



Vermont Space Grant & NASA EPSCoR
Mansfield House, Room 204 & 206
25 Colchester Ave
Burlington VT 05405

Bernard F. Cole, PhD
Director, VT NASA EPSCoR
Tel: 802-656-0054
E-mail: bfc@uvm.edu

NASA EPSCoR FY24 Faculty Research Competition Call for Preproposals

Release Date: March 8, 2023

NOI Deadline: April 18, 2023 at 11:59 PM

Preproposal Deadline: June 13, 2023 at 11:59 PM

Vermont's NASA EPSCoR Program anticipates that a solicitation from the National Program at NASA Headquarters for a FY24 NASA EPSCoR Faculty Research Group Competition will be announced in August 2023. Historically, NASA EPSCoR Research Group awards have been in the amount \$750,000 for a three-year period of performance, excluding a required 50% match consisting of local, non-federal funds. In-kind matches are allowable and common.

A NASA EPSCoR Research Team project funded in the competition will be expected to establish research activities that will make significant contributions to the strategic research and technology development priorities of one or more NASA Mission Directorates as well as contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of the EPSCoR state. Proposals that are not clearly aligned with NASA's needs and interests will not be competitive.

The State of Vermont will be allowed to submit a single proposal to the upcoming competition. The deadline for submission to NASA of the proposal is expected to be in November 2023, typically 60–90 days after the NASA EPSCoR solicitation is released. Therefore, it is necessary to identify, in advance, the project that Vermont will propose to this competition. The selection will be made by the members of the Vermont NASA EPSCoR Technical Advisory Committee based on peer-reviews of the submitted preproposals. For reference, the FY23 solicitation can be found on the [NSPIRES](#) web site (announcement number NNH23ZHA001C).

Eligibility: This competition is open to all full-time faculty at Vermont's institutions of higher learning. As one of the goals of the NASA EPSCoR Program is promote a diversity of participants, both early career faculty and senior faculty exploring new research avenues in NASA-related areas are especially encouraged to apply. Meritorious submissions by first-time principal investigators will receive priority in order to increase the diversity within the program.

Notice of Intent: As part of this preproposal process, submission of a notice of intent (NOI) is required. This internal NOI will allow the Vermont NASA EPSCoR Office sufficient lead time in arranging appropriate peer reviewers for the evaluation process. The NOI shall consist of the following information:

- (1) Project title, Science PI, and co-investigators
- (2) Target NASA Mission Directorate(s) for the project
- (3) A listing of the primary expertise areas required for the project
- (4) An abstract of 200 words or less summarizing the intended research
- (5) References (include up to 10 key references related to the rationale for the research envisioned)

The NOI must be submitted by e-mail as a single PDF attachment to the Vermont NASA EPSCoR office at sg.director@uvm.edu no later than 11:59 PM on April 18, 2023. Please use the subject line “NASA EPSCoR NOI”.

Preproposal Submission Process: Vermont faculty researchers wishing to be considered as Science PI for inclusion in this competition are required to electronically submit a project preproposal. The preproposal packet shall consist of the following:

- (1) A cover page giving the title of the proposed project and listing the names, affiliations, and email addresses of the project’s team leader (Science PI) and co-investigators.
- (2) A narrative of no more than 5 pages describing the proposed research project. References should be placed at the end of this section and are not included in the 5-page limit.
- (3) A NASA relevance section of no more than 2 pages explicitly detailing the connection between the proposed project and one or more new or continuing research priorities or technical needs of NASA Mission Directorates. This section should also list any NASA contacts as well as any planned use of NASA resources (data, facilities, collaborations with personnel, etc.)
- (4) A summary budget section that contains an approximate description of the project’s budget and indicates the anticipated composition of the non-federal match. Neither full budget details nor letters of commitment for the matching funds are expected for this preproposal. Please do not request a formal worksheet generation by Sponsored Programs Administration. Rather, for each of the three years in the performance period, the budget outline should give an estimate of how the total project budget (NASA EPSCoR funding plus match) is likely to be divided into categories such as faculty summer research salaries, percentages of academic year effort, graduate student support, supplies, equipment, travel, etc.
- (5) A 2-page biosketch for the Science PI. The biosketch should include professional experiences, positions and a bibliography of publications, especially those relevant to the proposed effort, as well as, a description of scientific, technical, and management experience on relevant prior efforts.
- (6) Optional but strongly encouraged: include any letters of support from collaborators at NASA centers. E-mails are acceptable at this stage. Be sure to provide the complete affiliation details of each NASA collaborator.

The preproposal must use 12-point font and 1-inch margins throughout. Preproposals that do not conform to this requirement will not be considered.

Preproposal packets for this funding opportunity must be submitted by e-mail as a single PDF attachment to the Vermont NASA EPSCoR office at sg.director@uvm.edu no later than 11:59 PM on June 13, 2023. Please use the subject line “NASA EPSCoR Preproposal”.

Selection Process: All received preproposals will be peer-reviewed by external experts in the relevant fields who will assess the scientific strength of the proposed research in the following domains: overall impact (i.e., likelihood to have a sustained, powerful influence on the field and be successful in the national NASA EPSCoR competition), scientific/technical merit, innovation, approach, alignment with NASA priorities, and investigators. The Vermont NASA EPSCoR Technical Advisory Committee will make the final selection based on the peer reviews and considerations as outlined above.

Further information:

Bernard F. Cole, PhD
Vermont NASA EPSCoR Director
bfcole@uvm.edu

Ellen K.W. Brennan, PhD (she/her)
Vermont NASA EPSCoR Program Administrator
Ellen.Brennan@uvm.edu