Vermont’s NASA EPSCoR Project anticipates that a solicitation from the National Program at NASA Headquarters to fund new NASA EPSCoR Faculty Research Teams will be announced in mid-January 2010. In past years, through this competition NASA has made awards of $750,000 for a three-year period of performance to the selected research teams, and a 1-to-1 match with local non-Federal funds has been required. (In-kind matches have been allowable.) Each NASA EPSCoR Research Team project funded in the 2010 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.

Once formally issued, the Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) giving details of this competition will be available in electronic form through the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES) located at http://nspires.nasaprs.com. Select “Solicitations” and then “Open Solicitations”.

Vermont will be allowed to submit at most 2 proposals to the 2010 competition. Our proposed projects will be chosen on the basis of locally peer-reviewed preproposals. Vermont faculty researchers wishing to be considered for inclusion in this competition should therefore submit a pre-proposal for their proposed team research project to Prof. William D. Lakin, VT-NASA EPSCoR Project Director, no later than January 15, 2010. The pre-proposal packet should contain:

- 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.

- A narrative section of no more than 5 pages (12 point Times 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 5 page limit.

- 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 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.)

- A Budget section that contains a rough description of the project budget and indicates the anticipated composition of the non-federal match. Neither full budget detail nor letters of commitment for the non-federal match are required for this pre-proposal. However, 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, equipment, travel, etc.

To submit preproposal packets for this funding opportunity, the Science PI for the proposed project should:

1) Send an electronic version of the full pre-proposal packet (MS Word or PDF format) to VT-NASA EPSCoR Project Director Prof. Lakin (wlakin@together.net), with a copy to Program Coordinator Ms. Laurel Zeno (zeno@cems.uvm.edu), no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, January 15, 2010.

2) Send 5 hardcopies of the pre-proposal packet to the Vermont Space Grant/NASA EPSCoR Office, 12 Colchester Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401-1455 so that they will be received no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, January 15, 2010.

Pre-proposals will be peer-reviewed, and Science PI’s for potential projects will be notified electronically of review results by January 30, 2010. The deadline for submission to NASA of full proposals for selected projects will be roughly 60 days after the solicitation formally appears on NSPIRES.

For further information, please contact Prof. Lakin by email (wlakin@together.net) or phone (802 324-8206).