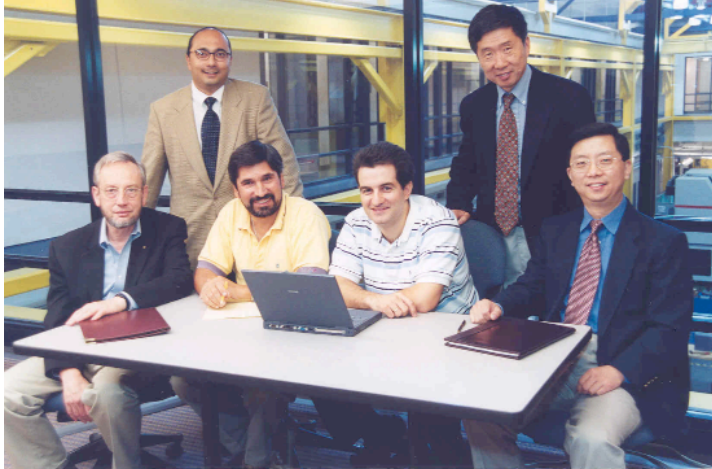


# Collaborative Team Receives \$2.5 Million Grant from the NSF

Faculty affiliated with the College of Engineering's Center for Information and Systems Engineering (CISE) has received a \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, Division of Design, Manufacturing, and Industrial Innovation.



Standing from left: Abhi Deshmukh and Weibo Gong of UMASS Amherst. Seated from left: John Baillieu, Christos Cassandras, and Yannis Paschalidis of ENG, and Robert Gao of UMASS Amherst.

The five-year grant will advance the state of the art in sensor network control and communication technology with far-reaching applications that include manufacturing; homeland security; and space, weather, and radar.

The grant supports an interdisciplinary team including Professor Christos

Cassandras, Project Director, and Associate Professor Yannis Paschalidis of the Manufacturing Engineering Department (MFG), Professor David Castañón of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), and Professor and Chair

John Baillieu of ENG's Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering (AME) department. Faculty from UMASS Amherst are also collaborators.

"Our team's approach is a combination of addressing fundamental research issues, all the while maintaining a focus on a specific application domain,

namely a manufacturing enterprise, in order to generate concrete, implemental results," Cassandras says. "With focus on manufacturing, advances will result in increased energy efficiency, accelerated growth in productivity, improved product quality, and enhanced workplace safety and security." As a highly complex system operating in an

uncertain and potentially adverse environment, most of the issues related to a manufacturing enterprise are fundamentally similar to a variety of settings.

Other recent significant awards to CISE affiliated faculty (along with other University collaborators in some instances) include \$400,000 NSF CAREER award for Murat Alanyali (ECE), two NSF awards totaling \$1.1 million to Eric Kolaczyk, Department of Mathematics and Statistics; a \$935,000 NIH award to Pierre Dupont (AME), a \$350,000 NSF award to David Starobinski and Ari Trachtenberg (ECE), a \$400,000 NSF award to Michael Gevelber (MFG), and a \$350,000 NSF award to CISE Director Michael Caramanis (MFG) and Yannis Paschalidis (MFG).

While research specializations for faculty affiliated with the Center encompass many application domains, common ground are the methodological approaches of optimization methods, information theory, control theory, applied probability and statistics, and simulation and modeling. This fall, the Center for Information and Systems Engineering will showcase some of its affiliated faculty at the weekly Friday Seminars. For a current schedule of the upcoming seminars, see the center's Web site at [www.bu.edu/systems/sem03f](http://www.bu.edu/systems/sem03f).