



NASA Kentucky EPSCoR 2015 Research Area (RA) Request for Pre-Proposals

Announcement: RFP-15-003

Release Date: December 8, 2014

NOI Due: 5:00 pm EST, December 22, 2014

Proposals Due: 5:00 pm EST, January 12, 2015

Proposal files submitted online at nasa.engr.uky.edu

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



NASA EPSCoR Research Area Award 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).

The 2015 NASA Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) is expected to be available at nspires.nasaprs.com in early 2015. In the meantime, proposers may refer to the previous RA CAN (NNH14ZHA001C 2014) for descriptions of the national program objectives and proposal guidelines.

NASA KY EPSCoR RA 2015 Request for Pre-Proposals

NASA Kentucky Space Grant Consortium and EPSCoR Programs invite pre-proposal submissions for selection to propose to the national EPSCoR RA solicitation addressing the national interests of NASA and specific needs of Kentucky:

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 timeline 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 not required.

Period of Performance: NASA EPSCoR will support awards up to three years with an estimated start date in summer 2015.

Timeline:

Teleconference for interested proposers (optional)	11:30 am EST, Friday, December 19, 2014
Required Non-binding NOI	5:00 pm EST, Monday, December 22, 2014
Pre-Proposal for NASA KY EPSCoR Review	5:00 pm EST, Monday, January 12, 2015
Selection Announcement	Anticipated early February 2015
Full Proposal Submission to NASA via NSPIRES	Anticipated March 2015

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.

Call-in number: (877) 394-0659 Passcode: 7272187598

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

Interested researchers must send email to nasa@uky.edu by 5:00 pm EST on Monday, December 22, 2014 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 EST, Monday, December 22, 2014 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.

Submission Instructions

Proposal forms are available at nasa.engr.uky.edu/requests-for-proposals/forms/. All proposals must be uploaded electronically as PDF files. Please title the proposal documents according to the specified file naming convention, in which PI is last name of the Science PI.

- SIGNED COVER PAGE:* Scan the signed original and save as PDF (filename format: PI_ERA_Cover_2015.pdf)
- PRE-PROPOSAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:* (filename format: PI_ERA_Project_2015.pdf)
 - 12 point font, 1 inch margins, single spaced
 - 10 page limit - See guidelines for required content
 - Additional pages - See guidelines for list of documents

Upload at nasa.engr.uky.edu by 5:00 pm EST, January 12, 2015. Submissions after 5 pm may be rejected without review.

Pre-Proposal Review Process

The NASA KY 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%)

The 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 review, 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_Project_2015.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.