

**NEVADA
NASA EPSCoR**

**REQUEST for Letters of Interest and PROPOSALS:
National NASA EPSCoR Rapid Response Research Notice
of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

Release Date: November 17, 2023 (NV) November 13, 2023 (NASA)



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 8, 2023, 5:00 pm PT

**Proposals Due: Selected PIs will submit proposals to the NSHE SPO/EPSCOR
Office no later than February 12, 2024, 5:00 pm PT**

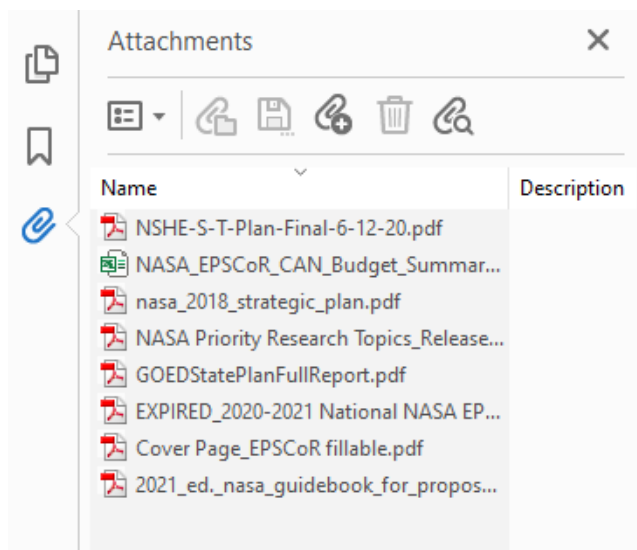
Webinar about this solicitation will be held November 28, 2023 at 1 pm PT.

Use this link to attend: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**NOTE: Please open this document in Adobe Acrobat to view attached paperclip
resource files relevant to this solicitation.**

Paperclipped Attachments

Please note, to view all relevant attachments to this solicitation including the budget summary, cover page, NASA Mission Directorates, etc., please open this PDF document in Adobe Acrobat and select the paperclip on the left-hand side of the screen (you may need to click the arrow to expand the panel where the paperclip is located). Any questions regarding the paperclip attachments or on how to access these documents can be directed to Darlene Aranda at daranda@nshe.nevada.edu.



INTRODUCTION

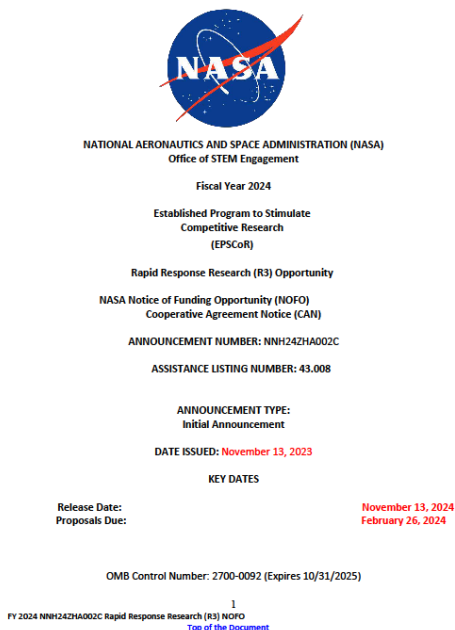
The National NASA EPSCoR Program has announced a new solicitation entitled “Rapid Response Research” (R3) program (see e-paperclipped document). The goal of this effort is to develop close collaborations among NASA, industry and university faculty to solve specific current NASA research challenges. It is anticipated that approximately 30 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 Appendix 3 (attached). Each jurisdiction may submit a total of six proposals, on any of the research topics listed. Note: this year, multiple proposals may be submitted to the same topic. To help identify the most relevant six proposals to submit, we are 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 may request that the faculty consider collaborating on a single proposal. If collaboration is not an option, a panel will review the letters of interest and select the proposal(s) that will be submitted to the National solicitation.

The lead Science PIs is strongly encouraged to contact the NASA point of contact to talk about their research ideas before submitting a letter of interest (and before proposal submission).

Each funded NASA EPSCoR R3 NOFO proposal is expected to establish research activities that will make significant contributions to one of the strategic research focus areas 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 and topic areas for each NASA science office are listed in the attached National NASA EPSCoR R3 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Appendix 3. Note: PIs may resubmit unfunded proposals from previous R3 solicitations; please list the solicitation and appendix/topic in your title. Renewal proposals for current R3 awards are permitted if a NASA Center, Mission Directorate, or other entity agrees to provide the funding. The National NASA EPSCoR Office will not provide EPSCoR funds

for any renewal proposals. You must provide a letter from the funding group stating their commitment to fund a renewal before submitting your proposal to our office.



Prospective proposers should carefully review the list of research focus areas in Appendix 3 of the federal NASA EPSCoR R3 NOFO. The appendix lists specific research topics solicited in the R3 NOFO including an overview, and in some cases specific research requirements. Also included is a NASA point of contact for every research focus area. Prospective proposers are expected to articulate how their proposed project meets the research goals and requirements described in Appendix 3 of the R3 NOFO.

Important Information:

- 1) NASA EPSCoR R3 NOFO proposals may be from a single NSHE institution; there is no requirement for collaboration among NSHE institutions.
- 2) 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. Eric Wilcox, 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.
- 5) A letter of interest stating the specific topic of the proposal must be submitted by **December 8, 2023, 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 Marcie Jackson from the NSHE EPSCoR Office on the budget. NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office ICR is 15% on the first \$25,000 per subaward)
- 8) Please read the National solicitation (attached) for specifics about the proposal and research topics.
- 9) **The Science PI is strongly encouraged to contact the NASA point-of-contact listed for each topic area prior to submission of a letter of interest to ensure that your proposal idea will meet NASA research topic expectations.**
- 10) The National NASA EPSCoR R3 solicitation has a deadline of 11:59 pm (ET) on February 26, 2024. NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office requires that the final selected proposals be submitted to the NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office by **February 12, 2024, 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 February 12 cut-off for delivering a complete draft of all proposals is firm.

R3 NOFO 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 Collaboration CAN/NOFO or R3 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. Proposals involving bilateral participation, collaboration, or coordination in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company, whether funded or performed under a no exchange-of-funds arrangement, will be ineligible for award. Faculty who are delinquent on submitting a final report for any NASA EPSCoR or NV NASA Space Grant award are not eligible.

B. Award: Funding Information

The NASA EPSCoR R3 NOFO will provide an award of \$100,000 total for a one-year project period with no match requirement, although voluntary matching is allowed under 2 CFR 200 (also see 2 CFR 200.306). 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 as communicated by the NV 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. 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.

Per the solicitation:

Recipients receiving awards under this NOFO shall comply with the provision set forth in the NASA Plan for Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research

(http://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/NASA_Data_Plan.pdf) including responsibility for—

- Submitting as approved peer-reviewed manuscripts and metadata to a designated repository: and
- Reporting publications with the annual and final progress reports.

In addition, you will be asked to provide a headshot or photo working in the lab/field and sign a Media Consent Form. The photo, along with your project abstract, will be posted on the NV NASA Programs Website under the current awards section.

D. Letter of Interest Preparation

Complete the online form (URL listed below) to provide the following information by 5:00 pm PT on December 8, 2023. You are encouraged to 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; list the research “ID” number from the table of research topics and contacts; Appendix 3 of the federal NASA R3 NOFO.
- Research abstract / brief, but clear, explanation of your project goals/objectives, the methods you will employ to address your goals and most importantly expected outcomes and how those outcomes will advance the science and meet NASA needs as articulated in Appendix 3 of the federal NASA R3 NOFO, as well as NASA strategic plan or NASA mission objectives as appropriate. (Maximum of one page of text.)
- Letter of support or collaboration from a NASA Scientist (either civil servant or contractor at a NASA center (note: this can be a copy of an email and does not count toward the one-page limit.)

Go to: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2024-R3-NOFO/>

LOI Review

LOIs will be reviewed as quickly as possible, 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 a panel and the most relevant and well-written LOIs will be selected for proposal development. LOI teams will be notified of LOI review results by approximately December 22, 2023.

The evaluation criteria include:

- Detailed explanation of project relevance to one of the R3 research focus areas
- A letter of support or collaboration from a NASA scientist
- A brief, but clear, explanation of your project goals/objectives, the methods you will employ to address your goals and most importantly expected outcomes and how those outcomes will advance the science and meet NASA needs.

E. Full Proposal Preparation

Proposals must follow the guidelines in section D of the federal NASA R3 NOFO. Proposals shall 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
 - Project title that includes the Solicitation Appendix which the proposal is responsive to.
2. **Project Description (limited to 2-3 pages maximum unless otherwise stated in a specific research topic appendix) Note: the summary and data management plan are not included in the 2-3 page proposal limit.**

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 (this is the first page of the proposal document)
 - 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) If you include quantifiable metrics in the research objectives text, you may omit a separate SMART table.
 - 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 Admin and Science PIs, and one page for Co-PI(s).
 - c. Current and Pending Support
 - d. Statements of commitment and letters of support: 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.)
 - e. 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. Please read pages 12 and 13 of the NASA solicitation carefully for explanations on budget restrictions.

 - 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.
- f. Facilities and Equipment: list any existing facilities and major equipment that will be used for the proposed project.
- g. Table of personnel and work effort.

We encourage all PIs to seek technical editor review at their institutions to ensure that their pre-proposals are as clean and competitive as possible. If selected for full proposal submission, we would strongly recommend a thorough technical editor review. National reviewers for NASA EPSCoR have commented to the NASA Program Manager that they have been very disappointed with the quality of EPSCoR proposals.

F. Submission Guidelines:

Letters of Interest must be submitted no later than **5:00 pm PT on December 8, 2023.** Use the online form at: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2024-R3-NOFO/>.

If you are selected to proceed to full proposal, the final date to submit a full proposal to the NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office is **February 12, 2024.** To submit a proposal please submit word and excel documents using the naming convention: **PI Last Name_First Name_NASA_R3. Do not submit a PDF file.** 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/2024-R3-NOFO/>.

If your LOI is selected for full proposal development, you will also be asked to sign a Media Consent Form and submit a headshot. If your proposal is funded, your headshot, contact info and project abstract will be posted to the NV NASA Programs website. If you do not wish to have your photo posted to the website, please contact Darlene Aranda at daranda@nshe.nevada.edu.

FULL 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 R3 NOFO:

Review of proposals submitted in response to this NOFO 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 NOFO under Section E of this document, 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), project management (20%) and budget justification (15%). See pages 15-17 of the NASA solicitation.

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. Eric Wilcox
eric.wilcox@dri.edu
775-673-7686

Director, System Sponsored Programs and EPSCoR
Marcie Jackson
mjackson@nshe.nevada.edu
702-522-7079

NV NASA Program Coordinator
Darlene Aranda
daranda@nshe.nevada.edu
702-522-7072

Reminder of Key Dates:

Solicitation release from NASA: November 13, 2023
Solicitation release from NV NASA EPSCoR: November 17, 2023
Solicitation Webinar (Q&A): November 27, 2023 (Link on 1st pg of this document)
LOI's due to NSHE: December 8, 2023
Decisions on LOIs to proceed to full proposal: ~December 22, 2023
Full proposals to NV NASA EPSCoR for review: February 12, 2024
Full proposals to NASA: prior to February 26, 2024, 11:59pm
Awards Announced: ~ July 2024

ADDITIONAL LINK:

A PDF copy of the current NASA Guidebook for Proposers may be found at:
<https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-nasa-proposers-guide-final.pdf>