This grant was given primarily to support (partially) Prof. John Gardner's special assistant. The remainder of that salary is paid by Oregon State University and other research grants. The job of assistant is necessary in order that Prof. Gardner, who is blind, can perform his research and teaching duties.

Mr. Mark Preddy was Prof. Gardner's assistant until December, 1997 when he left to accept a position with a local software firm. Ms. Galina Bulatova accepted the position when Mr. Preddy left. Mr. Preddy has a BS in Physics from the University of Wyoming, and Ms. Bulatova has a Diplom in Physics from St. Petersburg University, Russia. Both are well-versed in the computer technologies that are required to provide scientific information in accessible form, to maintain Prof. Gardner's computer equipment, and perform other duties necessary for him to conduct his research and teaching.

This grant has assured that he was able to continue to be a productive physicist and professor. His PAC research on oxide ceramics, that had been supported by DOE for many years, has continued at a modest level. There are presently two PhD students and one postdoctoral research associate. The two graduate students are being supported by Oregon State University, and the research associate is supported by a grant from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany.
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