into the SESTAT labor force data system, which produces national estimates of the size and characteristics of the country’s science and engineering personnel. The Foundation uses this information to prepare congressionally mandated reports such as Women, Minorities and Persons with Disability in Science and Engineering and Science and Engineering Indicators. NSF publishes statistics from the survey in many reports, but primarily in the biennial series, Characteristics of Recent Science and Engineering Graduates in the United States. A public release file of collected data, designed to protect respondent confidentiality, will be made available to researchers on CD–ROM and on the World Wide Web.

Mathematica Policy Research will conduct the study under contract for NSF. Data are obtained by mail questionnaire, computer assisted telephone interview and web survey beginning October 2010. The survey will be collected in conformance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 and Privacy Act of 1974. The individual’s response to the survey is voluntary. NSF will insure that all information collected will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only for research or statistical purposes.

2. Expected Respondents

A sample of approximately 300 institutions in the U.S. that grant S&E degrees will be contacted in the first stage of the survey to provide a list of bachelor’s and master’s degree recipients in the most two recent academic years in order to construct the sampling frame of graduates. In the second stage, a sample of 18,000 bachelor’s and master’s degree recipients in science, engineering, and health will be contacted for the survey. The total response rate in 2008 for the first stage was 95 percent and second stage was 71 percent.

3. Burden on the Public

The amount of time for the 300 sampled institutions to provide their graduate lists is estimated on average to be 3 hours. The amount of time for the sampled graduates to complete the NSRCG questionnaire may vary depending on an individual’s circumstances; however, on average it will take approximately 25 minutes to complete the survey. Assuming 90% response rate from the sampled institutions, and 80% response rate from the sampled graduates, NSF estimates that the total burden for the 2010 NSRCG will be 6,815 hours.