Issued: July 17, 2018
POP: August 16, 2018 – May 5, 2019
Proposals due: Noon, August 10, 2018

ND NASA EPSCOR RESEARCH FOCUS AREA (RFA) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The North Dakota NASA EPSCoR (Established Program to Simulate Competitive Research) is soliciting applications for Research Focus Area (RFA) funding which will be evaluated using the following criteria. Please review this information prior to submitting your proposal.

The RFA program is designed to promote, develop, and expand NASA research in North Dakota in the following areas:

- Astronomical/planetary science
- Small satellite development
- Earth sciences
- Materials science
- Planetary space suit research
- Other NASA-relevant research areas

Eligibility:

- Faculty PI must be from the University of North Dakota or North Dakota State University.
- Research must be in STEM (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics), be relevant to one or more RFA, and have significant NASA-relevance.

Funding:

Effort by the PI or other allowable match is required on proposals. The requirement is 1:1 at NDSU and 1.39:1 at UND. The amount awarded, as well as any required match, will be governed by NASA EPSCoR federal guidelines. Proposal budgets can include funding for faculty salary and benefits, undergraduate and graduate student research assistantships, project relevant supplies, research equipment, and faculty and student travel to NASA field centers for direct collaborations with NASA researchers. Funds cannot be used for computers, furniture, filing cabinets, wall cabinets, office supplies, (including copy paper, pens, sticky notepads), telephone lines, lab renovations, building renovations, moving expenses, expenditures for teaching classes, honorariums, subscription fees, membership fees, or tuition waivers. Funds must be spent between August 16, 2018 and May 5, 2019.

It is anticipated that up to five awards may be made to a maximum of $25,000 each.

http://ndnasaepscor.und.edu/

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Proposal Checklist:

- Cover Sheet
  - PI contact information
  - Funding Requested
  - Department Chair Signature
  - Statement that the PI has not receieved ND NASA EPSCoR funding after July 1, 2017
- CV of PI and Co-PIs
- Research Narrative, Budget, and Budget Justification
- All materials must be uploaded as **fully searchable pdf** documents.

This solicitation, the cover page, and budget form can be found online here: http://ndnasaepscor.und.edu/news/news-article.aspx?newsid=2617

Proposal Guidance:

All proposals must be routed through the Department Chair, Dean's office, and Grants and Contracts/Sponsored Programs Administration (or equivalent office) for signatures. PIs must also complete proposal transmittal forms specific to their universities (if applicable).

One of the primary goals of the RFA research emphasis and the NASA EPSCoR program is to assist faculty in developing research programs that can be funded outside of the NASA EPSCoR program in the future. Therefore, proposers should specifically include a plan to develop and expand their proposal into an independently funded research group beyond the timeframe of this funding opportunity. A goal of ND NASA EPSCoR is also to assist the development of multiple NASA relevant research clusters in North Dakota. Proposals involving collaboration across departments, universities, and research groups/scientists at NASA Centers, are strongly encouraged.

1. **CV of PI (and Co-PIs)**
   a. Relevant Teaching and Research Experience

2. **Research Narrative** *(Use the following headings in ≤ 10 pages for a – h. Page limit does not apply to references and any letters of collaboration.)*
   a. Introduction
      - Overview of the scope of work, including description of the NASA-relevance, nature of collaborations
   b. Background

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- Description of how the proposed work fits into your overall research plans and the field of study at large
- Preliminary research results (if applicable)

c. Research Objectives
- Clear identification of all science and technical objectives

d. NASA Relevance
- Identification of current and potential applications/relevance to NASA

e. Implementation Strategy
- Expected deliverables: when, and by whom outlined in timetable of milestone completion

f. Management Plan
- Hierarchy of individuals/institutions working on the project, details on collaborations, recruitment plan for team members not yet identified, methods for tracking and reporting progress throughout the project

g. Anticipated Outcomes
- Expected research outcomes, plans for publications, conference attendance, funding opportunities, future studies and collaborations
- Plan to secure future external funding

h. Budget
- Clear alignment between budget justification and budget table with items such as: faculty salary and fringe benefits, student stipends, research supplies and materials, travel for field research, collaborations, presentations, etc.

i. References

j. Letters from Collaborators
- Collaborator contact information

Proposal Evaluation:

Collaboration across institutions, industry, and NASA centers, and interdisciplinary teams are highly encouraged. Preference will be given to beginning, untenured faculty who have not yet received an ND NASA EPSCoR award. Scientific/technical proposals that fall outside of the RFAs, but are NASA/North Dakota relevant, will also be considered. Proven track record of research capabilities in NASA relevant areas will be an advantage. Any and all proposals may be rejected.

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It is a national priority to increase diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. This diversity consideration is included in each of the NDSGC SMART objectives. Traditionally, minority groups and women have been underrepresented in the STEM disciplines as students and faculty as well as in the workplace after graduation. All proposers are encouraged to help recruit diverse participants to their proposed projects.

Proposers are encouraged to reference the following documents for NASA-relevant research alignment:

- NASA 2015 Technology Roadmap
- NASA 2017 Strategic Technology Investment Plan
- NASA 2018 Strategic Plan

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria: NASA relevance, ND relevance, RFA relevance, scientific merit, evidence of collaboration, potential for securing future funding, and budget reasonableness.

Proposal Submission:

NDSU applicants: Upon review by Sponsored Programs Administration, submit original and two copies (all stapled) of proposal to NDSU EPSCoR Office at Research Two, Suite 102, **AND** an electronic submission of the proposal as a single, unlocked PDF file to Caitlin Nolby, cnolby@space.edu **by noon on August 10, 2018**.

UND applicants: Upon review by Grants & Contracts office, submit the original and two stapled copies of proposals to Caitlin Nolby, Clifford Hall Room 513, 4149 Campus Road, Stop 9008, Grand Forks, ND 58202-9008 **by noon on August 10, 2018**. Also, an electronic submission of the proposal as a single, unlocked PDF attachment must be sent to Caitlin Nolby, cnolby@space.edu.

All awards require: 1) an end-of-year award report to be filed with the ND NASA EPSCoR office, and 2) presentation of results at the annual ND NASA EPSCoR annual meeting.

General questions regarding this announcement can be addressed to Jim Casler or Caitlin Nolby. Finance questions may be addressed to Laurie Hansen.

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