



Montana NASA EPSCoR 2016 Research Group Call for Pre-proposals

Note: 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 close October 16th, 2015. This represents a separate opportunity for Research Groups (≥ 2 faculty members).

PURPOSE:

We anticipate that NASA will soon issue a Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) announcement for the federal fiscal year 2016 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 up to \$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 cost share funds has not been determined but 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 and some management expenses. *It will be up to the selected teams and their respective departments to provide the cost share.*

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 Group will be invited to submit a full proposal to NASA for the 2016 competition. There remains 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 proposal for submission.

KEYS TO SUCCESS:

The focus of the NASA EPSCoR 2016 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.

In addition, pre-proposals that clearly show collaboration between two or more Montana institutions will be favored. Successful pre-proposals should demonstrate a viable interdisciplinary collaboration. Pre-proposals must show a clear source of cost sharing.

PRE-PROPOSAL DETAILS:

All pre-proposal sections: at least 12 point font and one inch margins on all sides.

(1) Research proposal and project description: **4 pages maximum**. This section must address the following key issues: What current NASA mission(s) and needs will your research program address? In which Mission Directorate at NASA does your research activity fall? What NASA personnel (names and locations) are involved in your proposed research? Identify the level of existing collaboration, as well as planned. Be as specific as possible. Letters of support are encouraged and not counted toward the 4 pages for this section. References do not count toward the 4 pages.

(2) The team: **2 pages maximum**. 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 (not counted toward the 3 pages); 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, and/or develop competitiveness for follow-on NASA funding. Will this project contribute to the state's overall economic development? Will this project further research in the aerospace sciences and engineering in the state? Are there connections with aerospace industry, especially Montana industry? 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.

(5) A description of available cost share sources, signed by appropriate Department Heads, Deans, etc. Amount and stability of cost share will be taken into consideration in the review.

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, Monday, November 2nd, 2015. Proposals must be uploaded as a single PDF file at <http://spacegrant.montana.edu>, button on the top right. Use password "MSGC-MNE-2016". In addition, 2 double sided copies must be sent to the Montana NASA EPSCoR Office (post date no later than 11/2/15):

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