



# Montana NASA EPSCoR 2017 Research Group Call for Pre-proposals

## Notes

- 1) Due to a high level of competition within the state of Montana, this solicitation allows for more detailed (lengthier) pre-proposals than in the past. In addition, the review process will be more in-depth, requiring more time to complete and an earlier pre-proposal submission deadline.
- 2) For those teams who have gone forward to the NASA competition but had their proposal declined, add an additional section to your pre-proposal regarding the NASA reviews and how you have addressed them.
- 3) This NASA EPSCoR Call for Research Group Pre-proposals should not be confused with the Call for Research Initiation and Educational Enhancement Proposals that will also close October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This represents a separate opportunity for Research Groups ( $\geq 2$  faculty members).

## **PURPOSE**

We anticipate that NASA will soon issue a Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) announcement for the federal fiscal year 2017 EPSCoR program. It is expected that there will be an opportunity for Montana to submit one Research Group proposal for potential funding under this CAN. Awards will be for three years and \$750,000 (funds need not be spent evenly over the life of the grant). We anticipate a 50% non-federal cost share requirement. Therefore, group funding will likely be on the order of \$1.125M total over three years, including indirect costs. *It will be up to the selected team and their respective departments to provide the cost share.*

All interested faculty groups at Montana institutions of higher education are invited to submit a pre-proposal that will be used to determine which Research Group will be invited to submit a full proposal to NASA for the 2017 competition.

## **KEYS TO SUCCESS**

- The focus of the NASA EPSCoR 2017 competition will be to fund research *that NASA wants performed*. Excellent science or engineering is not enough. Therefore, all Research Group pre-proposals should include the strongest possible evidence that the group has *active, well established* ties to researchers at NASA Centers or Headquarters (HQ). Involved NASA collaborators/colleagues will be expected to be knowledgeable about the proposed research program and should be willing to act as advocates for funding of the proposal. There must be a clear and strong indication that the proposed research will fulfill a presently identified mission need at NASA.
- Pre-proposals that demonstrate collaboration between two or more Montana institutions will be

avored.

- Successful pre-proposals should demonstrate interdisciplinary collaboration. Interdisciplinary research might look different in engineering vs. science but, within reason for the proposed work, teams with larger varieties in investigator areas of expertise will be favored.
- Pre-proposals must show that a clear source of cost sharing is available to them should they be selected to go forward.
- At the jurisdiction level (Montana in this case) NASA's stated intention is to "contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of the jurisdiction." Therefore, groups with established NASA-related infrastructure and capabilities are not favored.

## PRE-PROPOSAL FORMAT

All pre-proposal sections: 8.5x11" pages; at least 12-point font; one inch margins on all sides.

Proposal sections	page limit
Cover page	1
Table of contents	1
Abstract	1
Scientific/Technical/Impact	12
References	as needed
Biographical Sketches	2 for each investigator
Letters of support	as needed
Cost share description	as needed

**The Scientific/Technical/Impact** section must describe the proposed work, including the scientific and/or technical merit of the proposed research, unique and innovative methods, approaches, concepts, or advanced technologies, and the potential impact of the proposed research on its field. Provide baseline information about existing/current research activities. In addition, address the following key questions/points:

- **NASA Alignment.** What current NASA mission(s) and needs will your research program address? In which Mission Directorate at NASA does your research activity fall? Which recent NASA solicitations is your work relevant to? What NASA personnel (names and locations) are involved in your proposed research? Identify the level of existing and planned collaborations.
- **Montana impact.** Explain how funding your group will: build new connections for NASA-related science and engineering research in Montana, impact the number of Montana faculty and students working in areas related to NASA's mission, and develop competitiveness for follow-on NASA funding. Will this project contribute to the state's overall economic development? Will this project impact Montana research goals (see [https://mus.edu/research/MUS\\_STPlan\\_2015.pdf](https://mus.edu/research/MUS_STPlan_2015.pdf))? Are there connections with aerospace industry, especially Montana industry? How will this project's research activity continue beyond the three-year award period?
- **Research Group membership.** What role does each investigator play? Highlight NASA involvement/connections.
- **Evaluation.** Document intended outcomes and metrics to demonstrate progress toward these

outcomes. Use of milestones and timetables is recommended.

**Letters of support** from Department Head(s) or equivalent are required. These letters should include a statement about available cost share. Letters of support from NASA collaborators/supporters are strongly encouraged.

Pre-proposals must also include a description of available **cost share sources**. Amount and stability of cost share will be taken into consideration in the review.

## **PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

*MSU-Bozeman groups*: Campus pre-proposal clearance forms are required. Submit the full pre-proposal as a PDF attachment in the form.

*All groups*:

- Pre-proposals are due by 5PM, Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- Proposals **must be uploaded online** via the submission link button on the MSGC website, <http://spacegrant.montana.edu> (or navigate directly to <http://nasaepscor.montana.edu/password.html>). The **password** is “MSGC-MNE-2017”.
- In addition, two double sided copies must be sent to the MSGC/Montana NASA EPSCoR Office (postdate no later than 10/14/16):  
Montana NASA EPSCoR  
PO Box 173835  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717

## **QUESTIONS?**

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