



Montana NASA EPSCoR

NASA EPSCoR 2010 Program Call for Pre-proposals

Introductory Note: This NASA EPSCoR Call for Pre-proposals should not be confused with the Montana Space Grant Consortium (MSGC) Call for Research Initiation and Educational Enhancement Proposals that closed October 16, 2009. This represents a separate opportunity for Research Groups of faculty (≥ 2 faculty members).

We anticipate that NASA will soon be issuing a Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) for the fiscal year 2010 EPSCoR program, potentially as early as November 30. It is expected that there will be an opportunity for Montana to submit one or two **Research Group proposals** for potential funding under this CAN. Awards will be for three years. NASA funding for a selected Research Group proposal is expected to be \$ 750,000 (approximately \$250,000 per year, but funds need not be spent evenly over the life of the grant). At this time, the level of matching funds has not been determined. The current discussion indicates a matching requirement between 1:3 (one-third) and 1:1 (one-to-one). Therefore, group funding will be on the order of \$1M - \$1.5M total (over three years, including indirect costs, and some management expenses). Awards will be administered through the Space Grant office.

All interested faculty groups at Montana institutions of higher education are invited to submit a short pre-proposal that will be used to determine which Research Groups will be invited to submit a full proposal to NASA for the 2010 competition. There remains substantial uncertainty about when NASA will issue the CAN, but we anticipate that once issued, there will be a 60-day window for preparation of the full state proposal for submission; we therefore need to be prepared.

KEYS TO SUCCESS:

The focus of the EPSCoR 2010 competition will be to identify and fund research *that NASA wants performed*. Excellent science or engineering is not enough. Hence:

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-PROPOSAL DETAILS:

Groups whose pre-proposals are selected for incorporation in the state NASA EPSCoR proposal will be asked to expand their pre-proposals to appropriate length and detail. Pre-proposals should include the following information:

(1) Research proposal and project description: 4 pages maximum. This section **must** address the following key issues: What area(s) of NASA's present mission and needs will your research program address? In which Mission Directorate at NASA does your research activity fall? What NASA personnel (names and locations -- Centers or HQ) are involved in your proposed research? Identify the level of **existing** collaboration, as well as planned. Be as specific as possible.

(2) The Team: Describe the Research Group membership; what role does each involved faculty member play? Provide a 1 page CV for each Ph.D.-level researcher involved in the group; highlight NASA involvement/connections.

(3) EPSCoR impact: 2 page maximum. Explain how funding your group will build new connections for aerospace science and engineering research in Montana, impact faculty and student numbers working in areas related to NASA's mission, develop competitiveness for follow-on NASA funding, etc. Will this project contribute to the state's overall economic development? Will this project further education in the aerospace sciences and engineering in the state? Are there connections with aerospace industry (esp. local industry in MT)? What **demonstrable** achievements would be produced by this project during the (three year) award period? How will this project's research activity continue beyond the EPSCoR award period?

(4) A signed letter of support from Department Head(s) or equivalent.

Campus proposal clearance forms are not necessary at this time.

Pre-proposals are due in the Montana Space Grant Consortium Office by 5PM, Friday, December 4, 2009. Please submit eight hard copies and also e-mail the full preproposal as a pdf file to:

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If you have any questions or desire further information on the NASA EPSCoR program, please contact Dr. Angela Des Jardins or Ms. Glenda Winslow at the Space Grant office.

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