

# **Major Non-Consensus Program and Its Review Process Design**

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Peer review has been widely used to make funding decisions for many science funding agencies. For normal science, conventional peer review method could mainly ensure funding efficiency and fairness. However, conventional peer review method is often conservative and it is difficult to select high-risk exploratory research project.

Currently, some famous science funding agencies in foreign countries pay serious attention to such high-risk exploratory innovative research, and have established funding program and corresponding funding mechanism special for such kind of research. For example, Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) at National Science Foundation (NSF) in the USA; Director's Pioneer Award (DP1), Director's New Innovator Award (DP2), Transformative R01 Program (T-R01) at National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the USA; The Ideas Factory at Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) in the UK.

On the basis of referring the typical funding mechanism in NSF, NIH and EPSRC, combined with the actual situation of the NSFC, the authors proposed “an interactive heuristic review method” which is helpful to condense high-risk exploratory project. On this basis, the paper introduced the Major Non-Consensus Program which set up in the end of last year and the main operation points.