Issued: October 13, 2020
Deadline: Noon, November 16, 2020

NDSU Only Announcement

The North Dakota Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ND EPSCoR) State Office's mission is to support efforts of participating institutions of higher education across the state that result in increased STEM faculty capacity and competitiveness and a stronger STEM pathway that produces our next generation workforce, educators, and researchers.

Similarly, the goal of NASA EPSCoR, an EPSCoR-like program[1], is to provide seed funding that will enable jurisdictions to develop an academic research enterprise directed toward long-term, self-sustaining, nationally competitive capabilities in aerospace and aerospace-related research. NASA EPSCoR has the following objectives:

- Contribute to and promote the development of research infrastructure in EPSCoR jurisdictions in areas of strategic importance to the NASA mission.
- Improve the capabilities of the jurisdictions to gain support from sources outside the NASA EPSCoR program.
- Develop partnerships between NASA research assets, industry, and EPSCoR jurisdictions' academic
- institutions.
- Contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and/or economic development of the jurisdiction.

A. Funding Availability

Each year, the NDSU campus of ND EPSCoR receives dollars to cost-share grants (both Cooperative Agreement Notice [CAN] and Research Infrastructure Development [RID]) funded by ND NASA EPSCoR. In the absence of a CAN award, funds that were originally allocated as a match towards that program have been re-allocated to fund additional RID-type projects on the NDSU campus.

Thus, the NDSU campus of ND EPSCoR issues this supplemental RFP to fund additional research that is in alignment with ND NASA EPSCoR research foci. It is anticipated that two awards of up to $25,000 each will be made with a project period of December 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. These state funds carry no F&A.

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[1] EPSCoR Interagency Coordinating Committee:
https://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/epscor/nsf_oiia_epscor_epscor_eicc.jsp

B. Research Focus Areas

In line with the summer 2020 ND NASA EPSCoR Research Focus Area solicitation, funding will be awarded in the following focus areas that are designed to promote, develop, and expand NASA research in North Dakota in accordance with NASA's program:

- NASA 2017 Strategic Technology Investment Plan
- NASA 2018 Strategic Plan
- NASA 2020 Technology Taxonomy

C. Eligibility

NDSU faculty (tenure-track, tenured, professors of practice, and research professors) are eligible to apply. However, NDSU faculty who have a current ND NASA EPSCoR CAN or RID awards are not eligible to participate.

D. Proposal Submission Deadline

Proposals are due to the ND EPSCoR office no later than noon on November 16, 2020.

ND EPSCoR has a limited amount of funds to disburse for this NASA EPSCoR-related research at NDSU; thus, the submission of a proposal does not automatically guarantee funding.

E. Proposal Preparation Guidance

The proposal narrative (item #3) should be no longer than five pages. In addition to stating the category specific NASA research focus area (section B). The full proposal must also contain the following sections:

1. Cover sheet is at:
    https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/fileadmin/ndus/ndepscor/NASA/CovSheetNDSUNASA020.pdf
2. 2-page NASA style Biographical Sketch of PI and a 1-page NASA Biographical Sketch for each Co-PI
3. Proposal/Research Narrative with the following section headings:
    o Introduction – overview of the scope of work, including description of the NASA-relevance, nature of collaborations
    o Background
        ▪ Description of how the proposed work fits into your overall research plans and the field of study at large
        ▪ Preliminary research results (if applicable)
    o Research Objectives – clear identification of all science and technical objectives
    o NASA Relevant Research Focus Area - Identification of current and potential applications/relevance to NASA
    o Implementation Strategy - expected deliverables: when, and by whom outlined in timetable of milestone completion
    o Anticipated Outcomes
        ▪ Expected research outcomes, plans for publications, conference attendance, funding opportunities, future studies and collaborations
        ▪ Plan to secure future external funding
4. Budget form is at:
    https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/fileadmin/ndus/ndepscor/NASA/2020NDSUStandardBudgetForm.xlsx
    o Clear alignment between budget justification and budget form with items such as: faculty or student salary and fringe benefits, research supplies and materials, domestic travel for field research or NASA collaborations, etc.

- The budgets should not include postdocs, visiting scholars, conference travel (other than the 2021 ND EPSCoR State Conference), capitalized equipment, or F&A.
5. References Cited
6. Letters of Collaboration - collaborator contact information

F. Proposal Submission

Your proposal requires the signatures of your Department Chair/Dean. Once you have those signatures, you will submit your proposal straight to the ND EPSCoR office.

Please submit your proposal electronically as a single, searchable PDF to Jean Ostrom-Blonigen (jean.ostrom@ndsu.edu) with a copy to Janelle Smith (janelle.smith@ndsu.edu).

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly A. Rusch (kelly.rusch@ndsu.edu) or Jean Ostrom-Blonigen.

G. Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated for fit with NASA EPSCoR's goal and objectives and plan to secure external funding. Priority will be given to researchers who have preliminary data and who have existing NASA collaborators (as evidenced by letters of collaboration).

H. Award Requirements

All awards require: 1) an end of award report submitted to ND EPSCoR within 30 days of the award expiration date; 2) acknowledgement in publications, presentations, etc. of ND EPSCoR as a funder; and, 3) presentation of the activity/results at the 2021 annual ND EPSCoR State conference.