



Announcement: RFP-14-001
EPSCoR 2014 Research Area Request for Pre-Proposals

Release Date: September 4, 2013

Teleconference for interested proposers (optional): 11:30 AM EDT, September 6, 2013

Call-in number: (877) 394-0659

Passcode: 7272187598

Non-Binding Notices of Intent Due: 5:00 pm EDT, September 11, 2013

NOI submitted via email to nasa@uky.edu

Pre-Proposals Due: 5:00 pm EDT, September 20, 2013

Pre-Proposal files submitted on-line at nasa.engr.uky.edu

Dr. Suzanne Weaver Smith, Director

Dr. Janet K. Lumpp, Associate Director

NASA Kentucky

112 RMB (Robotics)

Lexington, KY 40506-0108

(859) 218-NASA (6272)

nasa@uky.edu

**Additional links, templates and FAQ available at nasa.engr.uky.edu/epscor
and nasa.engr.uky.edu/submit/requests-for-proposals/**



EPSCoR 2014 Research Area Request for Pre-Proposals

Overview: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Office of Education, in cooperation with NASA’s four Mission Directorates (MD) (Aeronautics Research, Human Exploration and Operations, Science, and Space Technology), the Office of the Chief Technologist (OCT), and NASA’s ten Centers, solicits proposals for the NASA Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Each funded NASA EPSCoR proposal is expected to establish research activities that will make significant contributions to the strategic research and technology development priorities of one or more of the MD/OCT and contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of the jurisdiction (KY).

Please refer to the FY 2013 NASA Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) NNH13ZHA001C available at nspires.nasaprs.com for detailed descriptions of the national program objectives and proposal guidelines. The FY 2014 CAN is expected to be released on an advanced schedule in September 2013.

Number of Pre-Proposals Selected: One pre-proposal will be selected for development into a full proposal to be submitted by NASA Kentucky for consideration in the national competition. The pre-proposal submission and selection process will be conducted according to the guidelines and deadlines described below.

Anticipated Size of Awards: Researchers (designated as the Science PI) may request up to \$625,000 in federal funds over three years with full indirect costs (F&A) and \$225,000 in state funds over three years without F&A. Federal funds must be cost-shared at a level of at least 50% with in-kind and/or non-federal funds. The KY Statewide EPSCoR Committee has allocated cost-share funds for the EPSCoR Research Area projects, should they be selected for federal funding. Additional cost-share is viewed favorably in the national competition. A sample budget calculation is available in the FAQ at nasa.engr.uky.edu/epscor.

Eligibility: Pre-proposals will be accepted from institutions of higher education in Kentucky. Eligibility is not limited to NASA Kentucky Space Grant Consortium affiliate institutions. US Citizenship is not required.

Period of Performance: NASA EPSCoR will support awards up to three years with an estimated start date of July 1, 2014.

Deadlines:

Teleconference for interested proposers (optional)	11:30 am EDT, Friday, September 6, 2013
Required Non-binding NOI	5:00 pm EDT, Wednesday, September 11, 2013
Pre-Proposal for NASA KY EPSCoR Review	5:00 pm EDT, Friday, September 20, 2013
Selection Announcement	Anticipated Monday, October 21, 2013
Full Proposal Submission to NASA via NSPIRES	Anticipated December 15, 2013

Optional Teleconference for Interested Proposers:

Interested researchers may participate in a conference call to learn more about the submission and selection process, features of past successful proposals, and budget structure.

Required Non-Binding Notice of Intent to Submit a Pre-Proposal:

Interested researchers must send email to nasa@uky.edu by 5:00 pm EDT on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 listing all of the following information: research topic, brief description of alignment with NASA

(ARMD, HEOMD, SMD, STMD and/or OCT), and complete contact information (name, title, address, phone, fax, email) for each of the following: Science PI, NASA Collaborator, and Science PI's Authorized Institutional Representative for Sponsored Projects.

General Pre-Proposal Guidelines:

Only Science PIs who submitted a complete Notice of Intent by 5:00 pm EDT, Wednesday, September 11, 2013 are eligible to submit a pre-proposal. Pre-proposals that omit required materials or exceed the page limits are considered non-compliant and may be rejected without review.

- *Special Purpose Equipment* may be purchased or used as cost-share.
- *General Purpose Equipment* may not be purchased or used as cost-share.
- *Travel* funds may be used for foreign and domestic travel as specified in NASA CAN.
- *Cost-share* must be 50% from non-federal sources.
- All pre-proposals must be submitted electronically as uploaded PDF files. In the specified file naming convention, PI is last name of the Science PI.
 - Completed and Signed Cover Page* (ERA_Cover_2014.pdf) – save as PDF (filename format PI_ERA_Cover_2014.pdf). Form available at nasa.engr.uky.edu/forms/
 - Pre-Proposal* - filename format PI_ERA_Preproposal_2014.pdf
 - 12 point font, 1 inch margins, single spaced
 - 10 page limit
 - Additional pages
 - Upload* two (2) files to nasa.engr.uky.edu by 5:00 pm EDT, Friday, September 20, 2013.

Pre-Proposal Review Process

The KY NASA EPSCoR Subcommittee and content specialists from outside the jurisdiction will review pre-proposals and rate them based on the following criteria:

- Intrinsic Merit (40%)
 - Proposed research
 - Prior research
- NASA Alignment and Partnerships (40%)
 - Relevance of proposed research to NASA and Kentucky priorities
 - Sustainability - specific plans for building partnerships and continued funding
 - Strength of NASA and industry collaborations
 - Diversity (institutional and personnel)
- Management and Evaluation (10%)
- Reasonableness of budget narrative (10%)

Review process will consider funding history and prior reporting compliance of the research team to assess their readiness to propose to the national competition. During the review process, the Director will contact the NASA collaborators identified in the pre-proposal to evaluate the strength of the partnership and involvement in the pre-proposal development. Note: In the national competition, strength of partnership is a major factor. As a panel, the reviewers will recommend to the NASA KY EPSCoR Director one pre-proposal for development into a full proposal. The selected research group will work with the Director to prepare the full proposal for submission via NSPIRES.

Pre-Proposal Content Guidelines

A pre-proposal consists of a 10 page Project Description plus the specified Additional Pages. In recent years, proposals selected for funding in the national competition have clearly described how the research supports priorities of one or more of NASA's Mission Directorates and/or Office of the Chief

Technologist, how the proposed effort enhances research capabilities within Kentucky of strategic importance to NASA, and how Kentucky researchers will continue to interact with NASA researchers.

Based on reviewer comments from the national selection process, all of the top ranked proposals include sound science plans and the discriminating factors are the strength of partnerships, contributions to state infrastructure and diversity of the research team. Diversity refers to institutions as well as personnel.

Project Description (10 page limit)

The project description includes a detailed description of the proposed research plan and addresses each of the sections described below. Page limit includes all illustrations, tables, and figures.

- Abstract:** (200-300 words)
- Proposed Research**
- Partnerships and Interactions:** Describe any partnerships or cooperative arrangements among academia, government agencies, business and industry, private research foundations, jurisdiction agencies, and local agencies as well as partnerships with minority-serving institutions and the inclusion of faculty and students from underrepresented/underserved groups.
- Sustainability:** Describe how the research capability will be sustained beyond the funding period. There should be a clear plan for sustaining the research beyond NASA EPSCoR funding and for seeking non-EPSCoR funding. Identify potential CANs, NRAs, RFPs, etc., specifically as examples.
- Evaluation:** Describe the evaluation plan for measuring project success. The evaluation plan should be appropriate for the scope of the proposed activity and include a discussion of data collection and analysis procedures.
- Prior NASA EPSCoR and NASA Kentucky Research Support:** Demonstrate the effectiveness of prior research support. If the Science PI or any Co-PI identified on the project has received NASA EPSCoR or NASA Kentucky research funding in the past five years, information on the award(s) and results is required.

Additional Pages

The following are included in PI_ERA_Preproposal_2014.pdf after the 10 page Project Description:

- Bibliography:** No page limit
- Budget Narrative:** No more than 1 page describing how the award and cost-share funds will be used to support students, faculty, travel, materials and supplies, and research equipment. Describe in-kind contributions and plans to address the required 50% cost-share. Detailed numerical budgets are *not* required for the pre-proposal review.
- Team Management Summary:** No more than 2 pages summarizing qualifications, roles, responsibilities and effort committed by team members.
- Curriculum vitae:** 2 page CV for Science PI, 1 page CV for Co-PIs
- Statement of Commitment:** Letter or email from a NASA researcher indicating commitment to the proposed research project, relevance to NASA priorities and willingness to participate in proposal development.