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NASA EPSCoR FY19 Faculty Research Competition – Call for Preproposals

NOI Deadline: Monday, April 30 at 11:59 PM

Preproposal Deadline: Tuesday, May 15 at 11:59 PM

Colleagues,

Vermont's NASA EPSCoR Program anticipates that a solicitation from the National Program at NASA Headquarters for a FY19 NASA EPSCoR Faculty Research Group Competition will be announced sometime in late June of 2018. 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 (1-to-2) consisting of local, non-Federal funds. Note that 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 of NASA's Mission Directorates as well as contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of the EPSCoR state. It is important to understand that research proposals that are not clearly aligned with NASA's needs and interests, however meritorious, 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 the late summer or early fall, typically 60-90 days after the solicitation formally appears on NASA's NSPIRES website. Therefore, it is necessary to identify, in advance, the project that Vermont will propose to this FY19 competition. The selection will be made by the members of the Vermont NASA EPSCoR Technical Advisory Committee in June based on peer-reviews of the submitted preproposals.

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’ is required; this internal NOI will allow the Vermont NASA EPSCoR Office lead time in arranging appropriate peer reviewers for the evaluation process. The NOI will be due by 11:59PM on Monday, April 30. The notice of intent will consist of the following information: (1) *Project title*; (2) *Science PI and Research Team*; (3) *target NASA Mission Directorate(s) for the project*; (4) *and a 200-word maximum abstract summarizing the intended research*. The NOI information will be submitted online using Google Forms using the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/gqkKgpVRIsDf10Ii2>

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 will consist of the following:

(a) 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 all team members. For your convenience, a template is provided and should be used.

(b) A narrative section of no more than five pages (12 point font, 1-inch margins) describing the proposed research project. References should be placed at the end of this section and are not included in the five-page limit.

(c) A NASA Relevance section of no more than two pages explicitly detailing the connection between the proposed project and one or more new or continuing research priorities or technical needs of NASA’s Mission Directorates. This section should also list NASA contacts as well as any planned use of NASA resources (data, facilities, collaborations with personnel, etc.)

(d) *Optional, but strongly encouraged* – Include any letters of support from collaborators at NASA centers. Emails are acceptable at this stage. Be sure to provide the complete affiliation details of the NASA collaborator.

(e) 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 are expected for this preproposal and please do not request a formal worksheet generation by the Sponsored Programs Administration. Rather, for each of the three years in the performance period, the budget outline should give an informed 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.

Pre-proposal packets for this funding opportunity should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to VT-NASA EPSCoR State Project Director Prof. Darren Hitt (sg.director@uvm.edu) with CC to the Vermont Space Grant Consortium Office (Debra Fraser, dfraser1@uvm.edu) no later than **Tuesday, May 15 at 11:59 PM**. Please use the subject line “NASA EPSCoR Preproposal Submission” to assist in our archiving of all submissions.

For further information or answers to questions, please contact the VT NASA EPSCoR Program Office in 120 Farrell Hall (802-656-1429).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darren L. Hitt". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Darren L. Hitt, Ph.D.
Director, VT NASA EPSCoR Program