

NEVADA NASA EPSCoR

REQUEST for Letters of Interest and PROPOSALS: National NASA EPSCoR Rapid Response Research Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) Amendment

Release Date: December 17, 2018



Announcement for:

**Faculty from University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada, Reno;
Nevada State College; College of Southern Nevada; Great Basin College;
Truckee Meadows Community College; Western Nevada College, Desert
Research Institute**

Letter of Interest Due: January 2, 2019, 5:00 pm PT

**Proposal Due: Selected PIs will submit proposals to the NSHE
SPO/EPSCOR Office no later than February 6, 2019, 5:00 pm PT**

**Webinar about this solicitation will be held Dec 20, 2018 at 12
pm PT. Use this WebEx link to attend: [JOIN THE MEETING](#)**

To join by phone, call 1-650-429-3300, meeting # 805 862 424

INTRODUCTION

The National NASA EPSCoR Program has announced an amendment to the solicitation entitled “Rapid Response Research”. The goal of this effort is to develop close collaborations among NASA, industry and university faculty to solve specific current NASA research challenges. It is anticipated that eight to ten \$100,000 awards for a one-year project duration will be made to address a subset of the NASA topics listed in the National solicitation amendment Appendix D (attached). Each jurisdiction may submit one proposal per topic area for a total of 5 new topic areas, i.e., Nevada may submit, through the NV NASA EPSCoR Office, up to 5 proposals, but only one for each topic area. We are therefore requesting that any NSHE faculty member interested in submitting a proposal first submit a letter of interest; see information below. If there are multiple faculty interested in a common topic area, we will request that the faculty consider collaborating on a proposal. If collaboration is not an option, the NV NASA EPSCoR Administrative team will review the letters of interest and select the proposal(s) that will be submitted to the National solicitation.

The lead Science PIs must contact the NASA point of contact to talk about their research ideas before submitting a letter of interest (and before proposal submission); this was a specific request from the National NASA EPSCoR Project Manager.

Each funded NASA EPSCoR RRR CAN proposal is expected to establish research activities that will make significant contributions to the strategic research and technology development priorities of NASA’s national program and/or one or more of the ten NASA Field Centers, Mission Directorates or the NASA Office of Chief Technologist. The proposed research should also contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science, and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of Nevada.

Topic Areas Include (see attached National NASA EPSCoR RRR CAN and amendment for more details; Appendix D). NOTE: proposals that were previously submitted (Aug 2018) are still under consideration and we may not re-submit revisions or new proposals for the original RRR topics.

New Commercial Spaceflight Development Division (CSDD) Tasks:

- 1) Additive Component Internal Feature Surface Roughness Reduction
- 2) Investigate Potential Mars or Lunar Resources

CSDD Contact is: Warren Ruemmele; (CSCO/UA3) Office Phone: 281-483-3662; Cell: 832-221-1367; email: warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov

Space Biology Tasks:

- 3) GeneLab Data Analysis and Bioinformatics Tool Development
- 4) Microbiome of the Built Environment
- 5) Operational and Hardware Variables Impact to Science

Space Biology Contact is: Dr. David Tomko, NASA Hq Space Life and Physical Sciences Space Biology Program; Office Phone: 202-358-2211; Email: dtomko@nasa.gov

NASA EPSCoR RRR CAN proposals may be from a single NSHE institution; there is no requirement for collaboration among NSHE institutions.

Important Notes:

- 1) There is no requirement for matching funds. The total amount to be awarded is \$100,000 Federal with full indirect cost recovery.
- 2) There is no cost-share required for this opportunity (no institutional or state match).
- 3) The lead administrative PI will be Dr. Lynn Fenstermaker, the NV NASA EPSCoR Project Director. The lead research faculty member will be listed as the Science PI. The proposals will be submitted through the NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office; the same as the NASA EPSCoR Research CAN.
- 4) A letter of interest stating the specific topic of the proposal must be submitted by **January 2, 2019, 5:00 pm PT** at the website listed in the instructions below.
- 5) The period of performance shall not exceed one year.
- 6) There will be no administrative fees attached to the budget, but there will be NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office ICR on the total amount. (Work with Gibran Chavez-Gudino on the budget - 15% on the first \$25,000 on any subaward.)
- 7) Please read the National solicitation and Appendix D amendment (attached) for specifics about the proposal and research topics.
- 8) **The National NASA EPSCoR Project Manager has stated that the Science PI must contact the NASA point-of-contact listed for each topic area prior to proposal preparation and submission. We request that the Science PI communicate with the NASA contact prior to submission of a letter of interest to ensure that your proposal idea will meet NASA expectations.**
- 9) The National NASA EPSCoR Project Manager highly recommends submission of the brief 2-3 page proposals no later than Feb 15, 2019. NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office requires that the final selected proposals be submitted to the NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office by **February 6, 2019, 5:00 pm PT**. This will give us time to ensure that the budget and budget narrative are congruent, all solicitation requirements are met, and provide time for revision. NOTE: there has always been a need for budget corrections and narrative revisions, so the Feb 6 cut-off for delivering a complete draft of all proposals is firm.

RRR CAN SOLICITATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

A. Eligibility

Faculty at NSHE institutions, particularly junior faculty, women, and members of other underrepresented populations are encouraged to apply. Faculty who have a current National NASA EPSCoR Research CAN project are not eligible to apply while their project is on-going. There is no requirement that Science PIs be U.S. citizens, however, foreign nationals (i.e., non-U.S. citizens who do not have a green card) will likely not be permitted access to NASA Centers. This may or may not be important to the research being proposed.

B. Award: Funding Information

The NASA EPSCoR RRR CAN will provide an award of \$100,000 total for a one-year project period with no match requirement. The federally negotiated indirect cost recovery (ICR) rate for each NSHE institution must be included in the budget.

C. Award Obligations (If selected for Full proposal submission and receive a National award)

Award recipients are required to prepare final reports and respond to any other reporting requirements provided by the National NASA EPSCoR Office. It is anticipated that this will include quantitative information on participant demographics, project role, number/type of products and a research highlight. The final report must be made publically available either through NASA's *PubSpace* or any other university provided public database. The final report includes: grant proposals submitted; grant

proposals funded; papers submitted and/or published in refereed journals; presentations or abstracts at professional meetings, and collaborations with NASA centers and institutions across the state. Data must be archived and adhere to a data management plan (NV NASA EPSCoR has a generic data management plan that will be provided for consideration).

D. Letter of Interest Preparation

Complete the online form (URL listed below) to provide the following information by 5:00 pm PT on January 2, 2019. You must communicate with the appropriate NASA Topic Area Point of Contact prior to submission of the LOI.

- Lead PI name, email address and institution
- Working title for the pre-proposal
- Research topic from NASA solicitation provided list
- Research abstract / brief explanation of your research idea (500 words max)

Go to: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2019-rrr-can/>

LOI Review

LOIs will be reviewed by January 7, 2019 (at the latest) and PIs will be informed whether they can proceed with proposal development. In instances where a common topic is stated in two or more LOIs, the PIs will be asked if they would be willing to collaborate. If collaboration is not possible, the LOIs will be reviewed by the NV NASA EPSCoR Administrative Team (and perhaps others) and the most relevant and well-written LOI will be selected for proposal development. LOI teams will be notified by Monday, January 7th.

E. Full Proposal Preparation (merge requirements 1-4 into a single PDF)

Proposals must be typed, single-spaced, standard one-inch margins and use a Times Roman 12 pt or comparable font with numbered pages. The proposals should be written such that researchers from other scientific disciplines would be able to understand the proposal goals, importance of the research and how the anticipated outcomes will benefit NASA, NV and NSHE.

1. Cover Page (form provided as “paperclip” attachment to this solicitation)

- Signature of Applicant
- Signature of Office of Sponsored Projects/Programs

2. Project Description (limited to 3 pages maximum)

Provide a concise description of the proposed research or research-building activities, including the following:

- a. Summary of Project; (half page maximum of the total maximum 3 pages allotted)
- b. The remaining pages should include:
 - i. Project goals and research objectives; intrinsic merit of the proposed research
 - ii. Brief statement on how the proposed research meets the topic area need identified in the solicitation
 - iii. Tasks and methods
 - iv. SMART objectives with measurable outcomes (see PDF “paperclip” attachment)
 - v. An approximate timetable for project completion
 - vi. List of collaborators and expertise they will contribute (including any NASA scientists)

- vii. Brief discussion of likely outcomes (i.e., publications, patents/licenses, technology transfer, new hardware/software, new or revised courses, new proposals with potential program you will apply to, etc.)

3. Budget and Budget Justification (form provided as “paperclip” attachment)

Provide a budget and a detailed budget justification by each institution involved in the project.

PIs are encouraged to work with their Sponsored Programs Office and/or Business Managers well in advance to develop the budget.

- a. Follow NASA budget guidelines as well as the OMB Uniform Guidance when developing the budget.
- b. Include appropriate fringe, ICR, tuition and other costs.
- c. Budget must be signed by Sponsored Projects Office or Business Manager.

4. Appendices

- a. References Cited (the number of pages for citations is not limited)
- b. Biographical Sketch or Curriculum Vitae: limited to two pages per person, including the PI, Co-PI(s) and any collaborators or identified student(s) who will have a major role in the project.
- c. Any NASA collaborators must provide letters of support that specifically state the contribution they will make. (Note: Letters must be recent and dated within 45 days prior to the proposal submission.)
- d. NASA Funding History Summary (limited to one page): provide a detailed list of previous & current NASA funded projects. Include the title of the project, the project period, the funded amount, and significant project outcomes.
- e. Facilities and Other Resources: list any existing facilities and major equipment that will be used for the proposed project.

F. Submission Guidelines:

Letters of Interest must be submitted no later than **5:00 pm PT on January 2, 2019**. Use the online form at: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2019-rrr-can/>

LOIs should be submitted only after communication with the NASA point-of-contact for the topic area of interest. If you are selected to proceed to full proposal, the final date to submit a proposal to the NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office is **February 6, 2019**. To submit a proposal please submit a word and an excel document using the naming convention: **PI Last Name_First Name_NASA_RRR**. Submissions that are incomplete (see requirements 1-4 above) will not be submitted to the National solicitation. Use the online form at: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2019-rrr-can/>

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION

All full proposals submitted will be reviewed by the National NASA EPSCoR Program Office. As stated in the National NASA EPSCoR RRR CAN:

Review of proposals submitted in response to this CAN shall be consistent with the general policies and provisions contained in the [NASA Guidebook for Proposers](#), Appendix D. Selection procedures shall be consistent with the provisions of the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers*, Section 5. However, the evaluation criteria described in this CAN under Section 4.0, Proposal Evaluation, takes precedence over the evaluation criteria described in Section 5 of the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers*.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the proposed research approach (intrinsic merit) and budget involved that addresses the research presented in Appendix D.

NASA's stated goal is to announce selections as soon as possible. However, NASA does not usually announce new selections until the funds needed for those awards are approved through the Federal budget process. Therefore, a delay in NASA's budget process may result in a delay of the selection date(s).

A proposer has the right to be informed of the major factor(s) that led to the acceptance or rejection of the proposal. Debriefings will be available upon request. Again, it is emphasized that non-selected proposals should be aware that proposals of nominally high intrinsic and programmatic merits may be declined for reasons entirely unrelated to any scientific or technical weaknesses.

Contact Information

NV NASA EPSCoR Project Director
Dr. Lynn Fenstermaker
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702-862-5412

NV NASA EPSCoR Project Administrator
Gibran Chavez-Gudino
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702-522-7081

ADDITIONAL LINKS:

A PDF copy of the NASA Guidebook for Proposers may be found at:

<https://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/procurement/nraguidebook/proposer2018.pdf>