NEVADA
NASA EPSCoR

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

Release Date: October 30, 2020

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

Letters of Interest Due: December 2, 2020 5:00 pm PT

Proposals Due: Selected PIs will submit proposals to the NSHE SPO/EPSCOR Office no later than January 12, 2021, 5:00 pm PT

Webinar about this solicitation will be held Nov 12, 2020 at 12 pm PT. Use this link to attend: Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

INTRODUCTION

The National NASA EPSCoR Program has announced a new solicitation entitled "Rapid Response Research" (RRR) program. 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 approximately 20 research proposals that will not exceed $100,000 each for a one-year project duration will be awarded to address a subset of the NASA topics listed in the National solicitation Appendices (attached). Each jurisdiction may submit one proposal per NASA science office division (note: this is different from previous years), i.e., Nevada may submit, through the NV NASA EPSCoR Office, up to 9 proposals, but only one for each science office division addressing one of the research topics for that office division. 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 or multiple topic areas within one NASA science office division, we will request that the faculty consider collaborating on a single proposal. If collaboration is not an option, the NV NASA EPSCoR Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will review the letters of interest and select the proposal(s) that will be submitted to the National solicitation.

The lead Science PIs must reach out to 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. If you do not reach out to the point of contact your proposal will not be submitted for award review.

Each funded NASA EPSCoR RRR CAN proposal is expected to establish research activities that will make significant contributions to one of the strategic research projects listed in the national solicitation (attached) The proposed research should also contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science, and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of Nevada.

The NASA science offices and contacts are listed below. Topic Areas for each NASA science office are listed in the attached National NASA EPSCoR RRR CAN solicitation, Appendices A – I and amended Appendix E. Note: Renewal proposals for current RRR awards are permitted with prior point of contact approval. You must receive this approval before submitting your proposal for renewal.

NASA Science Offices and Contacts

1) NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD) Planetary Division (Appendix A)

Adriana C. Ocampo Uria PhD
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Washington DC 20546
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SMD/Planetary Science Division
Glenn Research Center
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Phone: (216) 433-3411

2) Commercial Space Capabilities Office (Appendix B)

Mark Timm
Program Executive
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Warren Ruemmele
Project Executive
NASA JSC\UA311
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Cell: (202) 372-5931

Phone: (281) 483-3662
Cell: (832) 231-1367

3) SMD Earth Sciences Division (Appendix C)

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Earth Science Remote Sensing
NASA HQ/RM 3Z53
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Laura Lorenzoni
Earth Science Remote Sensing
NASA HQ/RM 3Y35
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4) SMD Biological and Physical Sciences (Appendix D)

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NASA HQ/RM 7M75
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Cell: (216) 978-8078

Francis (Fran) Chiaramonte
Science Program Manager
NASA HQ/RM 7L83
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Cell: (202) 834-7348

5) Kennedy Space Center Exploration Systems and Development

Elspeth Petersen
NASA KSC UB-E
NASA Kennedy Space Center
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6) SMD Computational and Information Sciences and Technology Office (CISTO) (Appendix F)

James Harrington
Project Manager
Goddard Space Flight Center, MD
Email: james.l.harrington@nasa.gov
Telephone: (301) 286-4063
Cell: (301) 806-2382

7) Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate Electric Aircraft Batteries and Crash Safety (Appendix G)

John W. Connell
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NASA Langley Research Center
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8) NASA Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO) (Appendix H)

Dr James D. Polk
Chief. Health & Medical. Officer
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Phone: 202-358-1959

Dr Victor S. Schneider
Enterprise Scientist - Medical Research Officer
NASA HQ:BF016, HQ:2L25
E-mail: vschneider@nasa.gov
Phone: 202-358-2204

9) Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) EPSCoR Research Areas (Appendix I)

University Affairs Officer
MSFC: CS60
E-mail: Norman.F.Six@nasa.gov
Phone: 256-961-0678
Cell: 256-683-0372

Important Notes:

1) NASA EPSCoR RRR CAN proposals may be from a single NSHE institution; there is no requirement for collaboration among NSHE institutions.
2) There is no requirement for matching funds. The total amount to be awarded is $100,000 Federal with full indirect cost recovery.
3) There is no cost-share required for this opportunity (no institutional or state match).
4) 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.
5) A letter of interest stating the specific topic of the proposal must be submitted by **December 2, 2020**, **5:00 pm PT** at the website listed in the instructions below.
6) The period of performance shall not exceed one year.
7) 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. NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office ICR is 15% on the first $25,000 per subaward)
8) Please read the National solicitation and Appendix D amendment (attached) for specifics about the proposal and research topics.
9) **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.**
10) The National NASA EPSCoR RRR solicitation has a deadline of 11:59 pm (ET) on February 5, 2021. NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office requires that the final selected proposals be submitted to the NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office by **January 12, 2021, 5:00 pm PT.** This will give us time to ensure that the budget is correct, all solicitation requirements are met, provide time for revision and time needed for NV NASA EPSCoR staff to upload all proposals. NOTE: there has always been a need for budget corrections and narrative revision, so the January 12 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 as well as the NSHE EPSCoR/SPO ICR rate.

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 publicly available through NASA's *PubSpace*. The final report includes, but is not limited to: a summary of project goals and accomplishments; a discussion on advancement of the jurisdiction's research infrastructure; a list of project participants from academia, NASA centers and industry; grant proposals submitted; grant proposals funded; papers submitted and/or published in refereed journals; presentations or abstracts at professional meetings, and technology advancement (patents, licenses, etc.). Data must be archived and adhere to a data management plan.

D. Letter of Interest Preparation
Complete the online form (URL listed below) to provide the following information by 5:00 pm PT on December 2, 2020. 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
Science office division and research topic from the NASA solicitation provided list
Research abstract / brief explanation of your research idea (500 words max)

Go to: **https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2021-rrr-can/**

LOI Review
LOIs will be reviewed by December 14, 2020 (at the latest) and PIs will be informed whether they may proceed with proposal development. In instances where a common NASA science office 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 Technical Advisory Committee and the most relevant and well-written LOI will be selected for proposal development. LOI teams will be notified of LOI review results by Wednesday, December 16.

E. Full Proposal Preparation
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 project for the specific NASA science office research topic and how the anticipated outcomes will benefit NASA, NV and NSHE. Please submit the proposal as a word file that will enable a more efficient review and revision.

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 (limited to 4000 characters)
   b. Data Management Plan (limited to 4000 characters)

c. Table of Contents
d. The Scientific/Technical Management Plan (2-3 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. Appendices

a. References Cited (the number of pages for citations is not limited)
b. Biographical Sketch or Curriculum Vitae: limited to two pages for the Science PI, and one page for 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. Current and Pending Support
e. Statements of Commitment and Letters of Support.
f. 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.
    - Follow NASA budget guidelines as well as the OMB Uniform Guidance when developing the budget.
    - Include appropriate fringe, ICR, tuition and other costs.
    - Budget must be signed by Sponsored Projects Office or Business Manager.
g. Facilities and Equipment: list any existing facilities and major equipment that will be used for the proposed project.
h. Table of personnel and work effort.

F. Submission Guidelines:

Letters of Interest must be submitted no later than **5:00 pm PT on December 2, 2020**. Use the online form at: **https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2021-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 **January 12, 2021.** To submit a proposal please submit a word and excel documents 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/2021-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 will 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.

Successful R3 proposals shall provide sound contributions to both immediate and long-term scientific and technical needs of NASA as explicitly expressed in current NASA documents and communications. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria: Intrinsic Merit, Management, and Budget Justification. The bulleted lists after each criterion below should not be construed as any indication of priority or relative weighting. Rather, the bullets are provided for clarity and facilitation of proposal development.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the proposed research approach (intrinsic merit, 65% of score), management (20%) and budget (15%).

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

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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