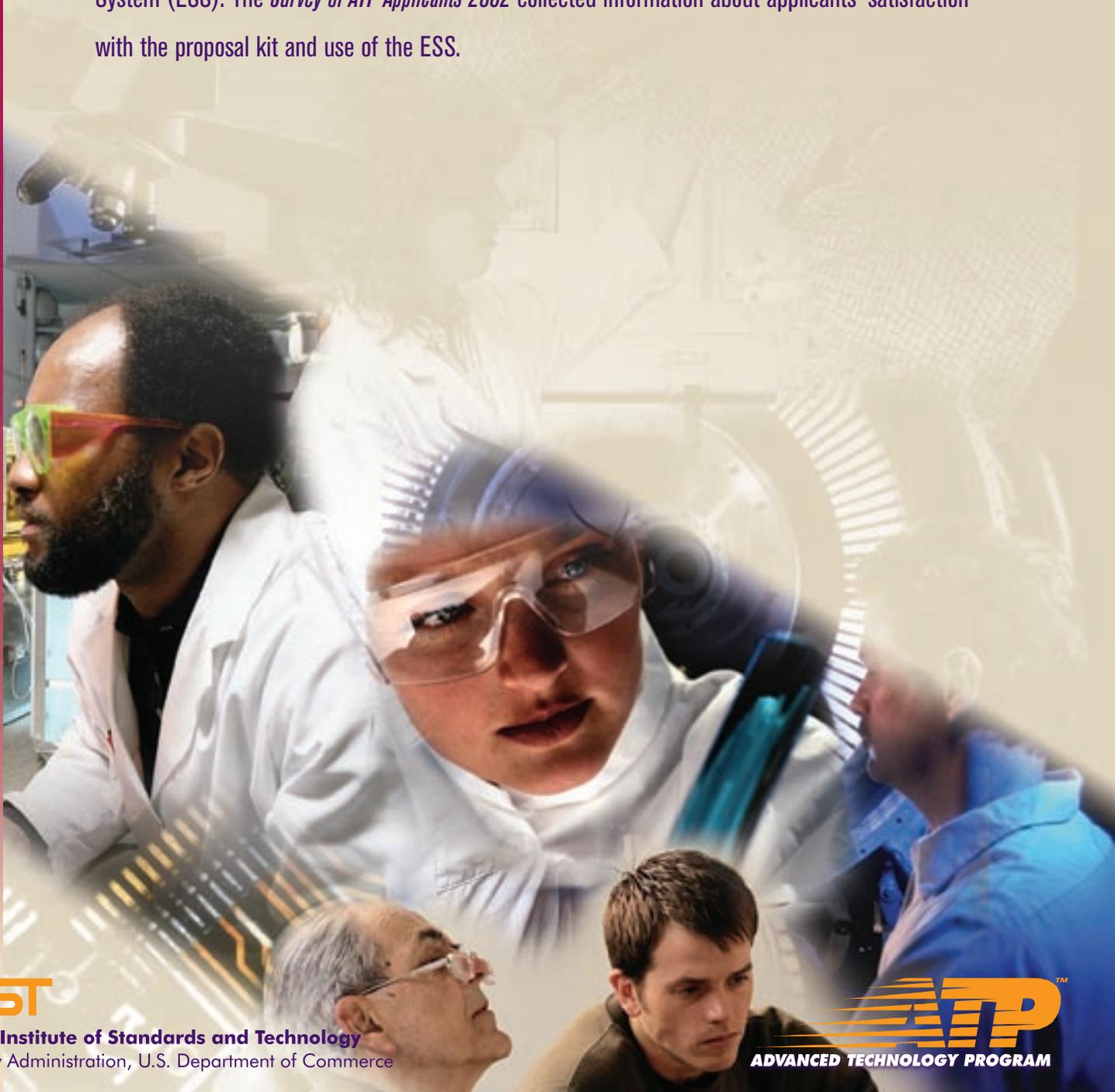


# Applicant Views of the ATP Proposal Preparation Kit and Electronic Submission System (ESS)

The Advanced Technology Program (ATP) aims to make the proposal process a smooth one for applicants. For example, applicants are provided with the ATP Proposal Preparation Kit. Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals securely over the internet using ATP's Electronic Submission System (ESS). The *Survey of ATP Applicants 2002* collected information about applicants' satisfaction with the proposal kit and use of the ESS.



## Applicant Views of the ATP Proposal Preparation Kit and Electronic Submission System (ESS)

Respondents were asked to indicate how satisfied they were with the following aspects of the April 2001 ATP Proposal Preparation Kit:

- a) Ease of use
- b) Clarity of content
- c) Comprehensiveness of content

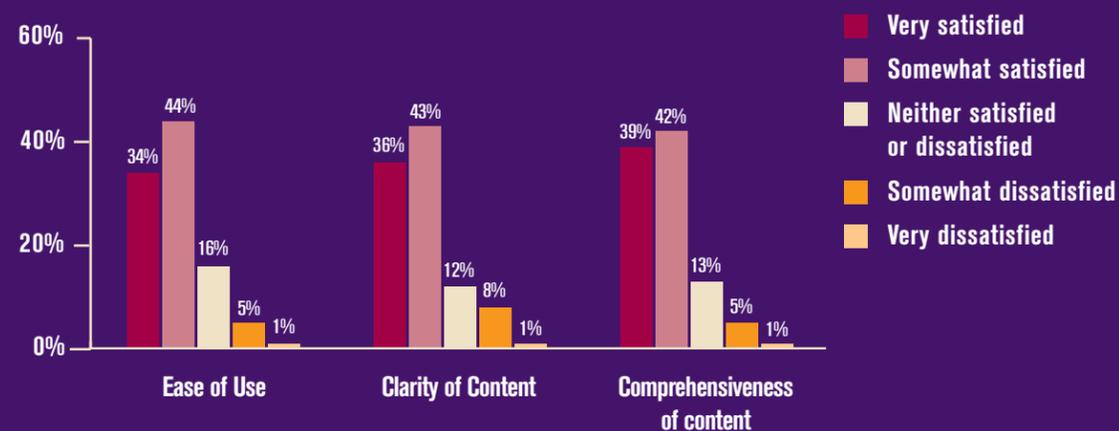
Respondents were asked if receiving a CD version of the proposal kit, rather than a paper hard-copy version, would be a problem for them. They were also asked if they had submitted their proposal through the ESS and to indicate how easy or difficult it was to use the system.

### Most applicants were satisfied with the ATP Proposal Preparation Kit

- 78% of the applicants report being satisfied with the Kit in terms of its *ease of use*. (See Figure 1.)<sup>1</sup>
- 79% of applicants also say they were satisfied with the Kit's *clarity of content*. (See Figure 1.)
- 81% of applicants indicate being satisfied with the Kit's *comprehensiveness of content*. (See Figure 1.)

**FIGURE 1.**

#### Satisfaction with ATP Proposal Preparation Kit



<sup>1</sup>We have combined the response categories "very satisfied" and "somewhat satisfied" for ease of reporting.

### Both Awardees and Nonawardees express positive views of the ATP Proposal Preparation Kit

- Awardees view the Kit more favorably than Nonawardees. In fact, nine out of ten Awardees indicate being satisfied with the Kit on all three measures. (See Table 1.)
- Still, most Nonawardees express satisfaction with the Kit.

**TABLE 1.**

#### Awardee and Nonawardee Satisfaction with ATP Proposal Preparation Kit

| ATP PROPOSAL PREPARATION KIT'S..... | AWARDEES | NONAWARDEES |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| <b>Ease of use</b>                  |          |             |
| Very satisfied                      | 53%      | 29%         |
| Somewhat satisfied                  | 35%      | 47%         |
| <b>Clarity of content</b>           |          |             |
| Very satisfied                      | 55%      | 31%         |
| Somewhat satisfied                  | 35%      | 45%         |
| <b>Comprehensiveness of content</b> |          |             |
| Very satisfied                      | 55%      | 34%         |
| Somewhat satisfied                  | 33%      | 44%         |

### The vast majority of applicants say that a CD version of the ATP Proposal Preparation Kit would not be a problem

- 91% report that receiving a CD version of the kit, rather than a paper hard-copy version, would not be a problem for them.
- Nonawardees were more likely than Awardees to say that a CD version would be a problem (11% versus 5%, respectively).

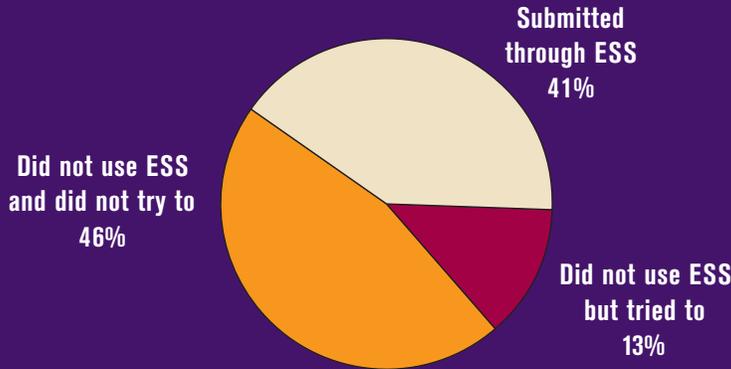
### Applicants have mixed views about the Electronic Submission System (ESS)

- 2002 was the first year that ATP utilized the ESS. 41% of the 2002 applicants submitted their proposals through the ESS. Another 13% tried to use the system, yet did not submit their proposals this way. 46% did not try using the ESS. (See Figure 2.)
- Applicants in the Electronics and Information Technology areas were more likely than those in Biotechnology and Materials and Chemistry to submit through the ESS. (See Figure 3.)
- While most applicants submitting proposals through the ESS find it easy to use, about one-third report that it is difficult. (See Figure 4.)

# Applicant Views of the ATP Proposal Preparation Kit and Electronic Submission System (ESS)

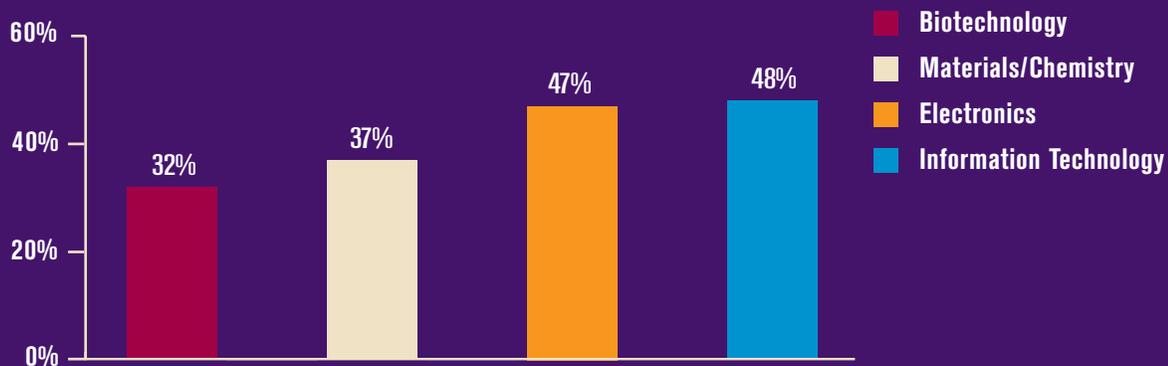
**FIGURE 2.**

*ATP Proposal Submission through the ESS*



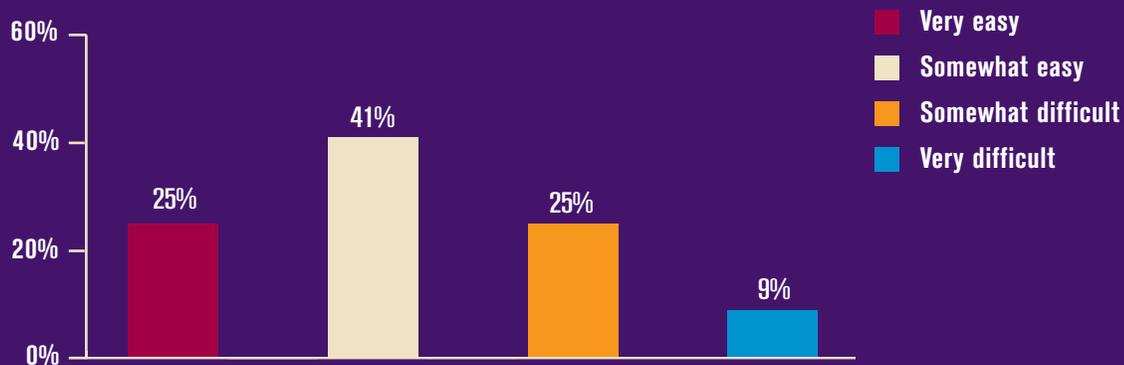
**FIGURE 3.**

*ATP Proposal Submission through ESS, by Technology Area*



**FIGURE 4.**

*Ease or Difficulty of Using the ESS*



NIST GCR 05-876 June 2005

Companies seeking to partner with the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) submit proposals to the ATP. Proposals must be for the development of innovative technologies that could not obtain private funding due to the high technical risk and that have the potential to produce widespread benefits to the economy and society. Proposals are evaluated for technical and economic merit in a rigorous competitive review process.