

**NEVADA
NASA EPSCoR**

**REQUEST for Letters of Interest and PROPOSALS:
National NASA EPSCoR International Space Station Flight
Opportunity Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

Release Date: April 29, 2025



Announcement for Faculty at:

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

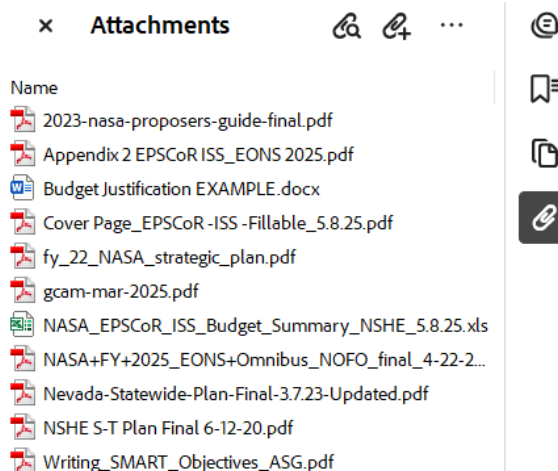
Letters of Interest Due: May 27, 2025, 5:00 pm PT

**Proposals Due: Selected PI will submit a proposal to the NSHE SPO/EPSCoR
Office no later than July 25, 2025, 5:00 pm PT**

**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 announced a solicitation for projects seeking an “International Space Station (ISS) Flight Opportunity”. This solicitation is for projects that are mature enough to transition to a flight experiment with little to no additional NASA funding during the 3-year period of performance of the award.

Proposals shall describe scientific and/or technical research in areas that support NASA’s strategic research and technology development priorities. Proposals shall also emphasize how a flight in microgravity will influence or improve the results or quality of any ground-based research. The proposed research should contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of Nevada.

Only one proposal per jurisdiction may be submitted by the jurisdiction’s NASA EPSCoR Project Director. The maximum funding request per proposal is \$150,000 for a three-year period. There is no match requirement. Because we may only submit one proposal, we therefore request 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 this solicitation, we will request that the faculty consider collaborating on a single proposal. If collaboration is not an option, the NV NASA EPSCoR Project Director will arrange a technical review of the letters of interest and select the concept that will be developed into a proposal for submission to the National solicitation.

Important Notes:

- 1) NASA EPSCoR ISS 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 no more than \$150,000 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 Co-investigator/Science PI. The proposals will be submitted through the NASA NSPIRES system by the NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office.

- 5) A letter of interest stating the specific goal/objectives of the proposed effort must be submitted by **May 27, 2025, 5:00 pm PT** at the website listed in the instructions below.
- 6) The period of performance shall not exceed three years.
- 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 Karina Ceja on the budget. NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office ICR is 15% on the first \$25,000 per subaward).
- 8) Please read Appendix 2 from the National solicitation (attached) for specifics about the proposal.
- 9) The National NASA EPSCoR ISS NOFO solicitation has a deadline of **August 1, 2025**. NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office requires that the final proposal be submitted to the NSHE SPO/EPSCoR Office by **July 25, 2025, 5:00 pm PT**. This will give us time to ensure that the budget is correct, all solicitation requirements are met, provide time for revisions and time needed for NV NASA EPSCoR staff to upload the proposal. NOTE: there has always been a need for budget corrections and narrative revisions, so the July 25th cut-off for delivering a complete draft of all proposals is firm.

ISS NOFO SOLICITATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

A. Eligibility

Faculty at NSHE institutions, particularly junior faculty, are encouraged to apply. Faculty who have a current National NASA EPSCoR Research CAN 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.

B. Award: Funding Information

The NASA EPSCoR ISS NOFO provides an award of up to \$150,000 total for a three-year project period with no match requirement. NASA may award up to 4 projects under this NOFO. Please read Appendix 2 from the National solicitation (included in attachments to this document): Proposers are not required to fund launch costs. However, proposers shall fund the cost of their research equipment/hardware unless such hardware is already available in the NASA/ISS inventory (see Appendix 2.B pg.54 from the National solicitation, ISS Available Services, and Appendix 2.C Section D-1 pg.59 from the National solicitation, ISS National Lab Implementation Partners).

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

NASA will designate a Technical Monitor (TM) for every cooperative agreement award. The TM's role will encompass monitoring research progress and ensuring ongoing alignment with the established project objectives. Each award recipient is required to furnish an annual report detailing research advancement. These reports will encompass anticipated performance goals, key indicators, target outcomes, baseline data, data collection methods, and other resulting insights. Following evaluation by the TM, these reports will be subject to approval by the NASA

EPSCoR Project Manager. Moreover, they will be disseminated among the NASA Mission Directorates, NASA Centers, and NASA's JPL, for broader awareness and visibility.

D. Letter of Interest Preparation

Complete the online form (URL listed below) to provide the following information by **5:00 pm PT on May 27, 2025**.

Lead PI name, email address and institution

Working title for the pre-proposal

Research abstract / brief explanation of your research idea, how it will address a NASA strategic research or technology development priority, and the level of readiness of the experiment for deployment on the ISS (500 words max).

Go to: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2025-iss-nofo/>

E. LOI Review

LOIs will be reviewed as quickly as possible, and PIs will be informed whether they may or may not proceed with proposal development. If more than one LOI is submitted, the PIs will be asked if they would be willing to collaborate. If collaboration is not possible, the NV NASA EPSCoR Project Director will arrange a technical review of the letters of interest and select the concept that will be developed into a proposal for submission to the National solicitation.

F. Full Proposal Preparation

Required elements of the full proposal include, a proposal summary, a data management plan, a table of contents, a scientific/technical plan not to exceed 15 pages, a management plan, references and citations, biographical sketches for the PI, the Co-investigator/Science-PI, and each co-investigator, listing of current and pending support, statements of commitment and letters of support as needed, a budget justification, a listing of facilities and equipment, and any special notifications and/or certifications as needed. Proposers shall refer to Appendix 2 of the National solicitation (p. 37 section D – Application Contents and Format), as well as the NASA Grant And Cooperative Agreement Manual (<https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/gcam-mar-2025.pdf?emrc=982b64>) for a complete description of the required elements of the proposal and the character, word, or page limits of each element. **Other submission requirements** regarding students, see Appendix 2 of the National solicitation pg.39.

G. Proposal Review and Selection

All full proposals submitted will be reviewed by the ISS Program Office in consultation with the NASA HQ Mission Directorates and National NASA EPSCoR Program Office. Evaluation by peer review will be used to assess each proposal's overall merit. The evaluation criteria for awards are: intrinsic merit of microgravity requirement, approach to flight safety process; and utilization requirements of available ISS resources, and budget. Please see section F (p. 40) of Appendix 2 of the National solicitation document for a longer discussion of the proposal review criteria.

Review of proposals submitted in response to this NOFO shall be consistent with the general policies and provisions contained in the NASA Proposer's Guide, Appendix D. Selection procedures will be consistent with the provisions of the NASA Proposer's Guide, Section 5. However, the evaluation criteria described in Appendix 2 of the National solicitation under Section F.1, Proposal Evaluation, take precedence over the evaluation criteria described in

Section 5 of the NASA Proposer's Guide. The Selecting Official for this NOFO is the NASA EPSCoR Project Manager or their appointed representative.

Successful research proposals are likely to be those that provide sound contributions to both immediate and long-term scientific and technical needs of NASA as explicitly expressed in current NASA documents and communications. Also, successful proposals are likely to contribute to the overall research infrastructure and economic development of the proposed jurisdiction.

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For more information about Nevada's NASA Programs visit:

<https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/>