

NASA Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NASA EPSCoR CAN) 2019

Call for White Papers and Inclusion in Future Email Announcements

White Papers Due Friday, April 27, 2018, 4:45 PM

Date: March 29, 2018

From: David Beale, AU Campus Space Grant Director, bealedg@auburn.edu, x3336

**Cc: Anthony Ventimiglia, Director of Proposal Services & Faculty Support
Marc Haon, Proposal Services Administrator**

NASA is soliciting research proposal from EPSCoR states through its Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) research solicitation. The NASA CAN for the 2019 EPSCoR proposal will be released soon and will closely mirror the 2016 solicitation. We are conducting the internal downselect process in advance of the announcement as there will be very limited time between the announcement and deadline. For now, please follow the solicitation guidelines from 2016 found at:

<https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary.do?method=init&solId={5D0982F4-CD1B-B38C-1B1E-3E8B7F02B073}&path=closedPast>

The new CAN should remain like those requirements with only minor changes.

Internal Application Process:

Step 1: AU Internal submission and review:

All applicants must first submit an internal white paper through AU Competition Space. After the internal deadline, an AU review committee established by the OVPR will review the white papers and select one for submission to the state level.

Step 2: External Submission to Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office at UAH

Once the candidate has been selected, they will have a very short period of time to craft a full proposal for submission to the Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office (located at UAH). The Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office then conducts a formal review of all proposals submitted from space grant institutions in the State of Alabama.

Step 3: Selection and submission to NASA National Competition:

The State committee then ranks the proposals and the Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office submits the single highest rated proposal as the “state package” to NASA to compete against the highest ranking proposals from all other EPSCoR states.

Exact format of the white paper and selection committee grading criteria is in the section **“Grading Guidelines for Selection Committee”** below. Topics of interest to NASA are listed in the CAN. Last year’s winning abstracts can be found at the site (do not look at the associated CAN on this site!):

<https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary.do?method=init&solId=%7BF83AC298-2A2A-8709-83E2-A7C443776B36%7D&path=open>

Due Date for White Paper: White papers are due by April 27, 2018 at 4:45 PM

University Review and Selection Process: White papers will be selected by an AU selection committee for development and submittal of a full proposal to Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office.

White Paper Submission Process and Overall Schedule:

1. **Friday, April 27, 2018, 4:45 PM:** White papers due for university review and selection.
2. **All white papers must be submitted electronically through AU Competition Space:**
<https://auburn.infoready4.com/>
3. **Friday, May 4, 2018:** Notification of acceptance or denial by AU committee. One white paper will be selected. If selected, PSFS/David Beale will advise the State EPSCoR Director of the Title, Subject, Abstract and PI contact information. Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office will use this information to locate reviewers. PI will begin directly communicating with the Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office. PI begins writing full proposal according to CAN.
4. The selected PI prepares a full proposal for consideration by the Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office. Budgets should be for \$675K over 3 years, with matching funds as described in the 2016 CAN. Budget and proposal must be approved by AU.
5. Deadline for receipt of full proposals at the Alabama NASA EPSCoR office: **May 31, 2018**
6. Proposal review period by Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office: **June 4 - June 29, 2018**
7. Selection announcement: **July 9, 2018**
8. Winner has time to make final adjustments with input from reviewers and Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office.
9. Final proposal to Alabama NASA EPSCoR office: **July 23, 2018**
10. Submission to UAH OSP for prep of package: **August 6, 2018**
11. Submission from UAH to NASA: **August 13, 2018**

Budget: All NASA EPSCoR monies must be cost-shared at a level of at least 50% with non-federal monies. In-kind cost-sharing is allowable. Amount from NASA is up to \$750,000 for 3 years (\$675,000 to AU, \$75,000 to Alabama NASA EPSCoR Office at UAH), so the AU cost share amount is at least \$337,500 if the full amount is requested. (*FYI, from DGB: I have some confidence in stating that in the past the Alabama NASA EPSCoR reviewers are influenced by the level of cost share. A proposal that exceeds 50% by reaching out to non-AU external sources may be helpful. Read the CAN carefully in this regard. Also, teaming with other institutions in the state may also help.*)

A NOTE ON CASH CONTRIBUTIONS: In the past, cash contribution to the 50% cost share was 1/3 OVPR, 1/3 college and 1/3 department. In the past, total cost share could be no more than 50% from cash and the rest from soft money (e.g. faculty release time plus benefits on the faculty release time, and indirect on the total of these two). In this economic climate there is strong incentive to minimize the university cash contribution. If you seek cash contribution, there is no agreement that what happened in the past is still applicable. If cash contribution is desired, it will be the faculty proposer's responsibility to seek and obtain approval from OVPR, college and department.

Grading Guidelines for Selection Committee

Per the 2016 CAN: "Each funded NASA EPSCoR proposal is expected to establish research activities that will make significant contributions to NASA's strategic research and technology development priorities of one or more Mission Directorates, and contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of the jurisdiction."

The following are the specific objectives of NASA EPSCoR:

- Contribute to and promote the development of research capability in NASA EPSCoR jurisdictions in areas of strategic importance to the NASA mission;
- Improve the capabilities of the NASA EPSCoR jurisdictions to gain support from sources outside the NASA EPSCoR program;
- Develop partnerships among NASA research assets, academic institutions, and industry;
- Contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of the jurisdiction; and
- Work in close coordination with the Space Grant consortium in the jurisdiction to improve the environment for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

White Paper Instructions for Proposers and Selection Committee Evaluation:

The white paper requirements:

- Upload 1. Technical Description - 2 page maximum, 1 inch margins, 12 point font
 - "Technical Description" should address the problem and your approach (your proposed research) and existing research. Although the AU reviewers may not be technically trained in your topic, they are capable technical people who can evaluate the cohesiveness of your argument, persuasiveness, research history, NASA interactions, etc.
- Upload 2. Justification for NASA Funding the Proposal – 1 page maximum, 1 inch margins, 12 point font
 - "Justification for NASA Funding the Proposal" should be described. It should identify the mission directorate, any NASA personnel (names, locations), and identify any existing and planned collaborations. Identify all investigators and their organization. Refer to the specific language that demonstrates NASA's current interest and reference any recent NASA requests for proposals that align with your topic. Also address relevance to the state of Alabama's research priorities, and sustainability.
- Upload 3. Letters of Recommendation. Must be combined into a single upload. No page limit. Letters or email recommendations from NASA employees who are "well-connected" and influential on your topic.

The white paper must be received by the announced deadline date and time. White papers that do not meet these requirements will be rejected.

White Paper Grading Chart:

Review Criteria	Maximum Points	Points
<u>1. Proposed Research:</u> Are you convinced the proposers can have a significant, well-planned and meritorious proposal? Does the white paper include unique and innovative methods, approaches, concepts or advanced technologies?	25	
<u>2. Existing Research:</u> Does the white paper provide sufficient baseline information about current related research activities (including NASA EPSCoR related activities) in the proposed research area? If new research, is the research team able to carry out the research?	20	
<u>3. NASA Relevance:</u> Does the white paper discuss the value of the proposed research to NASA priorities (per the CAN)?	20	
<u>4. NASA Partnerships and Interactions:</u> Does the white paper show/discuss past, present and future partnerships and interactions with NASA personnel in the proposed research? Are name(s) and titles of these partners included?	10	
<u>5. Jurisdiction Relevance, Partnerships and Interactions:</u> Proposals should discuss the value of the proposed research to the state of Alabama's research priorities.	10	
<u>6. Sustainability:</u> Do you see this work developing capabilities to compete for funds from NASA sources outside of EPSCoR and from other non-NASA sources?	5	
<u>7. State Review Targeting:</u> How effective is the proposal in exceeding 50% cost share by reaching out to non-AU external sources? Is there teaming with other institutions in the state?	10	
Total Maximum Points	100	