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Best Practices Manual

The National Science Foundation-sponsored Engineering Research Centers (ERCs) are a group of engineering systems-focused, interdisciplinary centers located at universities all across the United States, each in close partnership with industry. Since the ERC Program was founded in 1985, the ERCs collectively have brought significant changes in the culture of academic engineering research and education. This Best Practices Manual was authored independently by staff of the ERCs. It is not an NSF publication and does not necessarily reflect official NSF policy. The document is intended as a "how-to" manual for those involved in, or contemplating involvement in, the operation of an ERC or similar university-industry center. The chapters, presented as separate links at left, are organized according to management roles and functional areas in an ERC. The manual is broken down as follows:



[Authoring Committee](#)

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NOTE: Chapter 2 is being updated

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NOTE: Chapter 3 is being updated

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Chapter 6 Administrative Management ([HTML](#) / [PDF](#))

Chapter 7 The NSF/ERC Interface ([HTML](#) / [PDF](#))

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Target Audiences

- ERC directors & research thrust leaders
- ERC faculty
- ERC proposal-writers
- Other research centers
- ERC industrial partners

Thank You!

