

South Dakota NASA EPSCoR Program Fall 2017 Research Initiation Grants Application Guidelines

In order to identify and stimulate new research capabilities in the state, the SD NASA EPSCoR office offers Research Initiation Grants (RIGs) that provide seed funding for meritorious projects that are aligned with NASA and state goals and which show potential to develop into long-term, sustainable programs with support from NASA, other agencies, or industry.

Objectives of the NASA EPSCoR Program are outlined at:

- <http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/national/epscor/home/>

State of South Dakota research priorities are described in the “*2020 Vision: The South Dakota Science and Innovation Strategy*” available at:

- <http://sdepescor.org/2020vision/>

NASA is especially interested in experiments that will utilize the International Space Station

- http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/research/index.html

The deadline for applications for SD NASA EPSCoR RIGs is **November 3, 2017**. Proposals that involve only one academic institution can submit a budget for a maximum of **\$23,000** of NASA funds. Collaborative projects between two or more academic institutions can propose a budget of up to **\$46,000** of NASA funds. See Proposal Content (item 9g) for important indirect cost restrictions. **All NASA dollars requested must be matched at a rate of 1:1 with non-federal funds.** It is anticipated that award announcements will be made by December 1, 2017. The budget period for funded projects will be January 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018. Projects must be completed and final reports filed with the SD NASA EPSCoR office by September 30, 2018. If you have any questions regarding this announcement, please contact the SD NASA EPSCoR Director, Edward Duke, at 605-394-2388 (Edward.Duke@sdsmt.edu).

Grant Guidelines

- 1) Submit proposals for projects that promote and advance the objectives of the South Dakota NASA EPSCoR Program and have the potential to develop into major research programs with long-term support from NASA or other sources. The SD NASA EPSCoR Steering Committee especially seeks projects that create a bridge between NASA research goals and state research priorities. Examples include NASA-related research at the USGS Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (USGS/EROS) and the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF). Collaborations with industry and with the state’s tribal colleges and universities are also encouraged.
- 2) Proposals may be submitted by single investigators or research teams. In general, however, the Steering Committee is especially interested in promoting projects that foster statewide research collaborations.
- 3) Establish a partnership with a NASA researcher to implement the project. Travel Grants from the SD NASA EPSCoR office are available to fund planning visits to NASA Headquarters or NASA Centers (see accompanying travel announcement). Additional partnerships are strongly encouraged (e.g., with a K-12 school, university, business or industry, or other government agency). Research or outreach activities involving the state’s tribal colleges and universities are encouraged.

- 4) Identify project matching funds at a rate of 1:1 for all SD NASA EPSCoR dollars requested. Matching funds must be non-federal funds and can be in-kind and/or cash.
- 5) Provide specific, measurable objectives with associated metrics that will be used to evaluate the success of the project.
- 6) Grant recipients agree to the following reporting requirements:
 - a) Provide timely analysis of the project with respect to the stated evaluation metrics, further collaborations, expanded project scope, and attempts to obtain additional funding.
 - b) Maintain demographic and contact information on faculty and student participants.
 - c) Submit a final report upon completion of funded project, including detailed financial accounting (not later than Sept. 30, 2018).
 - d) Acknowledge financial support of SD NASA EPSCoR in any presentations or publications resulting from the funding.

Proposal Content

Proposals must include the following items:

- 1) Project title, name(s) of PI or Co-PI's, organization/school, address, phone, email (US citizenship is not required)
- 2) Other state or regional collaborators (names, titles, institutions) and their role in project (collaborations outside the state are encouraged, but no funds can be provided to outside collaborators or organizations)
- 3) NASA contact or technical monitor (name, title, organization) and their role in project or industry contact if proposal is for an industry partnership
- 4) Project abstract (**150 words or less**)
- 5) Project description (**limited to three pages**, 12 point font, single-spaced, minimum 1-inch margins)
 - a) Description of technical challenge to be investigated and plan of attack
 - b) Project partners (capabilities, organization names, role played in the project)
 - c) Project time line
 - d) Discussion of how this project will advance the objectives of the SD NASA EPSCoR Program (including NASA and state R&D priorities)
 - e) Discussion of any plans to increase participation of underrepresented groups (women, minorities, persons with disabilities)
 - f) Discussion of the potential for the project to develop into a major research program with long-term support from NASA and/or other sources
 - g) Plan and milestones for securing additional funding from NASA or other sources
 - h) Specific metrics that will be used to evaluate the success of the project
 - i) References cited (as needed); these do not count toward the three-page limit
- 6) Supporting letter or email correspondence from a NASA collaborator or industry partner who has agreed to serve as a technical point of contact for the proposed research. Proposals lacking a strong endorsement from the NASA or industry representative are not likely to receive funding. This supporting letter is not included in the page limit.
- 7) Two-page biographical sketches for PI and Co-PI's, not included in page limit.
- 8) Current and pending support for research (PI and Co-PI's), not included in page limit (use form provided or equivalent, such as NSF form 1239); if applicant has no current support, indicate this on the form; proposals without this form may be declined.

- 9) Budget (**budgets must be submitted on the worksheet provided**; if necessary, use additional pages for justification)
(SDSM&T researchers should prepare their budgets in consultation with SDSM&T Senior Accountant, Cassie Schweigerdt, Cassie.Schweigerdt@sdsmt.edu.)
- a) Salary/wages (US citizenship is not required) (SD NASA EPSCoR funds may not be used to support out-of-state personnel)
 - b) Fringe benefits
 - c) Travel* (foreign travel is not allowed)
 - d) Supplies*
 - e) Equipment (includes items over \$5000; these cannot be purchased with either NASA funds or matching funds)
 - f) Other (specify)*
 - g) Facilities & Administration (F&A) costs (overhead or indirect costs): **For this solicitation, indirect costs are capped at 39.0% of the total direct costs.**
 - h) Total funds requested including F&A (limit \$23,000 NASA funds for single-institution projects, \$46,000 NASA funds for multi-institution projects). *For multi-institution projects, the budget distribution does not have to be equal for the institutions, but should demonstrate significant participation on the part of each institution.*
 - i) Matching funds (1:1 NASA/non-federal)**

* Brief justification required on additional page.

** Identify source of non-federal matching funds.

Proposals Submission

Submit all proposal materials (items 1-9, above) as a single PDF file. Proposals must be received by **November 3, 2017, 4:00 pm Mountain time.**

Submit to:

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South Dakota NASA EPSCoR Program
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