding a second workshop, this time in Germany. The bulk of the funding will come from DFG. In short, significant progress has been made. A NCE will allow us to deliver more than was promised in the original proposal by giving us the time to figure out how best to proceed with an international workshop under present conditions.</p>	<p>X</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * NCEs cannot be requested solely for spending remaining funds. * Original scope of work has been completed. An NCE cannot be requested to pursue new project objectives.