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## NASA EPSCoR FY21 Faculty Research Competition Call for Preproposals

NOI Deadline: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 11:59 PM  
Preproposal Deadline: Friday, August 14, 2020 at 11:59 PM

Vermont's NASA EPSCoR Program anticipates that a solicitation from the National Program at NASA Headquarters for a FY21 NASA EPSCoR Faculty Research Group Competition will be announced sometime in mid to late November 2020. 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 the early March 2021, 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 FY21 competition. The selection will be made by the members of the VT-NASA EPSCoR Technical Advisory Committee in October 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 (NOI) is required. This internal NOI will allow the VT-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.

**The NOI must be submitted as a single pdf e-mail attachment to the NASA EPSCoR office to [dfraser1@uvm.edu](mailto:dfraser1@uvm.edu) with cc to [sg.director@uvm.edu](mailto:sg.director@uvm.edu) no later than 11:59 PM on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Please use the subject line “NASA EPSCoR Notice of Intent”.**

**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. For your convenience, a template is provided.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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 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 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.
- (5) 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.

**Preproposal packets for this funding opportunity must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to VT-NASA EPSCoR State Project Director Prof. Bernard F. Cole ([sg.director@uvm.edu](mailto:sg.director@uvm.edu)) with cc to the Vermont Space Grant Consortium Office (Debra Fraser, [dfraser1@uvm.edu](mailto:dfraser1@uvm.edu)) no later than Friday, August 14, 2020 at 11:59 PM. Please use the subject line “NASA EPSCoR Preproposal Submission”.**

For further information, please contact the VT-NASA EPSCoR Program Office (802-656-1429 or [dfraser1@uvm.edu](mailto:dfraser1@uvm.edu)).