NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)
Office of STEM Engagement

Fiscal Year 2024

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

Rapid Response Research (R3) Opportunity

NASA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN)

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Initial Announcement

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KEY DATES

Release Date:	**November 13, 2024**
Proposals Due:	**February 26, 2024**

OMB Control Number: 2700-0092 (Expires 10/31/2025)

Contents

A. Program Description

The NASA Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993, Public Law 102-588, and the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Reauthorization Act of 2017, Public Law 114-32 authorized NASA to initiate NASA EPSCoR to strengthen the research capability of jurisdictions that have not historically participated equably in competitive aerospace research activities. The goal of NASA EPSCoR is to provide seed funding that will enable jurisdictions to develop an academic research enterprise directed toward long-term, self-sustaining, nationally competitive capabilities in aerospace and aerospace-related research. This capability will, in turn, contribute to the jurisdiction's economic viability and expand the nation's base for aerospace research and development.

Based on the availability of funding, NASA will continue to help jurisdictions achieve these goals through NASA EPSCoR. Funded jurisdictions' proposals shall be selected through a merit-based, peer-review competition and presented for review to a NASA HQ Mission Directorate Review Panel.

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 NASA's 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; and
- Contribute to the overall research infrastructure and economic development of the jurisdiction.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) solicits proposals for the FY 2024 NASA EPSCoR Rapid Response Research (R3) program. Each funded NASA EPSCoR proposer shall work closely with a NASA researcher to focus on developing competitive research and technology for the solution of scientific and technical issues of importance to the NASA Mission Directorates as listed Appendix 4, Contacts/Inquiries. The R3 program seeks to implement research within NASA and commercial partners to address technical issues. This opportunity will allow EPSCoR researchers to work alongside NASA and commercial partners for up to one year and is intended to strengthen the bonds among EPSCoR jurisdictions, NASA, commercial partners, and other entities. These awards will be made through a cooperative agreement.

NASA will designate a Technical Monitor (TM) for every cooperative agreement award. The TM's role will encompass monitoring research progress and ensuring ongoing alignment with the established project objectives. Each recipient of an award is required to furnish an annual report detailing research advancement. These reports will encompass anticipated performance goals, key indicators, target outcomes, baseline data, data collection methods, and other resulting insights. Following evaluation by the TM, these reports will be subject to approval by the NASA EPSCoR Project Manager. Moreover, they will be disseminated among the NASA Mission Directorates, NASA Centers, and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) for broader awareness and visibility.

Jurisdictions shall submit electronic progress reports to the NSSC at NSSC-Grant-Report@mail.nasa.gov and the technical officer at agency-epscor@mail.nasa.gov. The reporting requirements for awards made through this NOFO shall be consistent with the *NASA Grant and Cooperative Manual* (GCAM), Appendix D. Recipients also shall comply with reporting requirements at 2 CFR § 180.335, Financial Reporting, and 2 CFR §180.350, Monitoring and reporting program performance. Additionally, if the federal share of any award issued under this NOFO is more than $500,000 over the award's total period of performance (PoP), additional reporting requirements shall apply. See 2 CFR § 200 Appendix XII— Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters (http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=4b63b1740bdb186d3bf5d346f5ddf42c&mc=true&node=ap2.1.200_1521.xii&rgn=div9).

The program parameters are:

- Each jurisdiction has the option to submit a maximum of six (6) proposals, which can cover topics from one or multiple NASA Mission Directorates. This could involve proposing six projects related to the same topic or mission directorate, presenting one proposal from each mission directorate, or any combination thereof. The specific topics are outlined in Appendix 3 of this document, Research Focus Areas.
- It is estimated that up to 30 proposals may be selected for funding.
- The maximum funding that a jurisdiction can request from NASA is $100,000 per proposal. This amount is to be spent in accordance with the budget details and budget narrative in the approved proposal.
- Renewals are allowed but such proposals must include their own external funding and will not be included in the total proposal count. Note that renewals will require a letter of commitment from the NASA funding office.
- Proposal titles must include the **Research Focus Area Identifier and Mission Directorate** (and include **Renewal** if the proposal is a renewal).
- There is no cost share requirement for this opportunity.
- Proposals are due no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, February 26, 2023.
- The anticipated PoP will be negotiated between each project's Principal Investigator (PI) and the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC) Grant Officer.

This NOFO is being announced in electronic form through the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES) and through Grants.gov.

To access this NOFO through NSPIRES, go to http://nspires.nasaprs.com and click on Solicitations.

To access this NOFO through Grants.gov, go to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html and select the link for NASA under Agency.

B. Federal Award Information

1. **Available Funding for this NOFO: $3,000,000**

2. **Projected Number of Awards: Up to 30 awards of $100,000 each.**

3. **Maximum Award Amount: $100,000**

4. **Anticipated Period of Performance:**

   NASA EPSCoR awards will support a one -year cooperative agreement. It is anticipated that this PoP will enable the researchers to achieve the performance task objectives of the proposal and/or as included in any amendments submitted with the recipient's annual progress reports and accepted by the NASA EPSCoR project office.

5. **Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s):**

   For planning purposes, PIs should assume that the award start date will be approximately six months after the proposal deadline date. The project start date may be negotiated with the NSSC Grant Officer.

6. **Projected Period of Performance (PoP) End Date(s):**

   The PoP end date will be one year from the PoP start date.

7. **Funding Instrument Type(s): Cooperative Agreement**

   NASA will assign a Technical Monitor (TM) to each award. Cooperative Agreements have substantial government involvement to support the recipient's performance of the project. Therefore, the TM will monitor the progress of the research and collaborate as required to keep the research aligned with the approved project's objective(s). Each recipient shall provide an annual report on the progress of the research; this report shall be reviewed by the TM and approved in writing by the NASA EPSCoR Project Manager. These reports shall be shared with the NASA Mission Directorates, NASA Centers, and JPL.

C. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Applicants**

   The National Science Foundation (NSF) determines overall jurisdiction eligibility for NASA

EPSCoR. The latest available NSF eligibility tables are used to determine overall jurisdiction eligibility for NASA EPSCoR. The NSF 2023 eligibility table is available at: https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/2022-06/EPSCoR%20Eligibility%20Table%20Fiscal%20Year%202023.pdf.

The following jurisdictions are eligible to submit a proposal in response to this NOFO: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, US Virgin Islands, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

While proposals can be accepted only from institutions for which the NASA EPSCoR Directors are serving currently, all institutions of higher education within the jurisdiction shall be given the opportunity to propose by making them aware of this NOFO. Only six proposals per jurisdiction shall be accepted, which must be submitted by the NASA EPSCoR Jurisdiction Director (or their designee). The list of NASA EPSCoR jurisdiction directors can be found at:

https://www.nasa.gov/stem/epscor/home/EPSCoR_Directors.html.

All proposals submitted in response to this NOFO shall be submitted electronically via NSPIRES (http://nspires.nasaprs.com). Hard copy proposals will not be accepted. Electronic proposals must be submitted in their entirety by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time on February 26, 2023.

Proposers without access to the internet or who experience difficulty using the NSPIRES proposal site (http://nspires.nasaprs.com) may contact the **Help Desk at** nspires-help@nasaprs.com **or call 202-479-9376 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (EDT), Monday through Friday, except for Federal Government holidays.** Proposals received after the due date may be returned without review and not considered for award. If a late proposal is returned, it is entirely at the proposer's discretion whether to resubmit it in response to a subsequent opportunity.

All EPSCoR institutions in eligible jurisdictions shall be made aware of this solicitation. *All proposals shall be submitted through the jurisdiction's NASA EPSCoR Director's office*. Existing EPSCoR awards that already demonstrate partnerships or cooperative arrangements among academia, government agencies, business and industry, private research foundations, jurisdiction agencies, and local agencies shall not be submitted. No requests for renewals or extensions of previous projects will be accepted in response to this NOFO.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing/matching is not required.

3. **Other Eligibility Criteria**
None

NASA's Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion
NASA recognizes and supports the benefits of having diverse and inclusive scientific, engineering, and technology communities and fully expects the reflection of such values in the composition of all panels and teams, including peer review panels, proposal teams, science definition teams, and mission and instrument teams. Per Federal statutes and NASA policy, no eligible applicant shall experience exclusion from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NASA on the grounds of their race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, or disability. NASA welcomes proposals from all qualified and eligible sources, and strongly encourages proposals from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), small-disadvantaged businesses (SDBs), veteran-owned small businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB), HUBZone small businesses, and women-owned small businesses (WOSBs), as eligibility requirements apply. Note that all proposals must be approved and submitted by the NASA EPSCoR Jurisdiction Director.

Ineligibility of Proposals That Include Participation of China or Chinese-Owned Companies

Proposals involving bilateral participation, collaboration, or coordination in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company or entity, whether funded or performed under a no-exchange-of-funds basis, shall be ineligible for award.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request Application Package**
All proposals submitted in response to this NOFO shall be submitted electronically via NSPIRES (http://nspires.nasaprs.com). Hard copy proposals will not be accepted.

2. **Content and Form of Application Submission**

Required elements of the proposal are described below and shall be submitted as one or more PDF documents that are uploaded for proposal submission. Please refer to Section 2 of the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers* for more information on Proposal Preparation and Organization. The table below lists the sections required in the proposal. The scientific/technical content of the proposals shall not exceed three pages.

Proposal Title: In the Proposal Title, it is imperative to indicate the specific Research Focus Area that the applicant is targeting, incorporating the RFA identifier (e.g., RFA-001). Additionally, ensure the inclusion of the relevant Mission Directorate (MD) abbreviation (such as ARMD, ESDMD, SMD, STMD, SOMD, etc.) within the title, following this format: For instance, RFA-001, proposal title, MDs (ARMD, SMD, etc.).

REQUIRED SECTIONS OF THE PROPOSAL (in order of assembly)	**PAGE / Characters LIMIT**
Proposal Cover Page	NSPIRES proposal cover page that is available at http://nspires.nasaprs.com/
Proposal Summary (abstract)	4,000 characters including spaces
Data Management Plan	4,000 characters, including spaces
Table of Contents	As needed
Scientific/Technical Plan	3 pages*
Management Plan	As needed (2-3 pages)
References and Citations	As needed
Biographical Sketches for:	
The Principal Investigator	2 (per PI)
the Science Investigator (Sc-I)	2 (per Sci-I)
each Co-Investigator (Co-I)	1 (per Co-I)
Current and Pending Support	As needed
Statements of Commitment and Letters of Support	As needed
Budget Justification: Narrative and Details	As needed
• *Includes proposed budget, itemized list detailing expenses within major budget categories, detailed subawards and summary of personnel (NASA Guidebook for Proposers, Appendix C).*	
• *For grants/cooperative agreements, the table of personnel and work effort shall immediately follow the proposal budget and is not included in the budget.*	
Facilities and Equipment	As needed
Special Notifications and/or Certifications	As needed
** includes all illustrations, tables, and figures*	

Data Management Plan (DMP)

All proposals submitted under this NOFO are required to submit a Data Management Plan (DMP) in accordance with the *NASA Plan for Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research* located at http://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/NASA_Data_Plan.pdf.

In keeping with the *NASA Plan for Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research*, new terms and conditions, consistent with the Rights in Data clause in the award, information about making manuscripts and data publicly accessible may be included in each award document. As a general rule, proposals are required to provide a DMP or proposers shall provide an explanation as to why a DMP is not necessary given the nature of the work proposed. *The DMP shall be submitted by responding to the NSPIRES cover page question about the DMP (limited to 4000 characters)*. Any research project for which a DMP is not necessary shall provide an explanation in the DMP block. Example explanations are as follows:

- This is a development effort for flight technology that will not generate any data that the proposer/recipient can release, so a DMP is not necessary;
- The data that the proposer/recipient will generate will be subject to ITAR; or
- The proposer/recipient may explain why its project is not going to generate data.

- The proposal type that requires a DMP is described in the *NASA Plan for Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research* (see above link). The DMP shall contain the following elements, as appropriate to the project:
- A description of data types, volume, formats, and (where relevant) standards;
- A description of the schedule for data archiving and sharing;
- A description of the intended repositories for archived data, including mechanisms for public access and distribution;
- A discussion of how the plan enables long-term preservation of data; and
- A discussion of roles and responsibilities of team members in accomplishing the DMP. (If funds are required for data management activities, these should be included in the budget and budget justification sections of the proposal).

Proposers that include a plan to archive data should allocate suitable time for this task. Unless otherwise stated, this requirement supersedes the data sharing plan mentioned in the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers*.

In addition, researchers submitting NASA-funded articles in peer-reviewed journals or papers from conferences shall make their work accessible to the public through NASA's *TechPort* at https://sti.nasa.gov/submit-to-pubspace/#.YD5lRJNKhTY.

See NASA's Scientific and Technical Information Program's DMP FAQ at https://sti.nasa.gov/faq/ and the Science Mission Directorate's DMP FAQ at http://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/faqs/dmp-faq-roses/ for more information.

3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant for NASA funding (unless the applicant is an individual or is excluded per 2 CFR 25.110) is required to:

- Be registered in SAM before submitting a proposal;
- Maintain an active SAM registration with current information, including information on a recipient's immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded a Federal contract or grant within the last three years, if applicable, for all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by NASA; and
- Provide its UEI in each application or plan it submits to NASA. UEIs may be obtained by registering in SAM.gov
- Each individual team member (e.g., PI, co-investigators), including all personnel named on the proposal's electronic cover page, shall be individually registered in NSPIRES.

NASA may not issue an award or financial modification to an existing award to an applicant or recipient entity until the entity has complied with the requirements to provide a valid UEI and maintain an active SAM registration with current information. At the time of issuing an award, if the intended recipient has not complied with the UEI or SAM requirements, NASA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

4. **Submission Method, Dates and Times**

Submission Method

All proposals submitted in response to this NOFO shall be submitted electronically via NSPIRES (http://nspires.nasaprs.com). Hard copy proposals will not be accepted. Electronic proposals must be submitted in their entirety by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time on **February 26, 2024**.
Proposers without access to the Web or who experience difficulty using the NSPIRES proposal site (http://nspires.nasaprs.com) may contact the **Help Desk at** nspires-help@nasaprs.com **or call 202-479-9376 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (EDT), Monday through Friday, except for Federal Government holidays.** Proposals received after the due date may be returned without review. If a late proposal is returned, it is entirely at the proposer's discretion whether to resubmit it in response to a subsequent appropriate solicitation.

All proposals **must** be received by the established deadline.

NASA will not review proposals that are received after the deadline or consider these late applications for funding. However, NASA may extend the application deadline upon the request of any applicant that can demonstrate good cause exists to justify extending the deadline. Good cause for an extension may include technical problems outside of the applicant's control that prevent submission of the proposal by the deadline or other exigent or emergency circumstances.

Applicants experiencing technical problems outside of their control must notify NASA as soon as possible and before the application deadline. Failure to notify NASA in a timely manner of the issue that prevented the on-time submission of the proposal may prevent the proposal from being considered for award.

While every effort is made to ensure the reliability and accessibility of the NSPIRES website and to maintain a help center via e-mail and telephone, difficulty may arise at any point on the internet, including with the user's own equipment. Prospective proposers are strongly urged to familiarize themselves with the NSPIRES site and to submit the required proposal materials well in advance of the proposal submission deadline. Difficulty in registering with or using NSPIRES is not, in and of itself, a sufficient reason for NASA to consider a proposal that is submitted after the proposal due date.

5. Funding Restrictions

All costs charged to awards covered by this NOFO must comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements in 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 200 and 2 CFR 1800, unless otherwise indicated in the NOFO, the terms and conditions of the award, and the NASA Grants and Cooperative Agreement Manual (GCAM). Additionally, the following restrictions apply:

1. All proposed funds must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable. Funds may only be used for the project. All activities charged under indirect cost must be allowed under 2 CFR 200 cost principles.
2. Grants and cooperative agreements shall not provide for the payment of fee or profit to the recipient.
3. Unless otherwise directed in 2 CFR 200, for changes to the negotiated indirect cost rate that occur throughout the project period, the recipient must apply the rate negotiated for that year, whether higher or lower than at the time the budget and application was awarded.
4. Proposals must not include bilateral participation, collaboration, or coordination with China or any Chinese-owned company or entity, whether funded or performed under a no-exchange-of-funds basis.
5. Any funds used for cost sharing or matching must be allowable under 2 CFR 200.
6. The non-Federal entity must use one of the methods of procurement as prescribed in 2 CFR 200.320, Methods of procurement to be followed.
7. Funds may not be used to fund research carried out by non-U.S. institutions. However, U.S. research award recipients may directly purchase supplies and/or services that do not constitute research from non-U.S. sources. Subject to export control restrictions, a foreign national may receive payment through a NASA award for the conduct of research while employed either full or part time by a U.S. institution. For additional guidance on foreign participation in awards, see Section 3.2 of the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers* and the NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) Part 1835.016-70.
8. Subject to export control restrictions, a foreign national may receive payment through a NASA award for the conduct of research while employed either full or part-time by a U.S. institution. For additional guidance on foreign participation, see Appendix A of the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers* and the NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) Part 1835.016-70.
9. EPSCoR support shall be acknowledged by the EPSCoR research project number in written reports and publications. Note that there is no limit for domestic travel, defined as travel that does not require

a passport, and shall be appropriate and reasonable to conduct the proposed research.

10. NASA EPSCoR funding shall not be used to purchase general purpose equipment, e.g. desktop workstations, office furnishings, reproduction, and printing equipment as a direct charge. However, special purpose equipment purchases (i.e., equipment that is used only for research, scientific, and technical activities directly related to the proposed research activities) are allowed and shall be reflected as a direct charge as per cost principles cited in the GCAM, Appendix D9, Equipment and Other Property. In addition, proposers shall comply with 2 CFR 200.216: Prohibition on certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment. Equipment and other capital expenditures, special purchase equipment items with a unit cost of $5,000 or more must have the prior written approval of the Federal awarding agency (i.e., the NASA Grants Officer).
11. NASA EPSCoR funding shall not be used to support NASA employees' (full time equivalent or FTE) participation in a research project unless that funding is provided through a separate funding instrument between the jurisdiction and NASA Center, such as a Space Act Agreement or other reimbursable agreement. NASA EPSCoR will not set aside award funding to send to a NASA Center for FTE support, including travel.
12. NASA EPSCoR funds shall be spent on NASA EPSCoR institutions. If a Co-Investigator (Sc-I/Co-I) with NASA EPSCoR award transfers to a non-EPSCoR institution, the EPSCoR funding amount, or the amount that remains unobligated at the time of the Sc-I/Co-I transfer, shall not be transferred to the non-EPSCoR institution.
13. Procurement contracts shall not be awarded as a result this NOFO.
14. Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the effective date of an award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Such costs are not allowed under this NOFO.

Direct Costs Limitations

Travel, including foreign travel, is allowed for the meaningful completion of the proposed investigation, as well as for reporting results at appropriate professional meetings. Foreign travel to meetings and conferences in support of the jurisdiction's NASA EPSCoR research project is an acceptable use of NASA EPSCoR funds, with a limit of $3,000 per proposal. NASA EPSCoR support shall be acknowledged by the NASA EPSCoR research project number in written reports and publications.

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Pre-Award Costs

Pre-award costs are those incurred prior to the effective date of an award that are directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Per 2 CFR §1800.210, Pre-award costs, NASA waives the requirement for applicants to obtain prior approval for pre-award costs incurred 90 days or less before an award's PoP start date. Pre-award costs more than 90 days prior to an award's PoP start date are not allowable under this NOFO. Any costs that the applicant incurs in anticipation of an award is the applicant's sole responsibility and will be subject to the rules described in 2 CFR §1800.210 and the "Pre-award Costs".

Indirect Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs

Unless otherwise directed in 2 CFR § 200, for changes to the negotiated indirect cost rate that occur throughout the project period, the proposer/recipient shall apply the rate negotiated for that year, regardless of whether it is higher or lower than at the time the proposal (including the submitted budget) was awarded.

6. Other Submission Requirements

The use of NASA EPSCoR funds for support of research assistants is allowable and encouraged and shall be detailed in the budget justification and described in the narrative and evaluation sections of the proposal.

Proposals that include flight activities (not normal passenger travel) such as aircraft or helicopter flight services, including Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)/Drone operations or the acquisition or construction of such flight vehicles, must comply with NASA Policy Directive 7900.3. Questions concerning flight compliance requirements may be addressed to Norman Schweizer (norman.s.schweizer@nasa.gov) ACMO or Grant Watson (grant.m.watson@nasa.gov) ISMD, or Richard Schlatter (Richard.schlatter-1@nasa.gov) ISMD.

Collection of Demographic Information

NASA is implementing a process to collect demographic data from grant applicants for the purpose of analyzing demographic differences associated with its award processes. Information collected will include name, gender, race, ethnicity, disability status, and citizenship status. Submission of the information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award.

Therefore, NASA requests additional demographic data to ensure its compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq. and NASA's implementing regulations at 14 CFR 1250, 1251, and 1253. Submission of the requested information on NASA Form 1839 is purely voluntary and will not affect the organization's eligibility for an award.

E. <u>Application Review Information</u>

Successful R3 proposals shall provide sound contributions to both immediate and long-term scientific and technical needs of NASA as explicitly expressed in current NASA documents and communications.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria: Intrinsic Merit, Project Management, and Budget Justification. The bulleted lists after each criterion below should not be construed as any indication of priority or relative weighting. Rather, the bullets are provided for clarity and facilitation of proposal development.

1. Application Evaluation Criteria

Intrinsic Merit (65% of overall score)

- Proposed research shall have clear goals and objectives; address the expectations described in the announcement; and be consistent with the budget, effectively utilize the program management, and demonstrate a high probability for successful implementation.
- Proposals shall provide a narrative of the proposed research activity, including the scientific and/or technical merit of the proposed research, unique and innovative methods, approaches, concepts, or advanced technologies, and the potential impact of the proposed research on its field.

Project Management (20% of overall score)

- This section shall describe the proposer's project management structure in reasonable detail.
- Proposals shall describe the use of NASA content, people, or facilities in the execution of the research activities. They should describe current and/or previous interactions, partnerships, and meetings with NASA researchers, engineers, and scientists in the area of the proposed research, and discuss how future partnerships between the institution's researchers and personnel at the Mission Directorates and/or Centers will be fostered. The name(s) and title(s) of NASA researchers with whom the proposers will partner shall be included. NASA shall consider the utilization of NASA venues for recipients to publish their accomplishments.

Budget Justification (15% of overall score)

- The proposed budget shall be adequate, appropriate, reasonable, and realistic, and demonstrate the effective use of funds that align with the content and text of the proposed project. Preparation guidelines for the budget can be found in the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers*, Section 3.18 and Appendix C.
- Because the budget will be evaluated based upon the clarity and reasonableness of

the funding request, a budget narrative shall be included that discusses relevant issues such as the extent and level of jurisdiction, industrial, and institutional commitment and financial support, including resources (staff, facilities, laboratories, indirect support, waiver of indirect costs).

2. Review and Selection Process

Review of proposals submitted in response to this NOFO shall be consistent with the general policies and provisions contained in the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers*, Appendix D. Selection procedures will be consistent with the provisions of the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers*, *Section 5*. However, the evaluation criteria described in this NOFO under Section E.1 of this document, Proposal Evaluation, takes precedence over the evaluation criteria described in Section 5 of the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers*.

The selection process will be a two-step process. The proposals will first be reviewed by subject matter experts (SME) in the field and then will be reviewed by the mission directorates to determine alignment with NASA's research needs. The selecting official for this NOFO is the EPSCoR Project Manager or their appointed representative.

Successful research proposals are likely to be those that provide sound contributions to both immediate and long-term scientific and technical needs of NASA as explicitly expressed in current NASA documents and communications. Also, successful proposals are likely to contribute to the overall research infrastructure and economic development of the proposing jurisdiction.

Risk Analysis

NASA Grants Officers will conduct a pre-award review of risk associated with the proposer as required by 2 CFR 200.206, Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants. For all proposals selected for award, the Grant Officer will review the submitting organization's information available through multiple government-wide repositories such as the System for Award Management (SAM.gov), Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), the Contractor Performance and Assessment Reporting System (CPARS), the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC), USAspending.gov, and GrantSolutions Recipient Insight.

Risk Review

For any Federal award, if NASA anticipates that the total federal share of funds provided to the recipient will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (SAT) (currently $250,000) during the PoP:

- Prior to making a federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the SAT, NASA is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (see 41 U.S.C. §2313);

- An applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM;
- NASA will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as set forth in 2 CFR 200.206, Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Open Application Period:	November 13, 2023-February 26, 2024
Application Period Closes:	February 26, 2024, 11:59 PM ET
Anticipated Award Announcement date:	July 2024
Federal Award Date:	Prior to September 30, 2024

F. Federal Award Administration Information

1. Notice of Award

NASA's stated goal is to announce selections as soon as possible. However, NASA does not usually announce new selections until the funds needed for those awards are approved through the Federal budget process. Therefore, a delay in NASA's budget process may result in a delay of the selection date(s). After 180 days past the proposal's submitted date, proposers may contact the NASA EPSCoR Project Manager for a status.

NASA will notify successful grant recipients of funding via a Notice of Award (NASA Form 1687) signed by the Grant Officer. This Notice of Award is the authorizing document and will be sent to the business office of the proposer's institution via email and NSPIRES]. All expenses incurred on grant activities prior to the PoP start date listed on the Notice of Award are the sole responsibility of the proposer/recipient until the Notice of Award is received and the PoP commences.

NASA's goal is to issue Notices of Award as soon as possible after selections are announced (anticipated in the July 2024 timeframe) to the proposers. However, delays may be caused by:

- The need for additional materials from the proposer (e.g., revised budgets and/or budget details) before NASA may legally obligate federal funds; and/or
- A delay in NASA receiving its appropriation from Congress for the current fiscal year.

A proposer has the right to be informed of the major factor(s) that led to the acceptance or rejection of its proposal. Debriefings will be available upon written request. Again, it is emphasized to proposers that proposals of nominally high intrinsic and programmatic merits may be declined for reasons entirely unrelated to any scientific or technical weaknesses.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

In addition to the requirements in this section and in this NOFO, NASA may incorporate specific terms and conditions into individual awards in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. Specifically, recipients of NASA grant funding shall adhere to requirements set forth in 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 1800, 2 CFR 170, 2 CFR 175, 2 CFR 182, and 2 CFR 183, and the NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual (GCAM). These are available at: https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ocfo/gpc/regulations_and_guidance.

Research Terms and Conditions

Awards from this funding announcement that are issued under 2 CFR 1800 are subject to the Federal Research Terms and Conditions (RTC) located at http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp. In addition to the RTC and NASA-specific guidance, three companion resources can also be found on the website: Appendix A— Prior Approval Matrix, Appendix B—Subaward Requirements Matrix, and Appendix C—National Policy Requirements Matrix.

Environmental Statement

Awards of proposals related to this NOFO must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); thus, proposers are encouraged to plan and budget for any anticipated environmental impacts. While most research awards will not trigger action specific NEPA review, some activities (including international actions) will.

The majority of grant-related activities are categorically excluded as research and development (R&D) projects that do not pose any adverse environmental impact. A blanket NASA Grants Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) provides NEPA coverage for these anticipated activities. The NSPIRES award application cover page includes questions to determine whether a specific proposal falls within the Grants REC and must be completed as part of the proposal submission process. Activities outside of the bounding conditions of the Grants REC will require additional NEPA analysis. Examples of actions that will likely require NEPA analysis include but are not limited to suborbital-class flights not conducted by a NASA Program Office, activities involving ground-breaking construction/fieldwork, and certain payload activities such as the use of dropsondes.

Questions concerning environmental compliance may be addressed to the NASA NEPA Manager via the NASA program official listed in this NOFO.

3. Reporting

Federal Financial Reporting

Recipients of NASA funding must submit quarterly financial reports. Financial reports must be submitted via the Payment Management System (PMS):

- Quarterly Federal Cash Transaction Reports (FCTR) are due no later than 30 days past the reporting period end date
- Final Financial Status Reports/Final Federal Financial Report (FSR/FFR) are due no later than 120 days after the end of the Period of Performance (PoP)

Performance Reporting

NASA award recipients must submit a final performance report. Final reports are due to NASA within 120 after the end of the award's POP. Descriptions of reporting requirements are as follows:

Annual Performance Report – Used to describe a grant's scientific progress, identify significant changes, report on personnel, and describe plans for the subsequent reporting period.

Due: N/A

Final Performance Report – Used as part of the grant closeout process to submit project outcomes in addition to the information submitted on the annual Performance Report.

Due: within 120 days after the end of the award's PoP

For all NASA awards, recipients must utilize the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) format. The RPPR is not a template or form but rather a set of standard data elements against which award recipients will report, and it is not available as a template or form from NASA. All performance reports must contain the mandatory data elements and reporting category required for RPPRs.

All reports **shall** include the following data elements on the report's cover page:

- Federal agency (i.e., NASA) and program office to which the report is submitted.
- Award number.
- Project title
- Principal Investigator name, title, and contact information (e-mail address and phone number).
- Name of submitting official, title, and contact information (e-mail address and phone number), if other than PI.
- Submission date.
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number and EIN number.
- Recipient organization name and address.

- Recipient identifying number or account number, if any.
- PoP start and end date.
- Reporting period end date.
- Report term or frequency (annual, semi-annual, quarterly, other).
- Final Report? Indicate "Yes" or "No"
- Signature of submitting official (either handwritten or electronic)

In addition to the data elements above, all NASA performance reports **shall** report on one mandatory reporting category, "accomplishments."

Accomplishments data elements are:

1. What were the major goals and objectives of this project?
2. What was accomplished under these goals?
3. What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?
3. How were the results disseminated to communities of interest?
5. What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives?

Recipients shall submit a report to the NASA Grant Officer at the NSSC at NSSC-Grant-Report@mail.nasa.gov with copies to the technical officer at agency-epscor@mail.nasa.gov and to the supported organization on the results pertaining to this award no later than 120 days after the project's end date. The EPSCoR Project Office Program Coordinator shall notify the Jurisdiction PI in advance and in writing when a report is coming due and provide specific formats and data entry forms. The Program Manager shall also provide a Research Project Progress/Performance Reporting Outline, which is a template of the required data. This will be followed by notification from the NSSC that the report is due. The reporting requirements for awards made through this NOFO will be consistent with the reporting requirements outlined in the GCAM Appendix.

A NASA TM shall evaluate accomplishments toward project goals by reference to indicators such as, but not limited to, the metrics outlined above. NASA may approve no-cost extensions in writing when requested by the recipient and in accordance with the GCAM, Appendix D5, Extensions.

The EPSCoR Technical Officer shall review the final report for completeness. A recipient's failure to provide a final report with Invention Disclosures shall delay or preclude the participation of the respective jurisdiction in other funding opportunities related to NASA EPSCoR.

For further details on reporting project performance, please refer to the Post-Award Phase section of the GCAM.

Access to Research

Awards issued under this NOFO must comply with the provision set forth in the NASA Plan for Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research (http://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/NASA_Data_Plan.pdf) including the responsibility for:

- Submitting as-accepted peer-reviewed manuscripts and metadata to a designated repository; and
- Reporting publications with the annual and final performance reports.

Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters

Awards under this solicitation that are $500,000 or more may be subject to post award reporting requirements reflected in 2 CFR 200 Appendix XII.

FFATA Reporting Requirements

Per 2 CFR 170, Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information, award recipients that issue first-tier subawards above $30,000 shall report those subawards in the Federal Award Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Subaward Reporting System (FSRS). The regulation at 2 CFR 170 provides detailed information regarding what information needs to be reported in these systems and the deadlines for submitting this information. Recipient information that is reported to FSRS is ultimately transferred to USAspending.gov, for public display.

Suspension and Debarment Disclosure

This reporting requirement pertains to disclosing information related to government-wide suspension and debarment requirements. Before a recipient enters into a grant award with NASA, the recipient must notify NASA if it knows if it or any of the recipient's principals under the award fall under one or more of the four criteria listed at 2 CFR Part 180.335, What are the causes for debarment?, as follows:

- Are presently excluded or disqualified;
- Have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in 2 CFR 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against it or any of the recipient's principals for one of those offenses within that time period;
- Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 CFR 180.800(a); or
- Have had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated within the preceding three years for cause or default.

At any time after accepting the award, if the recipient learns that it or any of its principals falls under one or more of the criteria listed at 2 CFR 180.335, the recipient must provide immediate written notice to NASA in accordance with 2 CFR 180.350.

Additional Reporting Requirements

NASA recipients must conform to all reporting requirements outlined in the Required Publications and Reports section of the GCAM, currently Appendix F.

G. NASA Contact Information

1. Program Office Contact

EPSCoR
Kathleen B. Loftin, Ph.D.
Project Manager, NASA EPSCoR
NASA Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899-0001
E-mail: kathleen.b.loftin@nasa.gov
Telephone: (321) 603-9971

Inquiries regarding the submission of proposals via NSPIRES may be addressed to:

NASA Research and Education Support Services (NRESS)
Althia Harris
2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22202-4816
E-mail: harris@nasaprs.com
Telephone: (202) 479-9030 X-310
Fax: (202) 479-0511

Questions concerning environmental compliance may be addressed to:

NASA EPA Manager
Tina Norwood
E-mail: tina.norwood-1@nasa.gov
Telephone: (202)358-7323

2. Systems Information

NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES)
NSPIRES is a web-based system that supports the entire lifecycle of NASA research solicitation and selection, from the release of solicitation announcements through proposal submission, the peer review process, and the selection decision. Applicants may search for and apply for funding opportunities available at NASA through NSPIRES. For technical assistance with NSPIRES, please contact the NSPIRES Help Desk at nspires-help@nasaprs.com or (202) 479-9376, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET,

except on Federal Government holidays.

Grants.gov

Grants.gov is the government-wide electronic grants portal and interested parties can search for grant opportunities on this site. For technical assistance with Grants.gov, call the customer support hotline 24 hours per day,7 days per week (except on Federal Government holidays) at (800) 518-4726 or e-mail support@grants.gov.

H. Other Information

Cancellation of Program Announcement

NASA HQ OSTEM reserves the right to not make any awards under this NOFO and to cancel this NOFO at any time. NASA assumes no liability (including bid and proposal costs) for cancelling this NOFO or for any entity's failure to receive such notice of cancellation.

Intellectual Property

Data Rights: NASA encourages the widest practicable dissemination of research results at any time during the investigation. The award will contain the Rights in Data clause in the GCAM, Appendix D, Award Terms and Conditions. This clause allows a recipient to assert copyright in any work that is subject to copyright and was developed, or for which ownership was acquired, under the NASA award.

NASA will reserve a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for Government purposes, and to authorize others to do so, in any such copyrighted work. Note that the Grants Officer may revise the language under the Rights in Data clause to modify each party's rights based on the circumstances of the program and/or the recipient's need to protect specific proprietary information.

Patent Rights: Recipients will be allowed to elect to retain title to any inventions made under the award. Awards will include the provisions of 37 CFR 401.3(a), which requires use of the standard clause set forth at 37 CFR 401.14 "Patent Rights (Small Business Firms and Nonprofit Organizations)," and the NASA GCAM, Appendix D, Award Terms and Conditions, the clause titled "Patent Rights."

Announcement and Updates/Amendments to Solicitation

This NOFO will be available via NSPIRES and Grants.gov, but proposals shall be submitted on-time and electronically via NSPIRES (http://nspires.nasaprs.com). Proposers shall carefully note the information described in the paragraph below for submission of an electronic proposal via NSPIRES. Instructions for submission of proposals are also detailed in the NASA Guidebook for Proposers, Section 3.

While every effort is made to ensure the reliability and accessibility of the web site and to maintain a help center via e-mail and telephone, difficulty may arise at any point on the internet, including with the user's own equipment. Therefore, proposers are strongly urged to familiarize themselves with the NSPIRES site and to submit the required proposal materials well in advance of the proposal submission deadline. Difficulty in registering with or using the proposal submission system (NSPIRES) is not, in and of itself, a sufficient reason for NASA to consider a proposal that is submitted after the proposal due date. Additional programmatic information for this NOFO may become known before the proposal due date. If so, such information shall be added as a formal amendment to this NOFO and posted on its homepage at http://nspires.nasaprs.com.

It is the proposer's responsibility to regularly check this NOFO's homepage for updates.

Access to NASA Facilities/Systems

All recipients shall work with NASA project/program staff to ensure proper credentialing for any individuals who need access to NASA facilities and/or systems. Such individuals include U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents ("green card" holders), and foreign nationals (those who are neither U.S. citizens nor permanent residents).

Limited Release of Proposers' Confidential Business Information

- For proposal evaluation and other related administrative processing actions (i.e., funding actions), NASA may find it necessary to release information submitted by the proposer to individuals not employed by NASA (e.g. support contractor and subcontractor employees). Business information that would ordinarily be entitled to confidential treatment may be included in the information released to these individuals. Accordingly, by submission of this proposal, the proposer hereby consents to a limited release of its confidential business information (CBI).
- Except where otherwise provided by law, NASA will permit the limited release of CBI only pursuant to non-disclosure agreements signed by the support contractor and/or subcontractor, and their individual employees who may require access to the CBI in order to perform the support contract or subcontract.

I. Appendices

Appendix 1 : Definitions

- NASA Centers – NASA Centers, located throughout the United States, provide leadership for and execution of NASA's work. There are nine NASA Centers, plus NASA's only Federally Funded Research and Development Center, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). The nine NASA Centers are:
    - Ames Research Center (ARC)
    - Armstrong Flight Research Center (AFRC)
    - Glenn Research Center (GRC)
    - Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC)
    - Johnson Space Center (JSC)
    - Kennedy Space Center (KSC)
    - Langley Research Center (LaRC)
    - Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC)
    - Stennis Space Center (SSC)

  JPL is eligible for collaboration within NASA EPSCoR on par with NASA Centers.

- Cooperative Agreement – An award of federal assistance similar to a grant with the exception that NASA will be substantially involved in the recipient's performance of the project. Cooperative agreements are managed pursuant to the policies set forth in 2 CFR § 200, 2 CFR § 1800, and the *NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Manual* (GCAM).
- Jurisdiction – A State or Commonwealth that is eligible to submit a proposal in response to this CAN.
- NASA Research Contact – The primary NASA point of contact during the proposal writing stage for the proposed research area. If the proposer has contacted and received permission from a NASA scientific or technical person, that individual may be listed in the proposal as the NASA Research Contact. Otherwise, the NASA Research Contact is the University Affairs Officer at the NASA Center, or the NASA Mission Directorate contact at NASA Headquarters.
- Principal Investigator (PI) – The Jurisdiction's EPSCoR Director is considered the Principal Investigator (PI). The PI is responsible for proper conduct of the research, including appropriate use of funds and administrative requirements such as the submission of the scientific progress reports to the Agency. The PI is the administrator for the proposal.
- Science-Investigator (Sc-I) – The Sc-I will serve as the POC with the ISS Program. The formally stated PI will remain responsible for the overall direction of the effort and the

use of funds.

- Research Focus Area (RFA) – An area of research focus aligned with the objectives of NASA.
- Research Assistant – A student (undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral) who receives a research appointment in direct support of the NASA EPSCoR research in a research proposal.
- Mission Directorates
    - Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD)
    - Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD)
    - Human Exploration and Operations (HEO) Mission Directorate
    - Science Mission Directorate (SMD)
    - Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD)
    - Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

Appendix 2 : Certifications

Certification of Compliance, Assurances, and Representations

Awards from this funding announcement that are issued under 2 CFR 1800 are subject to the Federal Research Terms and Conditions (RTC) located at http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp . In addition to the RTC and NASA-specific guidance, three companion resources can also be found on the website: Appendix A—Prior Approval Matrix, Appendix B—Subaward Requirements Matrix, and Appendix C—National Policy Requirements Matrix.

By submitting the proposal identified in the Cover Sheet/Proposal Summary in response to this Research Announcement, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) of the proposing organization (or the individual Proposer if there is no proposing organization) as identified below—

(a) Certifies that the statements made in this proposal are true and complete to the best of his/her knowledge;

(b) Agrees to accept the obligation to comply with NASA award terms and conditions if an award is made as a result of this proposal; and

(c) Confirms compliance with all applicable terms and conditions, rules, and stipulations set forth in the Certifications, Assurances, and Representations contained in this NRA or CAN. Willful inclusion of false information in this proposal and/or its supporting documents, or in reports required under an ensuing award, is a criminal offense (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001).

The AOR's signature on the Proposal Cover Page automatically certifies that the proposing organization has read and is in compliance with all certifications, assurances, and representations as detailed in the NASA GCAM Appendix A, Standard Format for a NASA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Note: On February 2, 2019, the System for Award Management (SAM) implemented a new process that allows financial assistance registrants to submit common Federal Government-wide certifications and representations. The new process will be required effective January 1, 2020. Guidance on the new process and system change can be found at: https://interact.gsa.gov/blog/certifications-and-representation-improvements-sam

Appendix 3 : Research Focus Areas (RFAs)

3.1 Electrified Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL), Material Characterization and Modeling

Aeronautic Research Mission Directorate (ARMD)

NASA Glenn Research Center

Research Focus Area: Safe and Efficient Electro-mechanical Powertrains for Electrified Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) Vehicles
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-001**
POC: Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov
Dr. Mark J. Valco, mark.j.valco@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: Electric motor technologies appropriate for eVTOL with high torque density and, concurrently, such motors being free of partial discharge and having a continuous power rating in the range 50 – 400 kW.
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-002**
POC: Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov
Dr. Mark J. Valco, mark.j.valco@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: High reliability, robustness, and fault-tolerance for inverter-motor systems as needed for safety-critical eVTOL propulsion.
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-003**

POC: Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov
Dr. Mark J. Valco, mark.j.valco@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: Lubrication and cooling technologies specifically optimized for long life and highly efficient eVTOL motors, including interest in single-fluid approaches for inverters, motors, and gearboxes.

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-004**
POC: Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov
Dr. Mark J. Valco, mark.j.valco@nasa.gov

Research Overview: With their unique ability to take off and land from any spot, as well as hover in place, vertical lift vehicles are increasingly being contemplated for use in new ways that go far beyond those considered when thinking of traditional helicopters. NASA's Revolutionary Vertical Lift Technology (RVLT) project is working with partners in government, industry, and academia to develop critical technologies that enable revolutionary new air travel options, especially those associated with Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) such as large cargo-carrying vehicles and passenger-carrying air taxis.

These new markets are forecast to rapidly grow during the next ten years, and the vertical lift industry's ability to safely develop and certify innovative new technologies, lower operating costs, and meet acceptable community noise standards will be critical in opening these new markets.

NASA is conducting research and investigations in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) aircraft and operations. AAM missions are characterized by ranges below 300 nm, including rural and urban operations, passenger carrying as well as cargo delivery. Such vehicles will require innovative propulsion systems, likely electric or hybrid-electric, that may need advanced electro-mechanical powertrain technology.

Research Focus: Analytical and/or experimental fundamental research is sought for electro-mechanical powertrains for electrified vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) vehicles. The focus is safety and efficiency, and overall goals are to obtain high power-to-weight with long life and higher reliability than the current state of the art. The scope includes electric motors and associated power electronics, possibly combined with mechanical or magnetically geared transmissions. Research topics of particular interest are those that focus on:

1) reliable, efficient, high power density electro-mechanical powertrain technology for eVTOL
2) electric motor technologies appropriate for eVTOL with high torque density and, concurrently, such motors being free of partial discharge (refs. 7,8) and having a continuous power rating in the range 50 – 400 kW
3) high reliability, robustness, and fault-tolerance for inverter-motor systems as needed for safety-critical eVTOL propulsion
4) lubrication and cooling technologies specifically optimized for long life and highly efficient eVTOL motors, including interest in single-fluid approaches for inverters, motors, and gearboxes

The target application is eVTOL vehicles sized to carrying four to six passengers with missions as described in References 1-6. Challenges related to insulation of motor windings and the phenomena of partial discharge are discussed in the literature (examples: references 7,8).

This research opportunity is relevant to aerospace propulsion and is of mutual interest to NASA, FAA, DoD, and the US vertical lift vehicle industry.

References:

1) Silva, C.; Johnson, W.; and Solis, E. "Multidisciplinary Conceptual Design for Reduced-Emission Rotorcraft." American Helicopter Society Technical Conference on Aeromechanics Design for Transformative Vertical Flight, San Francisco, CA, January 2018.
2) Johnson, W.; Silva, C.; and Solis, E. "Concept Vehicles for VTOL Air Taxi Operations." American Helicopter Society Technical Conference on Aeromechanics Design for Transformative Vertical Flight, San Francisco, CA, January 2018.
3) Patterson, M.D.; Antcliff, K.R.; and Kohlman, L.W. "A Proposed Approach to Studying Urban Air Mobility Missions Including an Initial Exploration of Mission Requirements." American Helicopter Society 74th Annual Forum, Phoenix, AZ, May 2018.
4) Silva, C.; Johnson, W.; Antcliff, K.R.; and Patterson, M.D. "VTOL Urban Air Mobility Concept Vehicles for Technology Development." AIAA Paper No. 2018-3847, June 2018.

5) Antcliff, K. Whiteside, S., Silva, C. and Kohlman, L. "Baseline Assumptions and Future Research Areas for Urban Air Mobility Vehicles," AIAA Paper No. 2019-0528, January 2019.
6) Silva, C., and Johnson, W. "Practical Conceptual Design of Quieter Urban VTOL Aircraft." Vertical Flight Society 77th Annual Forum, May 2021.
7) Tallerico, T., Salem, J., Krantz, T. and Valco, M., "Urban Air Mobility Electric Motor Winding Insulation Reliability: Challenges in the Design and Qualification of High Reliability Electric Motors and NASA's Research Plan." NASA TM-20220004926, 2022.
8) Petri, T., Keller, M. and Parspour, N. "The Insulation Resilience of inverter-fed Low Voltage Traction Machines: Review, Challenges, Opportunities." IEEE Access (2022).

Intellectual Property Rights: All data and analysis methods will be publicly available and no intellectual property rights will be assigned to any of the parties involved in this research.

Research Focus Area: Development of Characterization Techniques to Determine Rate and Temperature Dependent Composite Material Properties for the LS-DYNA MAT213 Model
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-005**
Mission Directorate: ARMD
POC: Robert Goldberg robert.goldberg@nasa.gov
Justin Littell justin.d.littell@nasa.gov
Mike Pereira mike.pereira@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Overview of MAT213 - MAT213 is an orthotropic macroscopic three-dimensional material model designed to simulate the impact response of composites which has been implemented in the commercial transient dynamic finite element code LS-DYNA [1-5]. The material model is a combined plasticity, damage and failure model suitable for use with both solid and shell elements. The deformation/plasticity portion of the model utilizes an orthotropic yield function and flow rule. A key feature of the material model is that the evolution of the deformation response is computed based on input tabulated stress-strain curves in the various coordinate directions.

The damage model employs a semi-coupled formulation in which applied plastic strains in one coordinate direction are assumed to lead to stiffness reductions in multiple coordinate directions. The evolution of the damage is also based on tabulated input from a series of load-unload tests. A tabulated failure model has also been implemented in which a failure surface is represented by tabulated single valued functions. While not explicitly part of MAT213, when using the model, interlaminar failure is modeled using either tie-break contacts or cohesive elements.

The MAT213 model has the ability to incorporate both rate dependency and temperature dependency in the material response, which, potentially, could be important aspects of the dynamic and impact response of composites. To date, very little has been done to assess the effectiveness of the rate- and temperature-dependence modeling approaches, or to assess the importance of incorporating these effects in dynamic crush and impact problems. In dynamic crush problems, such as drop weight tests on composite structures, differences in response at different loading rates have been observed [6,7]. In ballistic impact tests of composite panels significant temperature rises have been documented [8]. But a fundamental understanding of the effect of strain rate and temperature is needed.

For this task we are focused on developing techniques and recommended approaches to characterize the rate dependent material parameters required for input into MAT 213 using tests at the coupon scale or similar fundamental types of tests at higher structural scales. In addition, we would like to characterize the effects of temperature changes under dynamic loading to assess the need for incorporating temperature dependence in dynamic models. To carry out this task, we are interested in having NASA-supplied composite materials and structures tested at high loading rates and/or potentially varying temperatures representative of what would exist in crash and impact events. It is expected that the tests will be conducted at the proposer's facility. NASA will attempt to provide a material for which quasi-static room temperature data are available.

A particular additional area of interest is in characterizing the post-peak material response, which can be important in simulating the response of actual structures. Currently, in many cases post peak material parameters are correlated based on the results of structural level tests. A need exists to develop capabilities and methods to characterize material parameters based on lower scale tests that are applicable for the analysis of full structures.

Research Requirements

Coupon Level Testing. Specific tests at a range of strain rates and/or temperatures that are of interest could include the following:

- Tension in the 1-direction
- Compression in the 1-direction
- Tension in the 2-direction
- Compression in the 2-direction
- Shear in the 12-direction
- Shear in the 21-direction
- 45 degrees off axis tension

Note that other tests may be conceived and conducted to develop methods to fully characterize the material of interest and to meet the goals of the project. Within the constraints of time and budget it may be necessary to prioritize tests where rate effects are expected to be more important.

Test Requirements

i. Test coupons will be machined by the grant recipient from flat panels supplied by NASA.
ii. For all tests the full set of test data must be recorded and supplied in electronic tabular format. For the tension, compression and shear tests that are conducted, the tabulated

stress-strain curve, all the way to failure, must be provided. Raw data such as loads must also be supplied.

iii. All specimens must be measured and weighed prior to testing
iv. Testing is to be conducted at appropriate and relevant rate and temperature conditions.
v. The test environmental conditions must be recorded and documented
vi. A minimum of three repeats for each loading condition must be conducted
vii. Full Field Digital Image Correlation (DIC) must be used to measure deformations and strains

Deliverables

a. Full tabulated data supplied in electronic tabular format
b. All DIC images and associated calibration files
c. A final report detailing the procedures and results.

References:

1. Khaled, B., Shyamsunder, L., Schmidt, N. Hoffarth, C. and Rajan, S., "Development of a Tabulated Material Model for Composite Material Failure, MAT213. Part 2: Experimental Tests to Characterize the Behavior and Properties of T800-F3900 Toray Composite", DOT/FAA/TC-19/51, Nov. 2018
2. T. Achstetter, "Development of a composite material shell-element model for impact applications", *PhD Dissertation,* George Mason University, 2019
3. Goldberg, R.K.; Carney, K.S.; DuBois, P.; Hoffarth, C.; Harrington, J; Rajan, S.; and Blankenhorn, G.: "Development of an Orthotropic Elasto-Plastic Generalized Composite Material Model Suitable for Impact Problems", *Journal of Aerospace Engineering*, Vol. 29, no. 4, 04015083, 2016.
4. Goldberg, R.K.; Carney, K.S.; DuBois, P.; Hoffarth, C.; Khaled, B.; Rajan, S.; and Blankenhorn, G.: "Analysis and Characterization of Damage Utilizing a Generalized Composite Material Model Suitable for Impact Problems", *Journal of Aerospace Engineering*, Volume 31, Issue 4, 10.1061/(ASCE)AS.1943-5525.0000854, 04018025, 2018.
5. Goldberg, R.K.; Carney, K.S.; DuBois, P.; Hoffarth, C.; Khaled, B.; Shyamsunder, L.; Rajan, S.; and Blankenhorn, G.: "Implementation of a tabulated failure model into a generalized composite material model", *Journal of Composite Materials*, Vol. 52, Issue 25, pp. 3445-3460.
6. Chambe, J.-E., Bouvet, C., Dorival, O., Rivallant, S. and Ferrero, J.-F. "Effects of dynamics and trigger on energy absorption of composite tubes during axial crushing", Int. J. Crashworthiness, 26(5), 2021.
7. Haluza, R., "Measurement and explicit finite element modeling of dynamic crush behavior of carbon fiber reinforced polymer composites", Ph.D. Dissertation, Pennsylvania State University, 2022
8. Johnston, J. P., Pereira, J. M., Ruggeri, C. R., & Roberts, G. D. (2018). High-speed infrared thermal imaging during ballistic impact of triaxially braided composites. *Journal of Composite Materials*, *52*(25), 3549-3562.

Intellectual Property Rights: All data and analysis methods will be publicly available and no intellectual property rights will be assigned to any of the parties involved in this research.

Research Focus Area: Multiscale Modeling of Heterogeneous Materials with NASMAT
Research Identifier: **RFA-006**
Mission Directorate: ARMD
POC: Trenton M. Ricks, PhD trenton.m.ricks@nasa.gov
Dr. Steven M. Arnold steven.m.arnold@nasa.gov

Research Overview: The NASA Multiscale Analysis Tool (NASMAT) is a versatile platform for performing computationally efficient multiscale analyses of heterogeneous materials. NASMAT offers the user flexibility to define an arbitrary number of length scales (levels) where a variety of micromechanics theories can be implemented at each level [1]. Micromechanics theories can be selected to balance accuracy and computational efficiency and range from analytical (Mori-Tanaka) to several semi-analytical (method of cells) formulations. NASMAT can also be coupled with external software and used to perform multiscale analyses of more complex structures. For example, if NASMAT is coupled with a finite element software, NASMAT effectively acts as an anisotropic, evolving, nonlinear material model which is called at individual integration points within the elements.

Submitters are encouraged to review recent publications from the development team prior to submitting a proposal [1-4]. The selected publications are intended to provide a broad background of current NASMAT activities and should not be interpreted as providing direction on proposed topics. Backends to incorporate user-defined features within NASMAT will be provided by the development team if required. Alternatively, developed models may be incorporated into the open-source MatLab code (https://github.com/nasa/Practical-Micromechanics) accompanying Ref. [5]. Proposed topics should be aligned with one or more Key Elements outlined in the Vision 2040 study [6].

Research Requirements

Submitters are encouraged (but not required) to develop tools, methods, models (e.g., deformation or damage) and software that could be incorporated into NASMAT by the development team in the future. Topics of interest include, damage/failure modeling, multiscale model hand-shaking, evolving microstructures, multi-physics modeling, approaches to enable massively multiscale modeling, and experimental techniques to generate sub-coupon scale validation data. Proposals associated with primarily determining effective elastic properties will not be favorably viewed. Possible material systems include ceramic and polymer matrix composites and metallic systems with applications including unidirectional, woven, nano-reinforced, or short-fiber composites, additive manufacturing, and shape-memory alloys. Proposals demonstrating the need of multiscale modeling for structural problems (e.g., thermos-mechanical loading) are encouraged.

A. Deliverables

1. A final report detailing the models, procedures, and results
2. Model results to be provided in a suitable electronic format
3. Source code for any developed modeling approaches
4. Raw and processed experimental digital data (if applicable)
5. Detailed documentation of new experimental equipment (if applicable)

<u>References:</u>

1. Pineda, E. J., Bednarcyk, B. A., Ricks, T. M., Arnold, S.M., Henson, G. (2021). Efficient multiscale recursive micromechanics of composites for engineering applications. *International Journal for Multiscale Computational Engineering*, 19(4), 77-105.
2. Ricks, T. M., Pineda, E. J., Bednarcyk, B. A., McCorkle, L. S., Miller, S. G., Murthy, P. L., & Segal, K. N. (2022). Multiscale Progressive Failure Analysis of 3D Woven Composites. *Polymers*, *14*(20), 4340.
3. Bednarcyk, B. A., Ricks, T. M., Pineda, E. J., Murthy, P. L., Mital, S. K., Hu, Z., & Gustafson, P. A. (2022). Multiscale Recursive Micromechanics of Three-Dimensional Woven Composite Thermal Protection Materials Thermal Conductivities. *AIAA Journal*, *60*(12), 6506-6519.
4. Gustafson, P. A., Pineda, E. J., Ricks, T. M., Bednarcyk, B. A., Hearley, B. L., & Stuckner, J. (2023). Convolutional Neural Network for Enhancement of Localization in Granular Representative Unit Cells. *AIAA Journal*, 1-13.
5. J. Aboudi, S.M. Arnold, B.A. Bednarcyk (2021). *Practical Micromechanics of Composite Materials Course Textbook,* Elsevier
6. X. Liu, Furrer, D., Kosters, J., & Holmes, J. (2018). Vision 2040: a roadmap for integrated, multiscale modeling and simulation of materials and systems. NASA/CR-2018-219771.

Intellectual Property Rights: All data and analysis methods will be publicly available and no intellectual property rights will be assigned to any of the parties involved in this research.

3.2 Clean Energy, Climate Change and Orbital Debris

Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

STMD rapidly develops, demonstrates, and infuses revolutionary, high-payoff technologies through transparent, collaborative partnerships, expanding the boundaries of the aerospace enterprise. STMD employs a merit-based competition model with a portfolio approach, spanning a range of discipline areas and technology readiness levels. By investing in bold, broadly applicable, disruptive technology that industry cannot tackle today, STMD seeks to mature the technology required for NASA's future missions in science and exploration while proving the capabilities and lowering the cost for other government agencies and commercial space activities.

Research Focus Area: Clean Energy and Emissions Technologies
Research Identifier: **RFA-007**
POC: John Scott, PhD. john.h.scott@nasa.gov

Clean energy and emissions mitigation technology projects focusing on the research and development, demonstration, or deployment of systems, processes, best practices, and sources that reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emitted to, or concentrated in, the atmosphere.

Research Focus Area: U.S. Climate Change Research Program
Research Identifier: **RFA-008**
POC: John Scott, PhD. john.h.scott@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: Earth-observing capabilities to support breakthrough science and National efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (including CO2, CH4, N2O, HFCs).
Research Identifier: **RFA-009**

POC: Sweterlitsch, Jeffrey, Ph.D. jeffrey.j.sweterlitsch@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: U.S. Climate Change Research Program focusing on carbon capture and Utilization
Research Identifier: **RFA-010**

POC: Sweterlitsch, Jeffrey, Ph.D. jeffrey.j.sweterlitsch@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: Addressing Orbital Debris: Control the long-term growth of debris population.
Research Identifier: **RFA-011**
POC: Bo Naasz, Ph.D. Bo.j.naasz@nasa.gov

3.3 Space Technology / Aeronautic Research

Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)
Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD)

NASA Glenn Research Center

Research Focus Area: Development of advanced soft magnetic materials for high-power electronic systems
Research Identifier: **RFA-012**

POC: Dr. Ronald Noebe ronald.d.noebe@nasa.gov

Description: NASA is interested in the development of advanced soft magnetic materials for use in high-efficiency, high-power electrical systems for power conversion, conditioning, and filtering. Such materials will be enabling in future electrical propulsion systems for aircraft and nuclear electric power and propulsion systems. Topic areas of interest include the investigation of new materials and processing methods for soft magnetic materials with improved performance at frequencies covering the kHz to MHz range, capable of operating at 200 - 400 °C without cooling. A primary goal for inductors and transformers would be a material capable of operating with switching frequencies in the range of 10 – 100 kHz with an induction field around 0.8 T, and have the ability to store at least 20 $kW \cdot kg^{-1}$.

Research Focus Area: Development of high-temperature refractory alloys and coating systems
Research Identifier: **RFA-013**
POC: Dr. Ronald Noebe ronald.d.noebe@nasa.gov

Description: NASA is interested in the development of alloys for use at temperatures between 1200 and 2000 °C for structural components in high-speed aircraft, space nuclear power and propulsion applications, surface fission power, high-temperature heat pipes and thermal radiators, and other applications involving extreme temperatures and environments. Topic areas of interest include:

- Alloy development for W-, Mo-, Ta-, Nb-based alloys, refractory metal medium and high entropy alloys, and multi-principal element silicides
- Understanding of processing-microstructure-property relationships
- Effect of alloying on intrinsic deformation and fracture mechanisms
- Development of powder processing techniques
- Additive manufacturing of components made from refractory materials
- Environmental effects and development of protective coatings for refractory alloys or development of refractory alloys with inherent environmental resistance
- High-temperature mechanical properties and development of high-temperature test techniques for refractory materials

Research Focus Area: Development of materials for extreme environments
Research Identifier: **RFA-014**
POC: Dr. Ronald Noebe ronald.d.noebe@nasa.gov

Description: NASA is interested in the development of new materials for use in extreme environments such as those encountered in nuclear applications, extreme operating temperature environments such as encountered during re-entry and propulsion systems, and harsh environments such as those encountered during interplanetary exploration such as Venus and other extra-terrestrial environments. The goal would be to enable new NASA missions that are not possible with current technologies. Topics of interest would include development of new materials, composites and processing technologies, investigation of processing-structure-property relationships, material durability, and characterization of properties relevant to the extreme environment being addressed.

3.4 In Space Manufacturing /On Demand Manufacturing of Electronics (ODME)

Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD)
Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD)
Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

As NASA prepares for long-duration manned space missions, there is a need for in-space manufacturing technologies that can support mission activities and allow crew members to fabricate new structures and devices and make necessary repairs. One such manufacturing technology of interest is printable sensors and electronics. At NASA Ames Research Center, we are exploring a variety of printing technologies including, but limited to, roll to roll processing, ink jet printing, 3D printing, plasma printing and microcontact printing. The devices may include the use of nanomaterials to improve overall performance. Device structures can be, but are not limited to spacecraft health monitoring sensors, environmental monitoring sensors, human health monitoring sensors, energy harvesting devices, energy storage devices and supporting hardware. This position is intended for the development or improvement of in-space manufacturing approaches, functional material development, and/or device prototyping and validation.

Research Focus Area: Advanced Manufacturing of Sensors and Electronics
Research Identifier**: RFA-015**

POC: Jessica Koehne, Ph.D. Jessica.E.Koehne@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: Additive manufacturing and additive manufacturing of electronics
Research Identifier**: RFA-016**

POC: Curtis Hill curtis.w.hill@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: LEO manufacturing support (additive, advanced materials, thin layer processing)
Research Identifier**: RFA-017**

POC: Curtis Hill curtis.w.hill@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: Lunar manufacturing of solar cells and sensors
Research Identifier**: RFA-018**

POC: Curtis Hill curtis.w.hill@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: Materials development for additive manufacturing
Research Identifier**: RFA-019**

POC: Curtis Hill curtis.w.hill@nasa.gov

3.5 Center for Design and Space Architecture

Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD)
Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

NASA Contacts:

Center for Design and Space Architecture
NASA Johnson Space Center
Robert L. Howard, Jr., Ph.D. robert.l.howard@nasa.gov

Research Focus Area: Crew-worn restraints and mobility aids for microgravity spacecraft cabin environments

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-020**

POC: Robert L. Howard, Jr., Ph.D. robert.l.howard@nasa.gov

Explanation: Traditionally, microgravity spacecraft cabins have included restraints and mobility aids such as handrails and foot restraints to enable crew to navigate the interior of the vehicle in the weightless conditions of orbital spaceflight. This focus area is concerned with alternatives to vehicle-based restraints and mobility aids. Instead, this research area investigates passive (non-powered) restraints and mobility aids that are worn on the crew members' clothing or carried on their person, such that the spacecraft does not need to provide any hardware to enable crew restraint and mobility.
POC: Robert L. Howard, Jr., Ph.D.

Research Focus Area: Crew quarters internal architectures compatible with both microgravity and fractional gravity domains

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-021**

POC: Robert L. Howard, Jr., Ph.D. robert.l.howard@nasa.gov

Explanation: NASA and commercial industry are developing plans for human missions to destinations including the Moon, Mars, and deep space. Traditionally, each destination has been viewed in isolation, with spacecraft designed uniquely for that environment. Additionally, there are very few NASA standards that govern the design of crew quarters. This focus area investigates common designs for crew quarters that can be used across lunar habitats, Mars habitats, and deep space habitats, including the definition of functions and capabilities to be included in crew quarters, as well as the design and layout of components needed to implement these functions and capabilities.

Research Focus Area: Repair, Manufacturing, And Fabrication (RMAF) Facility for the Common Habitat Architecture

Research Identifier**: RFA-022**

PC: Robert L. Howard, Jr., Ph.D. robert.l.howard@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Missions beyond LEO are challenging for traditional survivability paradigms such as redundancy management, reliability, sparing, orbital replacement, and mission aborts. Distances, transit durations, crew time limitations, onboard expertise, vehicle capabilities, and other factors significantly limit the ability of human spaceflight crews to respond to in-flight anomalies. There is a need for a Repair, Manufacturing, and Fabrication (RMAF) facility to increase the capability of the crew to recover from spacecraft component failures by combing aspects of machine shop, soft goods lab, and repair shop into an IVA capability for both microgravity and surface spacecraft. An RMAF is responsible for restoring damaged components to working order (repair), keeping components in service or properly functioning (maintenance), and creating new components from raw or scavenged materials (fabrication). This responsibility extends not only to the habitat, but to all other elements sharing the same destination environment (e.g., landers, rovers, robots, power systems, science instruments, etc.). The RMAF serves both the physical operability needs of the architectural systems and contributes in two ways to the psychological well-being of the crew: one the peace of mind from understanding the capacity to respond to failures, and two, the capacity to fabricate items that serve recreational or relaxation purposes. The RMAF has potential applicability to a wide variety of in-space habitation needs.

NASA is exploring space architectures that can serve as next steps to build upon the current Artemis program. The Common Habitat Architecture Study is based on a suite of common spacecraft elements that can be used for long-duration human spaceflight in multiple destinations, including the Moon, Mars, and deep space. NASA is seeking engineering and architectural research to aid in the development of an RMAF facility capable of packaging within mid deck of the Common Habitat, a Skylab-like habitat that uses the Space Launch System (SLS) core stage liquid oxygen tank as the primary structure, with a horizontal orientation. Because most habitats intended for use beyond LEO do not return to Earth, yet may operate for decades, it can be assumed that even low probability failures will eventually occur and there must be a way to recover from them and continue the mission. Thus, the Common Habitat must include the RMAF capability. The RMAF speaks to an overarching gap of inability to mitigate spacecraft component failures. Limited in-space experiments have been conducted with 3D printing, welding, soldering, and other RMAF tools, but they have yet to be integrated into an operable spacecraft facility. The RMAF goes beyond the replacement of failed components with spares and focuses on the capabilities to restore failed components to working order, making them effectively the new spare.

1) Research Focus:

Proposed studies will assess the needs of an RMAF system for long-duration, deep space habitation and create one design solution to increase crew and vehicle survivability. Prior research has identified a list of 53 component-level critical failures that could render a subsystem or element inoperable. Fourteen repair, maintenance, and fabrication functions have been identified as collectively being able to recover a system from any of these failures. This establishes the target capability of the RMAF. Proposers will design a workspace within the volume limitations of the Common Habitat, while still accommodating these fourteen functions and will determine the associated mass impacts.

Critical Failures Requiring RMAF

1. Actuator FOD
2. Actuator overpressure
3. Actuator underpressure
4. Adhesive failure
5. Bad wireless connection
6. Belt break
7. Broken cables
8. Broken electrical connection
9. Broken physical structure
10. Bulb burnout
11. Bulb shatter
12. C&W software failure
13. Connector overtorque
14. Connector pin/connection failure
15. Connector under torque
16. Consumable depletion
17. Cracked housing
18. Cracked screen
19. Debris clog
20. Debris impact damage
21. Debris in motor
22. Diaphragm damage (digital)
23. Electrical lead failure
24. Electrical short
25. Fabric erosion
26. Fabric tear
27. Failed electrical connection
28. Fin breakage / bending/ding
29. Fluid line rupture
30. Fuse blown
31. Kinked line
32. Material abrasion / erosion
33. Material corrosion
34. Material delamination
35. Material stretching
36. Motor failure
37. Physical obstruction
38. Potting failure
39. Power surge
40. Pressure bladder puncture, tear, or rip
41. Spring too weak or too stiff
42. Structural bending
43. Structural buckling
44. Structural burst
45. Structural crack/fracture
46. Structural deformation
47. Structural gouge
48. Structural membrane disjoin
49. Structural rupture / puncture
50. Structural seal failure
51. Structural shear
52. Surface chemical contamination
53. Wire detach, split, tear, rip, or break

Generic RMAF Functions to Repair Critical Failures

1. Soldering
2. Drilling
3. Metal cutting and bending
4. Metallurgical analysis
5. Bonding metal, composite, and other surfaces
6. Electronics analysis and repair
7. Computer/Avionics inspection/testing and repair
8. CAD Modeling / Software Coding / Computer Analysis
9. Material Handling (inclusive of the range from large ORUs and small fasteners)
10. Precision Maintenance (manipulation, inspection, repair of small/delicate components)
11. 3D Printing (metal, plastic, and printed circuit board)

12. Soft goods (including thermoplastics, sewing, cutting, and patching)
13. Dust/Particle/Fume Mitigation
14. Welding

A design solution should include a mass equipment list (MEL), CAD model, and Concept of Operations document. CAD models must be in a format capable of being opened by Rhino 7 and must also be suitable for incorporation in Virtual Reality using the Unreal Engine 5. Physical prototyping and iterative human-in-the-loop (HITL) testing are encouraged but are not required.

2) **References:**

[1] Howard, Robert, "Opportunities and Challenges of a Common Habitat for Transit and Surface Operations," in 2019 IEEE Aerospace, Big Sky, MT, 2019.

[2] Howard, Robert, "Stowage Assessment of the Common Habitat Baseline Variants," in 2020 AIAA ASCEND, Virtual Conference, 2020.

[3] Howard, Robert, "Design Variants of a Common Habitat for Moon and Mars Exploration," 2020 AIAA ASCEND, AIAA, Virtual Conference, 2020.

[4] Howard, Robert, "A Multi-Gravity Docking and Utilities Transfer System for a Common Habitat Architecture," in 2021 AIAA ASCEND, Las Vegas, NV + Virtual, 2021.

[5] Howard, Robert, "A Two-Chamber Multi-Functional Airlock for a Common Habitat Architecture," in 2021 AIAA ASCEND, Las Vegas, NV + Virtual, 2021.

[6] Howard, Robert, "A Common Habitat Base camp for Moon and Mars Surface Operations," in 2021 AIAA ASCEND, Las Vegas, NV + Virtual, 2021.

[7] Howard, Robert, "A Common Habitat Deep Space Exploration Vehicle for Transit and Orbital Operations," in 2021 AIAA ASCEND, Las Vegas, NV + Virtual, 2021.

[8] Howard, Robert. "A Safe Haven Concept for the Common Habitat in Moon, Mars, and Transit Environments." 2021 AIAA ASCEND. Las Vegas, NV + Virtual. November 8-17, 2021.

[9] Howard, Robert, "Down-Selection of Four Common Habitat Variants," in 2022 IEEE Aerospace, Big Sky, MT, 2022.

[10] Howard, Robert, "Internal Architecture of the Common Habitat," in 2022 IEEE Aerospace Conference, Big Sky, Montana, 2022.

3) **Proposer-Coordinated Contributions to Proposed Work:**
Proposer to indicate any contributions to the proposed work that the Proposer has arranged, in the event of a NASA award, and that would be in addition to NASA EPSCoR awarded funding. This may include funding or other in-kind contributions such as materials or services (Proposal should indicate the estimated value of the latter)

   a. **From Jurisdiction or Organization that would partner with the Jurisdiction**
   Encouraged but None are required. Proposer shall indicate if any has been arranged for the proposed work.

4) **Other NASA-Coordinated Contributions to Proposed Work**
The following contributions will be provided to the proposed work that would be in addition to NASA EPSCOR awarded funding, and in the event of an award.

   a. **From NASA organization other than EPSCoR**
   None.

b. **From Organization partnering with NASA**
None.

5) **Additional Agreement Clauses applicable to Cooperative Agreements awarded for this Call Area**
Nonadditional.

6) **Intellectual Property Rights:** All technologies developed through this research will be submitted through NASA's New Technology Reporting System prior to any public dissemination. Unless otherwise determined by the NASA New Technology Office, all data and analysis methods will be publicly available and no intellectual property rights will be assigned to any of the parties involved in this research. Proposer to indicate any specific intellectual property considerations in the Proposal.
7) **Additional Information:**
NASA will support a telecon with the Proposer prior to the submission of Proposals, to answer Proposer's questions and discuss Proposers anticipated approach towards this Research Request. Contact information is provided in section (5). NASA welcomes opportunities to co-publish results proposed by EPSCoR awardee. NASA goal is for widest possible eventual dissemination of the results from this work when other restrictions allow.

3.6 Astrophysics

Science Mission Directorate (SMD)

Research Focus Area: Astrophysics Technology Development

Research Identifier**: RFA-023**

POCs: Dr. Hashima Hasan hhasan@nasa.gov
Dr. Mario Perez mario.perez@nasa.gov

NASA's strategic objective in astrophysics is to discover how the universe works, explore how it began and evolved, and search for life on planets around other stars. Three broad scientific questions flow from this objective:

- How does the universe work?
- How did we get here?
- Are we alone?

Each of these questions is accompanied by a science goal that shapes the Astrophysics Division's efforts towards fulfilling NASA's strategic objective:

- Probe the origin and destiny of our universe, including the nature of black holes, dark energy, dark matter and gravity

- Explore the origin and evolution of the galaxies, stars and planets that make up our universe
- Discover and study planets around other stars, and explore whether they could harbor life

To address these Astrophysics goals, the Astrophysics Research Analysis and Technology Program invites a wide range of astrophysics science investigations from space that can be broadly placed in the following categories.

(i) The development of new technology covering all wavelengths and fundamental particles, that can be applied to future space flight missions. This includes, but is not limited to, detector development, and optical components such as primary or secondary mirrors, coatings, gratings, filters, and spectrographs.

(ii) New technologies and techniques that may be tested by flying them on suborbital platforms such as rockets and balloons that are developed and launched by commercial suborbital flight providers or from NASA's launch range facilities, or by flying them on small and innovative orbital platforms such as CubeSats.

(iii) Studies in laboratory astrophysics. Examples of these studies could include atomic and molecular data and properties of plasmas explored under conditions approximating those of astrophysical environments.

(iv) Theoretical studies and simulations that advance the goals of the astrophysics program

(v) Analysis of data that could lead to original discoveries from space astrophysics missions. This could include the compilations of catalogs, statistical studies, algorithms and pattern recognition, artificial intelligence applications, development of data pipelines, etc.

(vi) Citizen Science programs, which are a form of open collaboration in which individuals or organizations participate voluntarily in the scientific process, are also invited. The current SMD Policy (https://smd-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/science-red/s3fs-public/atoms/files/SPD%2033%20Citizen%20Science.pdf) on citizen science describes standards for evaluating proposed and funded SMD citizen science projects. For more information see the https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience webpage, that provides information about existing SMD-funded projects.

(vii) Great Observatory Maturation Program (GOMAP): : https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/programs/gomap

Proposals should address the goals of the Science Mission Directorate's (SMD) Astrophysics Research Program, defined in SMD's *Science 2020-2024: A Vision for Scientific Excellence* (available at http://science.nasa.gov/about-us/science-strategy). Proposers are encouraged to read this *NASA Science Plan*, the *Astrophysics Roadmap* (available at https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/documents/astrophysics-roadmap), and the report of National Academy of Sciences Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics 2020, *Pathways to Discovery in Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 2020s*,(available at https://www.nap.edu/catalog/26141/pathways- to-discovery-in-astronomy-and-astrophysics-for-the-2020s)

Investigations submitted to the Astrophysics research program should explicitly support past, present, or future NASA astrophysics missions. These investigations can include theory, simulation, data analysis, and technology development. Information on the Astrophysics research program and missions is available at https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics.

3.7 NASA Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS)

Science Mission Directorate (SMD)
NASA Headquarters Biological and Physical Sciences Division

Research Focus Area: Fundamental Physics
Research Identifier**: RFA-024**
POC: Mike Robinson michael.p.robinson@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Quantum mechanics is one of the most successful theories in physics. It describes the very small, such as atoms and their formation into the complex molecules necessary for life, to structures as large as cosmic strings. The behavior of exotic matter such as superfluids and neutron stars is explained by quantum mechanics, as are everyday phenomena such as the transmission of electricity and heat by metals. The frontline of modern quantum science involves cross-cutting fundamental and applied research. For example, world-wide efforts concentrate on harnessing quantum coherence and entanglement for applications such as the enhanced sensing of electromagnetic fields, secure communications, and the exponential speed-up of quantum computing. This area is tightly coupled to research on the foundations of quantum mechanics, which involves exotica such as many-worlds theory and the interface between classical and quantum behavior. Another frontier encompasses understanding how novel quantum matter—such as high-temperature superconductivity and topological states—emerges from the interactions between many quantum particles. Quantum science is also central to the field of precision measurement, which seeks to expand our knowledge of the underlying principles and symmetries of the universe by testing ideas such as the equivalence between gravitational and inertial mass.

Quantum physics is a cornerstone of our understanding of the universe. The importance of quantum mechanics is extraordinarily wide ranging, from explaining emergent phenomena such as superconductivity, to underpinning next-generation technologies such as quantum computers, quantum communication networks, and sensor technologies. Laser-cooled cold atoms are a versatile platform for quantum physics on Earth, and one that can greatly benefit from space-based research. The virtual elimination of gravity in the reference frame of a free-flying space vehicle enables cold atom experiments to achieve longer observation times and colder temperatures than are possible on Earth. The NASA Fundamental Physics program plans to support research in quantum physics that will lead to transformational outcomes, such as the discovery of phenomena at the intersection of quantum mechanics and general relativity that inform a unified theory, the direct detection of dark matter via atom interferometry or atomic clocks, and the creation of exotic quantum matter than cannot exist on Earth.

Research Focus: Proposals are sought for ground-based theory and experimental research that may help to develop concepts for future flight experiments. Research in field effects in quantum superposition and entanglement are of particular interest.

Additional Information: All publications that result from an awarded EPSCOR study shall acknowledge NASA Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS). Additional information on BPS can be found at: https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical

Research Focus Area: Soft Matter Physics
Research Identifier**: RFA-025**
POC: Mike Robinson michael.p.robinson@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Granular material is one of the key focus areas of research in the field of soft matter. The fundamental understanding of physics of granular materials under different gravity condition is of key importance for deep space exploration and long-term habitation to sample collection from asteroids to improving the understanding of granular material handling on earth. Also, fundamental understanding of granular materials can help us understand motions in large bodies on earth (e.g.- landslides) that can help us save lives in case of natural emergencies.

Research Focus: This research topic focuses on developing fundamental knowledge base in the field of-

- Rheology of granular materials (both wet and dry)
  - Impact of anisotropy and structure
  - Impact of electrostatic charging
- In depth understanding of stress distribution in granular materials
- Dynamics of interparticle interaction and short range forces in granular materials

Both experimental and theoretical/numerical work will be in scope.

Additional Information: All publications that result from an awarded EPSCOR study shall acknowledge NASA Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS). Additional information on BPS can be found at: https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical

Research Focus Area: Fluid Physics
Research Identifier**: RFA-026**

POC: Brad Carpenter bcarpenter@nasa.gov

Research Overview: The goal of the microgravity fluid physics program is to understand fluid behavior of physical systems in space, providing a foundation for predicting, controlling, and improving a vast range of technological processes. Specifically, in reduced gravity, the absence of buoyancy and the stronger influence of capillary forces can have a dramatic effect on fluid behavior. For example, capillary flows in space can pump fluids to higher levels than those achieved on Earth. In the case of systems where phase-change heat transfer is required, experimental results demonstrate that bubbles will not rise under pool boiling conditions in microgravity, resulting in a change in the heat transfer rate at the heater surface. The microgravity experimental data can be used to verify computational fluid dynamics models. These improved models can then be utilized by future spacecraft designers to predict the performance of fluid conditions in space exploration systems such as air revitalization, solid waste management, water recovery, thermal control, cryogenic storage and transfer, energy conversion systems, and liquid propulsion systems.

Research Focus: The research area of fluid physics includes the following themes:

Adiabatic two-phase flow
Boiling and condensation
Capillary flow
Interfacial phenomena
Cryogenic propellant storage and transfer

Additional Information: All publications that result from an awarded EPSCOR study shall acknowledge NASA Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS). Additional information on BPS can be found at: https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical

Research Focus Area: Combustion Science
Research Identifier**: RFA-027**
POC: Brad Carpenter bcarpenter@nasa.gov

Research Overview: One of the goals of the microgravity combustion science research program is to improve combustion processes, leading to added benefits to human health, comfort, and safety. NASA's microgravity combustion science research focuses on effects that can be studied in the absence of buoyancy-driven flows caused by Earth's gravity. Research conducted without the interference of buoyant flows can lead to an improvement in combustion efficiency, producing a considerable economic and environmental impact. Combustion science is also relevant to a range of challenges for long-term human exploration of space that involve reacting systems in reduced and low gravity. These challenges include: spacecraft fire prevention; fire detection and suppression; thermal processing of regolith for oxygen and water production; thermal processing of the Martian atmosphere for fuel and oxidizer production; and processing of waste and other organic matter for stabilization and recovery of water, oxygen and carbon. Substantial progress in any of these areas will be accelerated significantly by an active reduced- gravity combustion research program.

Research Focus: The research area of combustion science includes the following themes:

Spacecraft fire safety
Droplets
Gaseous – premixed and non-premixed
High pressure – transcritical combustion and supercritical reacting fluids
Solid fuels

Additional Information: All publications that result from an awarded EPSCOR study shall acknowledge NASA Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS). Additional information on BPS can be found at: https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical

NASA Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS)
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) / EM41

Research Focus Area: Materials Science
Research Identifier**: RFA-028**
POC: Brad Carpenter bcarpenter@nasa.gov

Research Overview: The goal of the microgravity materials science program is to improve the understanding of materials properties that will enable the development of higher-performing materials and processes for use both in space and on Earth. The program takes advantage of the unique features of the microgravity environment, where gravity-driven phenomena, such as sedimentation and thermosolutal convection, are nearly negligible. On Earth, natural convection leads to dendrite deformation and clustering, whereas in microgravity, in the absence of buoyant flow, the dendritic structure is nearly uniform. Major types of research that can be investigated include solidification effects and the resulting morphology, as well as accurate and precise measurement of thermophysical property data. These data can be used to develop computational models. The ability to predict microstructures accurately is a promising computational tool for advancing materials science and manufacturing.

Research Focus: The research area of materials science includes the following themes:

Glasses and ceramics
Granular materials
Metals
Polymers and organics
Semiconductors

Additional Information: All publications that result from an awarded EPSCOR study shall acknowledge NASA Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS). Additional information on BPS can be found at: https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical

Research Focus Area: Growth of plants in inhospitable "deep space-relevant" Earth soils or conditions
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-029**
POC: Sharmila Bhattacharya SpaceBiology@nasaprs.com

Research Overview: As human exploration beings to move further out beyond Low Earth Orbit (BLEO), exploration missions will need to become increasingly self-sufficient, and will not be able to rely as heavily on resupply efforts from Earth, as they now do within Low Earth Orbit (LEO). The NASA Space Biology Program, therefore, as part of its initiative to enable organisms to Thrive in DEep Space (TiDES), is particularly interested in basic research that will ultimately translate into the ability to grow edible plants and crops in deep space environments. Research supported by our program has already demonstrated that 1) edible plants can be grown in the LEO environment of the International Space Station (Massa et al., 2017), and that 2) model (non-edible) plant organisms can germinate from seeds planted in lunar regolith obtained from the Apollo 11, 12, and 17 missions (Paul et al. 2022; for a historic perspective refer to Ferl and Paul, 2010). While both these results are very promising, there is still much work that needs to be done to move exploration efforts to the point where astronauts can begin to think about practicing agriculture in harsh deep space environments such as the lunar and Martian surfaces.

While much of Space Biology's funded plant research efforts have focused on experiments conducted in spacecraft, or in the presence of simulated spaceflight/deep-space stressors, the program is interested in exploring another potential niche that exists here on Earth that may provide important insights into how both plants and the surrounding environment can be manipulated to support crop growth under harsh, inhospitable conditions. As early humans spread out across the globe, they have repeatedly encountered extreme environments that were far from being innately supportive of agriculture and settlement. Despite these challenges, humans have often found ways to live and even flourish in such environments, either by finding food sources that were robust enough to grow under such conditions, and/or by altering the terrain through irrigation and natural farming (soil modification with natural composts, crop rotation, etc.) to enable crop growth. Therefore, for this opportunity, Space Biology is soliciting proposals that will provide insights into how plants grow and continue to adapt to Earth's extreme geochemically diverse environments, as well as how these environments can be manipulated to support such growth.

Research Focus: This Space Biology Research Emphasis requests proposals for hypothesis-driven studies that will either provide a better understanding of the mechanisms by which some plants are able grow and thrive in extreme or geochemically diverse environments on Earth or will identify plants and/or alternative methods that can be used to facilitate plant/crop growth in such extreme environments. Ideally, pilot studies funded from this opportunity will lead to additional future funded research that may translate to improved agricultural methods and tools that can be utilized in extreme environments on earth and eventually in harsh environments of the lunar and Martian surfaces.

Such topics of study may include, but are not limited to:

- Characterizing the molecular and/or biological mechanisms by which plants already known for their agricultural robustness are able to grow in soil types found in Earth's more extreme environments, including volcanic soils and sands (deserts), clay, etc. Particular emphasis may be given to edible plants.
- Identifying new plants that are able to grow in such soil samples and characterizing their growth and vitality.
- Genetic modification of plants to improve growth and robustness in such soils.
- Identifying or engineering microbiomes that will optimize plant growth and vitality in such soils.
- Testing or developing new composting methods or other natural methods of enrich such soils which will enable them to better support plant growth.

If logistics and costs permit, proposed studies may be conducted on location directly in the types of environments mentioned above, however, proposed studies may also use soil samples collected (or purchased) from these environments. It will be up to the proposer to identify the extreme environment/soil samples they will use for their studies, as well as provide justification in their proposal as to why these environments/soils were chosen and have relevance to space exploration.

Additional Information: All publications that result from an awarded EPSCOR study shall acknowledge NASA Space Biology Program. If the NASA GeneLab Data Systems (genelab.nasa.gov) is used, GeneLab shall be referenced in the resulting publication and included in the keyword list. All omics data obtained from this study shall be uploaded to the NASA GeneLab (https://genelab.nasa.gov).

References:

Ferl RJ, Paul AL. Lunar plant biology--a review of the Apollo era. Astrobiology. 2010 Apr;10. doi/10.1089/ast.2009.04173:261-73. doi: 10.1089/ast.2009.0417.

Massa GD, Dufour NF, Carver JA, Hummerick ME, Wheeler RM, Morrow RC, Smith TM. VEG-01: Veggie hardware validation testing on the International Space Station. Open Agriculture. 2017 Feb;2(1):33-41. doi.org/10.1515/opag-2017-0003 , Feb-2017.

Paul AL, Elardo SM, Ferl R. Plants grown in Apollo lunar regolith present stress-associated transcriptomes that inform prospects for lunar exploration. Commun Biol. 2022 May 12;5(1):382. doi: 10.1038/s42003-022-03334-8. PMID: 35552509; PMCID: PMC9098553.

Research Focus Area: Commercially Enabled Rapid Space Science Project (CERISS)
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-030**
POC: Dr. Lisa Carnell; lisa.a.scottcarnell@nasa.gov

Research Overview: The Commercially Enabled Rapid Space Science initiative (CERISS) will develop transformative research capabilities with commercial space industry to dramatically increase the pace of research. Long-range goals include conducting scientist astronaut missions on the International Space Station and commercial low-earth orbit (LEO) destinations and develop automated hardware for experiments beyond low Earth orbit, such as to the lunar surface.

The benefits will include a 10-to-100-fold faster pace of research for a wide range of research sponsored by Biological and Physical Sciences Division, the NASA Human Research Program, other government agencies, and industry. Another benefit will be the increased demand for research and development in low earth orbit, facilitating growth of the commercial space industry.

Research Focus: Advancement of capabilities in the following areas are of particular interest:

Sample preparation; characterization of materials (e.g. differential scanning calorimetry, x-ray diffraction, fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, etc.); and analysis of samples (e.g. fluorescent activated cell sorting, protein and -omics, imaging, etc.)

Additional Information: All publications that result from an awarded EPSCOR study shall acknowledge NASA Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS). Further information on CERISS is available at: https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical/commercial.

3.8 Commercial Space Capabilities (CSC)

Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD)

NASA Johnson Space Center

The Commercial Space Capabilities (CSC) Research Interest area supports the Commercial Low Earth Orbit Development Program of NASA's Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD). This area's purpose is to harness the capabilities of the U.S. research community to advance research and perform initial proofs / validations, that improve technologies of interest to the U.S. commercial spaceflight industry. The intent is to address the commercially riskiest portion of implementing new and improved technologies ("Innovation Valley of Death") to advance science and technologies from TRL1 through to TRL3. U.S. commercial spaceflight industry can then assess and determine implementation.
The overall goal of this area is to encourage and facilitate a robust and competitive U.S. low Earth orbit economy. Efforts that primarily benefit near-Earth commercial activities but that may also be extensible Moon and/or Mars are also in scope.

Research Focus Area: In-Space Welding

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-031**
POC: Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Research and initially demonstrate (in 1g) metal welding suitable for being directly exposed to space vacuum/0g. Metals of interest are those typically used for spacecraft structures and plumbing. (Extensibility to being used while exposed to Moon vac/g, and/or Mars atm/g environments could be a secondary interest.) Potential applications include the in-space assembly of very large structures that are too bulky or heavy to launch in one piece, and *in situ* repair or modifications. Consider weld processes suitable for incorporation into a robotic or EVA crew tool. A related secondary interest is for a metal cutting operation suitable for incorporation into a robotic or EVA crew tool. For cutting operations consider debris generation and how to control.

Research Focus Area: Materials and Processes Improvements for Chemical Propulsion State of Art (SoA)

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-032**
POC: Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Propose and demonstrate improvements for launch, entry, and/or in-space chemical propulsion (of any type), to improve performance, reduce cost, enable new capabilities, and/or improve/simplify manufacturing. For this topic, when a current SoA exists, identify the shortcoming in the current SoA that the improvement addresses. NASA is specifically interested in proposed work in two subtopics:
Increase the knowledgebase of methane/natural gas/oxygen/air characteristics and combustion, pertinent to spaceflight applications. For this subtopic the Proposer should identify any current knowledge gaps that the work would try to address.
Develop new computational simulation tool(s) for Methane/Natural Gas Plume Combustibility modelling specifically for spaceflight applications. Tool would use inputs for: vehicle/storage tank dimensions/ shape (e.g. IGES file), vent locations / separation distance, venting rate, species (Methane and Natural Gas mixtures, Oxygen, air) characteristics, and total propellant masses. Tool would then perform thermophysical calculations to estimate potential of developing combustible / explosive mixtures and the potential explosive force / quantity distance, and considering the effects of: ambient wind and atmospheric condition. Petroleum Industry and Governmental standards / procedures should also be considered. Scenarios to assess are:
Launch vehicle boiloff of cryogenic propellants while on pad prior to launch.
Launch site storage tank boiloff of liquified methane/natural gas and oxygen.

Research Focus Area: Materials and Processes Improvements for Electric Propulsion State of Art (SoA)

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-033**
POC: Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Propose and demonstrate improvements for solar powered electric propulsion suitable for cislunar application, to improve performance, reduce cost, enable new capabilities, and/or improve/simplify manufacturing. For this topic; i) Proposer may contact NASA to schedule a pre-proposal telecon to discuss approach and understand details. ii) Proposer must describe the existing personnel skill and expertise, and facility capabilities to perform the work such as material finishing/processing, testing, inspection, and failure analysis.

NASA is specifically interested in proposed work to any of these three subtopics:

1) Material Properties: An evaluation of the bulk mechanical, thermal, and electrical properties of several common commercially available grades of material in environments relevant to thruster designs.
   a. Specific grades and in some cases samples can be provided by NASA and may include graphite, ceramics, refractories, aluminum, titanium, stainless steel, Inconel, Kovar, and other materials commonly used in thruster designs.
   b. Properties of interest include mechanical strength (flexural and compressive), low cycle fatigue, high cycle fatigue, toughness, slow crack growth, elastic modulus, Poisson’s ratio, thermal conductivity, electrical conductivity, emissivity, thermal expansion, and outgas properties.
   c. Environments of interest include ambient temperature, low temperature (-40ºC), thruster temperature (600ºC), and cathode temperature (1100ºC).
   d. This work is intended to help fill gaps in open literature for common properties and materials used by the electric propulsion community to aid in design and analysis.

2) Material Deposition: An evaluation of material deposition resulting from ion beam sputtering of commonly used EP materials onto common spacecraft materials. Data shall include the following:
   a. Phase of the material deposited
   b. Whether the deposits are conductive or insulating
   c. Deposition rate compared to sputter yield based predictions,
   d. When/if spalling of the deposition occur.

3) Krypton Sputter Erosion: An evaluation of the sputter erosion of common thruster, spacecraft, and related materials from Krypton ion bombardment. The materials will be exposed to Krypton ion beams and the following will be determined:
   a. The dependence of the total yield with ion energies in the general range of tens to volts up to 1 kV
   b. Dependence of the total yield with ion incidence angles from normal to near grazing, and/or
   c. Differential yield profiles at various energies and incidence angles.

Materials of interest include graphite, ceramics, coverglass, kapton, composites, and/or anodized coatings. This effort may be combined with the Material Deposition effort as appropriate including possibly measurement of sticking coefficients of the sputtered products

Research Focus Area: Improvements to Space Solar Power State of Art (SoA)

Research Identifier: **RFA-034**
POC: Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Propose and demonstrate improvements for solar power generation (of any type) suitable for cis-lunar in-space application (e.g. space stations, satellites, power beaming), to improve performance, reduce cost, enable new capabilities, and/or improve/simplify manufacturing. NASA is especially interested in these two subtopics:

1) Improvements for in-space photovoltaics compared to current spaceflight solar array SoA.
2) Engineering trade studies of other solar power production methods (e.g. concentrators, thermodynamic cycles, etc.) compared to current SoA space photovoltaic systems. Considerations would include: Technology readiness and gaps, launch volume and mass with respect to current US launch vehicles, peak/steady state power and characteristics, efficiency, operational considerations, in-space lifetime/performance degradation, energy storage, orbit and distance, and identifying break points and sweet spots.

Research Focus Area: Small Reentry Systems

Research Identifier: **RFA-035**
POC: Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Design and demonstrate reentry systems that can be deployed from low Earth orbit to perform a self-guided intact reentry to return small cargo contained inside them intact to Earth. Cargo might include science samples, space-manufactured items, etc. An alternate use is to recover flight data recorders from destructively reentering technology demonstrators to allow retrieving large amounts of telemetry without the use of communications satellites. Passively guided systems are preferred. Such reentry systems might need to be safely storable inside crewed in-space platforms so preference is to not use hazardous materials. Hazards for people/property on the Earth resulting from reentry must be considered. Landing on ground is preferred to simplify and expedite recovery.

Research Focus Area: Other Commercial Space Topic
Research Identifier: **RFA-036**

POC: Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov

NASA is receptive to topics in this Research Interest Area that it may not have already identified if a strong case can be made for these. The Proposer may therefore propose other topics as follows:

1) The proposed Topic must be consistent with the Intent and goal of this CSC Area.

2) The proposal must include a strong letter of support from a U.S. commercial company that describes the company's need for the work and any arrangements with the Proposer.
3) Before submitting the proposal for such a topic, the Proposer must discuss with NASA per CSC NASA Contact listed in the following page.

Additional Instructions for Proposals in this CSC Interest Area (RFA-031 through RFA-036):

A. Content

1. Proposals should discuss how the effort is anticipated to align with U.S. commercial spaceflight company interest(s). Proposers are encouraged to contact U.S. commercial spaceflight companies to understand current research challenges.
2. Proposals should identify the estimated starting and end point of the currently proposed effort in terms of Technology Readiness Level (TRL) https://www.nasa.gov/pdf/458490main_TRL_Definitions.pdf), and what subsequent work might be anticipated to achieve TRL5.
3. If there is an existing SoA, state how proposed work would address an identified need/shortcoming (not just a "nice to have").
4. Describe proposing Institution's and Co-I/Sci-I's relevant capabilities and prior work. Compare and contrast proposed work against prior and existing work by others. (Weblinks preferred. Does not count against the Technical page limit.)
5. Work must produce a final report and delivery of developed design concept and data (as applicable).
6. Proposers can assume that technically knowledgeable NASA engineers and scientists will be reviewing the Proposal – so Proposer should focus on technical/scientific specifics.
7. NASA anticipates that depending on the specifics of the proposed work, the Proposer *may* need to implement Export Controls (e.g. EAR or ITAR). Proposer should identify in their proposal whether they believe Export Control would apply, and identify (e.g. weblink) institutional export control methods/policy in the proposal's Data Management Plan. Proposer may contact NASA PoC to discuss prior to submitting proposal.
8. For Rapid Response Research (R3) proposals to this CSC interest area, the Technical portion of the proposal may be up to five (5) pages.

B. Contributions to Proposed Work other than NASA EPSCoR

Proposer-coordinated contributions from Jurisdiction, or Organizations (especially US commercial entities) that would partner with the Jurisdiction, are welcomed but not required. If there are such contributions then the Proposer must state what has been arranged, include funding or other in-kind contributions such as materials or services and indicate the estimated value of these.

C. Intellectual Property

Proposer to indicate any intellectual property considerations in the Proposal.

D. Publishing of Results

NASA welcomes opportunities to co-publish results as proposed by EPSCoR awardee, and its goal is for widest possible eventual dissemination of the results of the Researcher(s) work, to the extent other restrictions (e.g. Export Control) allow. For results that must be controlled, NASA will work with Researcher to present accordingly, and make data available in access controlled databases such as MAPTIS database https://maptis.nasa.gov/ .

E. NASA Contact

The CSC NASA Contact will support a telecon with the Proposer prior to the submission of their Proposal, to answer questions and discuss anticipated approach towards this Research Request. NASA Contact will coordinate support from within NASA as needed to provide subject matter expertise/limited consultation in event of award. (If Proposer has already discussed with and NASA or JPL personnel please identify so they might be able to support telecon.)

3.9 NASA Digital Transformation (DT)

Science Mission Directorate (SMD)

Jill Marlow, NASA Digital Transformation Officer
Marlowe, Jill M (HQ-JA000) jill.marlowe@nasa.govt

Patrick Murphy, NASA Digital Transformation – Portfolio Integration
PATRICK MURPHY patrick.murphy@nasa.gov

NASA DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

NASA Digital Transformation is an agency strategic initiative that aims to accelerate our efforts to modernize and transform NASA using digital advances — by synchronizing DT investments across NASA and catalyzing DT progress by attacking cross-cutting barriers to technology readiness & adoption.

Since 1958, NASA's enduring purpose centers around a mission to discover, explore, innovate, and advance solutions to the problems of flight, within and outside the Earth's atmosphere, for the benefit of humankind. With each new technological revolution, our agency continued to deliver on this mission. Now, the wide-scale adoption of numerous digital advances—cloud computing, data analytics, artificial intelligence, augmented/virtual reality, and others—calls for us to rise to the occasion yet again.

It is vital for us to undergo fundamental digital transformation in order to thrive in a more competitive digital workplace, become more efficient with our resources, and ensure safety from increasing digital threats. In late 2020, NASA established an Enterprise Digital Transformation (DT) agency-level strategic initiative to carry out such an endeavor.
NASA’s DT Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan outlines the DT initiative’s approach for digitally transforming NASA. By transforming Engineering, Discovery, Operations and Decision Making, we will reach outcomes ensuring continued mission success well into the future. Our world is changing—and so must NASA.

Research Focus Area: Zero Trust, Cybersecurity Mesh Architecture, and Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Realtime Cyber Defense
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-037**

NASA Digital Transformation – Zero Trust Foundations; Strategy and Architecture Office (SAO)
NASA Langley Research Center
POC: Mark Stanley, mark.a.stanley-1@nasa.gov

Cybersecurity Engineering Office (CSE)
NASA Headquarters
POC: Dennis daCruz dennis.m.dacruz@nasa.gov

Research Overview: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), in its Special Publication (SP) 800-207, "Zero Trust Architecture," refers to the increasingly complex enterprise which has "led to the development of a new model for cybersecurity known as "zero trust" (ZT). A ZT approach is primarily focused on data and service protection but can and should be expanded to include all enterprise assets (devices, infrastructure components, applications, virtual and cloud components) and subjects (end users, applications and other nonhuman entities that request information from resources)." While the Zero Trust Framework evolved from its roots in the original Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Maturity Model to the latest Forrester Research-defined Zero Trust eXtended Framework, another construct emerged; namely, Cybersecurity Mesh Architecture (CSMA). Gartner defines CSMA as "a composable and scalable approach to extending security controls, even to widely distributed assets. Its flexibility is especially suitable for increasingly modular approaches consistent with hybrid multi-cloud architectures. CSMA enables a more composable, flexible and resilient security ecosystem. Rather than every security tool running in a silo, a cybersecurity mesh enables tools to interoperate through several supportive layers, such as consolidated policy management, security intelligence and identity fabric." With a move to an ever more integrated cybersecurity ecosystem, the volume of information, in both mass and speed, that could be leveraged to properly secure and defend the information environment will exceed the human capacity to be effective.

Research Focus: Conduct research on how to optimize a representative Zero Trust information environment to morph into a CSMA and benchmark the potential network operations and cybersecurity telemetry needed to identity, protect, detect, respond, and recover in the event of adversary activity. Then, research the best way in which artificial intelligence, to include machine learning and robotic process automation, could be leveraged to secure and defend the information environment in real time.

Research Focus Area: Applied AI Ethics
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-038**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA Langley Research Center

POC: Ed McLarney, edward.l.mclarney@nasa.gov

Research Overview: There is limited research on trustworthy, responsible, ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) among a wide variety of government, industry, academic, and international organizations.

Research Focus: Conduct benchmarking research regarding trustworthy, responsible, ethical AI among a wide variety of government, industry, academic, and international organizations. Provide a summary of key AI ethics principles relevant specifically to NASA but also generalizable to other government research, development & scientific organizations. Include the topic of beginning to measure AI ethics characteristics, leveraging existing metrics best practices, and including direct & indirect, subjective and objective measures. Beyond principles and metrics, provide recommendations for behaviors and mechanisms to make application of AI ethics concrete for AI practitioners. NASA will provide documentation of NASA approaches to AI ethics, AI governance, etc. as partial data for this research.

Research Focus Area: Scaled Video ML Object Detection and Alerts
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-039**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA Langley Research Center , JSC, KSC
POC: Ed McLarney edward.l.mclarney@nasa.gov
Martin Garcia martin.garcia@nasa.gov
Mark Page mark.page@nasa.gov

Research Overview: There is limited research in mechanisms for optimizing video stream data flow for ML image analysis, reduction of full-system image recognition latencies to 3-5 seconds or less, training mechanisms to recognize additional conditions / images, robustness against inclement weather, aggregation & visualization of key information, human factors considerations for consuming the outputs, ability to train / correct ML object recognition algorithms, and ability to archive results for post-launch analysis.

Research Focus: Conduct research into mechanisms to scale machine learning object recognition and alerts to hundreds of video streams. Possible use case: monitoring video streams for space launch facilities to warn of people in danger areas or anomalies in countdown sequences. Current practices include human monitoring of key launch video streams, or small numbers of ML-assisted video streams. Research would include mechanisms for optimizing video stream data flow for ML image analysis, reduction of full-system image recognition latencies to 3-5 seconds or less, training mechanisms to recognize additional conditions / images, robustness against inclement weather, aggregation & visualization of key information, human factors considerations for consuming the outputs, ability to train / correct ML object recognition algorithms, and ability to archive results for post-launch analysis. NASA will provide guidance for the research and representative launch videos. Note: this project is not about individual ML video stream object recognition; rather it is about scaling ML video object recognition to hundreds of streams.

Research Focus Area: Verification of AI/ML algorithms for Spacecraft.
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-040**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA MSFC
POC: Scott Tashakkor scott.b.tashakkor@nasa.gov

Research Overview: AI/ML algorithms are non-deterministic by nature, they are statistical algorithms that take inputs and run through multiple nodes for output. Without the determinism and/or guarantee that the algorithm will respond in certain ways, AI/ML will be limited to only supplementary functions in Spacecraft (or aircraft). This is due to the safety of humans and space assets as well as the costs associated with these. Scientists would/could miss significant data or spacecraft can be lost.

Research Focus: Therefore, techniques for V&V of AI/ML algorithms needs to be researched and developed. AI/ML training in space assets suffers similar restrictions, and the hardware that is radiation tolerant (beyond LEO) is not developed yet. Conduct research into techniques for V&V of AI/ML algorithms, training in space assets suffers similar restrictions, and the hardware that is radiation tolerant.

Research Focus Area: Augmenting and Analyzing Requirements with Natural Language Processors.
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-041**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA MSFC

POC: Scott Tashakkor scott.b.tashakkor@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Requirements are the basis to every project; Natural Language Process (NLP) solutions can help remove the ambiguity in requirements or help people identify which requirements need to be focused on. Determining techniques to identify missing requirements needs to be studied as well. Creating higher quality requirements can be augmented with NLP to identify better language to be used and with generative AI methods can write some of the basic requirements.

Research Focus: Conduct research into creation and understanding the quality of requirements augmented with NLP to identify better language to be used and with generative AI methods.

Research Focus Area: AI/ML algorithms to obtain and improve 3-dimentional remote sensing of the Earth's aerosols, clouds, oceans and lands using advanced lidar and polarimeter data.
Research Identifier**: RFA-042**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA LaRC

POC: Snorre Stamnes snorre.a.stamnes@nasa.gov
Shan Zeng shan.zeng@nasa.gov
Yongxiang Hu yongxiang.hu-1@nasa.gov

Research Overview: High-spectral-resolution lidars, such as the NASA High-Spectral-Resolution Lidar (HSRL-1 and HSRL-2 and HALO), and multiangle, multispectral polarimeters, such as the NASA Research Scanning Polarimeter, the PolCube polarimeter, and SPEXone and HARP2 onboard the NASA PACE mission, can provide unprecedented 3-D information about the Earth's aerosols, clouds, oceans and lands.

Research Focus: Conduct research in AI/ML remote sensing algorithms to rapidly and accurately process high-spectral-resolution lidars. AI/ML algorithms are sought that can quantitatively retrieve aerosol/cloud optical and microphysical properties including aerosol/cloud optical depth (AOD), absorbing aerosols (aerosol single-scattering albedo), aerosol/cloud size (effective radius) and size distribution width (effective variance). In addition to aerosol/cloud properties, AI/ML algorithms for cloud detection, ocean and land feature detection, water-leaving radiance, surface reflectance, and albedo are also sought. An emphasis is placed on AI/ML algorithms that can make use of combined lidar and polarimeter data, or combined polarimeter and hyperspectral data. Synergistic analysis of such combined data with AI/ML algorithms can provide additional information that is difficult to retrieve using traditional methods, such as for example aerosol/cloud number concentration or PM2.5. Also, AI/ML techniques can take advantage of combined passive and active sensors to fill observation gaps between the horizontal sparsity of active sensors and the vertical sparsity of passive sensors, to improve real-time 3-D monitoring and modeling of the Earth's surface and atmosphere. AI/ML algorithms that can improve climate models, regional dynamical models, or air quality forecasting models, by learning to optimize location, time and frequency of aerosol and cloud property observations, are also sought.

Research Focus Area: ICAN-C-Obscured Vision Enhancement
Research Identifier**: RFA-043**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA MSFC

POC: Kelsey Buckles kelsey.d.buckles@nasa.gov

Research Overview: AI/ML can be used to see through dust and debris, and image processing, providing instantaneous clarity of ambient environment capability.

Research Focus: Conduct research to create a software/hardware capability to reduce visual noise. Primary objective is to reduce visual noise of blowing regolith during lunar landing.

Research Focus Area: Lox Methane HS Video Analysis.
Research Identifier**: RFA-044**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA MSFC
POC: Kelsey Buckles kelsey.d.buckles@nasa.gov

Research Overview: There is limited research in utilizing AI/ML software to identifies small scale motion detection in order to analyze a blast and characterize vapor cloud shape/position vs. time in space.

Research Focus: Conduct research to create AI/ML software that identifies small scale motion detection in order to analyze a blast and characterize vapor cloud shape/position vs. time in space. Primary function is to provide verification for Consolidated Operations, Management, Engineering and Test (COMET), Lightning Mapping Array (LMA), and Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD). Other potential uses include structural health monitoring, foreign objects and debris clearing, and military asset recovery.

Research Focus Area: Motion Mag in the Dark.
Research Identifier**: RFA-045**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA MSFC
POC: Kelsey Buckles kelsey.d.buckles@nasa.gov

Research Overview: There is limited research in determining the feasibility of using motion magnification, in place of the Integrated Modal Test (IMT).

Research Focus: Conduct research to determine the feasibility of using motion magnification, in place of the Integrated Modal Test (IMT). Primary objective is the potential replacement of IMT on Artemis II, using custom Long Wave Infrared (LWIR) cameras and lenses to encompass the entire stack. (Kelsey Buckles)

Research Focus Area: Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Detection Using Computer Vision.
Research Identifier: **RFA-046**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA MSFC
POC: Kelsey Buckles kelsey.d.buckles@nasa.gov

Research Overview: There is limited research with software/hardware capabilities to detect and record the location and shape of Foreign Object Debris (FOD).

Research Focus: Conduct research to create a software/hardware capability to detect and record the location and shape of FOD. Primary function would be to use in place of a FOD walk, provide debris location data for analysis, monitor airfields and launch complexes. Using a drone equipped with custom Long Wave Infrared (LWIR) cameras and lenses, with onboard image recognition software. (Kelsey Buckles)

Research Focus Area: Using Multispectral Neural Radiance Fields (NeRFs) for Ground Detection & Characterization of Lunar Micro Cold Traps
Research Identifier**: RFA-047**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA Ames

POC:	Ignacio López-Francos	ignacio.lopez-francos@nasa.gov
	Caleb Adams	caleb.a.adams@nasa.gov
	Ariel Deutsch	ariel.deutsch@nasa.gov

Research Overview: High-resolution, near-real-time modeling is crucial for lunar science and exploration missions, particularly in identifying icy targets. Our proposal aims to generate intricate models of micro-cold-trap topography, temperatures, and water content to streamline target identification in dynamic, low-light polar environments. By applying Neural Radiance Fields (NeRFs) to data acquired from Artemis III and VIPER missions, we plan to enhance 3D mapping techniques, supporting science operations in future NASA expeditions. Micro cold traps, small and cold regions where ice remains thermally stable, are believed to contain approximately 20% of the Moon's water ice. These traps are scattered across the lunar landscape and are safer and more accessible than permanently shadowed regions (PSRs). Despite their importance for lunar exploration, we lack prior knowledge of their locations and compositions due to their minute size.

Research Focus: Conduct research to remedy this by potentially employing custom-built NeRFs on multi-spectral ground-based data during mission operations. This research advancement would revolutionize surface science operations by facilitating the measurement and integration of micro-cold trap topography, temperature, and water content into augmented reality systems, thus assisting in identifying scientific targets.

Unlike traditional methods, NeRFs can maintain the full spectral range and resolution during scene optimization, potentially retaining spectral context throughout the 3D reconstruction process. By utilizing intelligent priors and leveraging knowledge about light sources and sparse point clouds of target regions, the optimization in the NeRF could be constrained. This would result in accurate 3D reconstructions across various wavelengths, especially those diagnostic of water ice. Our proposed NeRFs will be rigorously tested using the SSERVI Lunar Regolith Testbeds at NASA Ames.

Note: NASA Ames is in collaboration with UC Berkeley, with potential NSF funding being directed to Professor Angjoo Kanazawa of the department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences (EECS). Her pioneering research in 3D vision, specifically related to neural volumetric rendering and Neural Radiance Fields, will be instrumental in driving this project forward.

Research Focus Area: High-Resolution 3D Mapping of Lunar Shadowed Regions Using Neural Radiance Fields (NeRFs)
Research Identifier: RFA- **RFA-048**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA Ames
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Ariel Deutsch ariel.deutsch@nasa.gov

Research Overview: With upcoming missions like Artemis and Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) aiming to study these lunar polar regions, designing safe traverses into, within, and out of permanently shadowed regions (PSRs) for robots and astronauts poses a primary challenge due to the lack of high-resolution and high signal-to-noise Digital Terrain Models (DTMs) of these areas.

Research Focus: Conduct research to overcome this, and determine if utilizing Neural Radiance Fields (NeRFs) will generate high-resolution 3D models of PSRs for efficient mission planning, safe operations, and maximizing scientific returns.
NeRFs, a novel technique in 3D reconstruction, outperform traditional methods like Multi-View Stereo (MVS) in handling complex lighting conditions typical of lunar polar regions. Recent developments in NeRF pipelines, including Sat-NERF, RAWNeRF, StructNeRF, and DS-NeRF, present promising opportunities for our applications. We intend to leverage these advancements in neural 3D reconstruction as well ray tracing techniques to simulate secondary illumination in PSRs to develop an hybrid MVS/NeRF-based mapping method for PSR reconstruction.

Note: NASA Ames is in collaboration with UC Berkeley, with potential NSF funding being directed to Professor Angjoo Kanazawa of the department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences (EECS). Her pioneering research in 3D vision, specifically related to neural volumetric rendering and Neural Radiance Fields, will be instrumental in driving this project forward.

Research Focus Area: Study the deployment of Large Language Models (LLMs) for Systems Engineering and Project Management at NASA
Research Identifier: RFA- **RFA-049**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation

NASA Ames

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Research Overview: As the complexity of projects at NASA increases, more sophisticated tools are required for efficient systems engineering and project management. Large Language Models (LLMs) can offer potential advantages in these domains. However, due to their statistical nature, reliability and transparency concerns may hinder their adoption. Thorough verification and validation processes are vital to ensure their trustworthy and robust implementation in mission-critical planning and execution.

Research Focus: Conduct research on LLMs focuses on: (1) Identifying potential applications and benefits of LLMs in enhancing systems engineering and project management processes. (2) Establishing robust techniques for the verification and validation of LLMs within these contexts. (3) Recognizing and mitigating potential risks and limitations, addressing transparency and bias issues inherent in LLMs. The objective is to enable the integration of LLMs into NASA's operations to improve project management efficiency, reduce planning complexities, and facilitate more effective communication and information processing, paving the way for the next generation of space mission planning and execution.

Research Focus Area: Collaborative platforms for capturing data analytics workflows.
Research Identifier: **RFA-050**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA Ames
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Research Overview: Platforms are needed that allow for individuals and groups to perform the many steps needed to transform raw data into domain-relevant insights and publications and capture these steps into workflows that can be shared, revised, and compared. Users must be able to use the tools that they are accustomed to using, such as Jupyter notebooks, MATLAB, Python libraries, various databases, and/or others. However, the various steps that users take need to be captured in a form to where they can be readily re-run, individual steps can be changed, the resulting new workflows can be re-run, and the results compared to the previous workflows. Such workflow capture systems and Machine Learning can be used as the basis for a recommender system for new users to recommend key steps in new workflows that they create. Such systems can also be used to flag publications that may need to be revised because earlier data processing or analytics steps have been revised. Such a system can also serve as an "honest broker" that can instantly make a record of who produced a given result so that others may use that result immediately, without waiting for a publication, and while automatically giving the creator due credit.

Research Focus: Conduct research to properly understand how experts in different domains perform data analytics and develop components of a workflow capture system that will work as described above while using the tools of those domains as much as possible and not impeding the experts' work. Research is also needed to identify interface standards that are general enough to allow the tool interoperability described here and demonstrate whether productivity is improved due to the components and systems developed.

Research Focus Area: Uses of generative AI to dynamically create Photo realistic 3D content in real-time for use in XR applications.
Research Identifier: **RFA-051**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA Ames/JSC
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Research Overview: XR environments (virtual reality, augmented reality, and mixed reality) are being used to train crew, support operations, augment collaboration, improve the planning process, support complex data visualization, and support public and education outreach activities. One of the biggest challenges developing these applications is having access to high fidelity, realistic 3D models that are combined to create realistic and immersive applications. An active area of research is to use generative A.I. to, in real-time, create and insert 3D models into a virtual scene dynamically using a simple and intuitive user interface.

Emerging AI generative technologies currently being researched in this field include Neural Radiance Fields (NeRFs) and GANS to support the creation of 3D assets. An investigation into a Language Models (LLM) to generate natural language description of 3D assets can potentially be used in combination with NeRFs to speed up the process of 3D asset generation for XR applications.

Research Focus: Conduct research the feasibility of creating high fidelity 3D models dynamically (using a simple interface to define their properties) and insert them into a live XR session within acceptable timeframes, so that the user does not experience a degradation in frame rate that detracts from the immersive experience? Best validation methods to assure the assets created are representative of what would be expected. Optimum way(s) to interact with the system (voice, keyboard, other)?

Research Focus Area: Use of a Brain Computer Interface (BCI) system as a novel computer interface

Research Identifier: **RFA-052**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA Ames/JSC
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Research Overview: The mantel of human to computer interaction for decades has been the keyboard and mouse. Recently technologies such as voice recognition and body/limb/finger tracking have also been used to provide inputs to computers. Of course, the ultimate computer input device would allow a person to interface their mind directly with a computer. The idea that people's thoughts could be read and manipulated has been a theme in science fiction for decades. Conceptually, the brain would be communicating with a computer the same way it communicates with other parts of the body, but instead of using eyes, hands and fingers directly, a person would just have to think what they want the computer to carry out.

Research Focus: Conduct research the feasibility of creating a functional BCI system and the level of interactions/commands that a brain computer interface can provide; What biometric devices are best suited for this type of application. Best methods to incorporate this type of system into an XR environment?

Research Focus Area: Cognitive State Determination System to Support Training, Education, and Real-Time Operations in an XR environment.
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-053**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA Ames/JSC
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Research Overview: There is limited research on how we can use advanced computer science methods to develop correlation algorithms that use autonomic responses in the vision system (pupil dilation), autonomic response related to the conductance of the skin (galvanic skin response), the vascular system (heart rate and heart rate variability), electrochemical patterns in the brain (using EEG), hemoglobin-concentration changes in the brain (using Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy - FNIR), Electrical activity in the muscles (EMG), and vocal biomarkers. The system could use all of the biometric modalities mentioned above, or just a subset to carry a determination of a person's mental state. The states of primary interest include: cognitive underload, adequate cognitive workload, high cognitive workload, and cognitive overload. The system should also provide a confidence level for each prediction. A Cognitive State Determination System (CSDS) can significantly improve applications related to education, training, medicine, marketing, aeronautics, transportation, etc. For initial wide range usage, this type of system would require the use of non-intrusive sensors that are easy to use.

Note: An example of a CSDS system for training and education could allow for the educator/trainer to modulate the information being provided based on the trainee's cognitive state. If the trainee is bored, then additional elements to make the tasks more engaging could be added. If the person is getting close to cognitive overload, easier elements could be incorporated. Another example is the usage of a CSDS system to support real-time operations. Providing cognitive state information to support personnel or to the individual themselves would be valuable. This system can be used to support a wide range of activities from operating a spacecraft, flying an airplane, to driving a car. Coupling a cognitive state determination system with an AI/ML system would allow for the creation of an adaptable human interface that can modulate the information being provided to a user based on their cognitive state.

Research Focus: Conduct research on the feasibility to create a system that can accurately determine a person mental state. Specially its' ability to determine when a person is experiencing cognitive underload, adequate cognitive workload, high cognitive workload, and cognitive overload; Variability and performance differences between individuals; Study into the optimum set of biometric sensors needed for this type of system.

Research Focus Area: Automatic XR friendly procedure creation using videos
Research Identifier: **RFA-054**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA Ames/JSC
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Research Overview: NASA and many other organizations use procedures to support a wide variety of applications that range from maintaining a simple system, to carrying complex operations in dangerous environments. Depending on the use-case, developing procedures can require significant resource investments by many people with different skill bases. These individuals are scarce and always in demand. The desire is to have the ability to create XR friendly procedures automatically by capturing and analyzing training videos of specific tasks. Additionally, capturing and analyzing context specific to NASA's (or other companies) terms/vocabulary from the video voice or written instructional documentation is a challenging, but necessary component to create accurate and useable procedure content. Finally, in order for the virtual procedure assistance to serve its purpose to its full extent, it must be able to adapt to the user's expertise by presenting the information to them in a user customized manner. Another area of research is how to best incorporate this capability in an immersive XR system.

Research Focus: Conduct research to determine the feasibility of creating a system that can automatically develop accurate procedures using video.; Optimum ways to interact with such a system; Ability for a system to customize procedure content to meet an individual's expertise.

Research Focus Area: Video based mocap system
Research Identifier: **RFA-055**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA Ames/JSC

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Research Overview: VR Motion Capture (Mocap) Systems are an important part of an XR system. Technology specific challenges that would be researched include the overall performance and viability of a video based Mocap system. In the near-term, R&D will benefit from automation of analytical workflows for engineering design and contribute toward research and the evaluation of options for in-flight crew data collections on the ISS. Comparing how an astronaut is ambulating over time, when carrying out an activity, can be used to determine changes in the musculoskeletal system that may be caused by fatigue or injury. Identifying and looking for ways to mitigate these types of changes is important to assure that astronauts are always performing in an optimum state.

Furthermore, contactless mocap system can support the development of a personal coach that can instruct a person when they are not performing exercises correctly. This could be done by using a pre-trained A.I. system that knows the positions of a person's limbs, torso and head while exercising and comparing them to optimum positions for the activity. Investigating ways that the system can interact with a person is another research area.

Research Focus: Conduct research to determine the feasibility of creating a system that can automatically determine a person's pose based on video. Performance metrics and limitations of such a system.

Research Focus Area: Retrieval Augmented Dialog LLM
Research Identifier: **RFA-056**

NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation
NASA HQ
POCs: David Meza david.meza-1@nasa.gov

Research Overview: NASA policy, strategic documents, SOPs, and other important information are split across many diverse and disparate documents. Currently it is highly time consuming and difficult for NASA employees to determine the correct policy or SOP relevant to their situation. NASA employees lack a simple tool for them to quickly get answers to their questions in a seamless, natural way. Large Language Models (LLMs) provide a potential simple interface for employees to get answers, but current models require NASA questions and information to be provided to a 3rd party as part of the Generative AI process threatening the security of NASA's information. Existing Generative AI tools also suffer from hallucinations where they provide highly convincing, but inaccurate responses.

Research Focus: By deploying an LLM on the NASA network, NASA employees will be able to ask questions in natural language without risking their data leaving NASA systems. This will ensure their privacy and the protection of NASA information. By breaking NASA documents into small chunks of relevant information and storing those documents as semantic embeddings in a vector database, the relevant pieces of NASA policy can be retrieved to answer each question as it is asked. Through prompt engineering and fine-tuning, the LLM can be guided to answer the questions with the additional information "injected" from the NASA official policies and documents. This ensures the models provide true information and do not hallucinate answers to questions not available in their public training data. This project will pilot creating this tool on NASA infrastructure and determine how the tools and interface must be customized for the NASA environment and use cases. This project will explore, document, and propose a technical path forward to scale the pilot system to a production NASA tool. This solution could be replicated at any Agency or organization.

3.10 Earth Science

Science Mission Directorate (SMD)
NASA SMD Earth Science Division (ESD)

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Research Focus Area: Impacts of human activity on coastal physical, geomorphological and ecological variability
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-057**

Research Focus Area: Sea level rise, coastal erosion/retreat, and salt-water intrusion, and their impacts on ecosystems;
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-058**

Research Focus Area: Linkages between aquatic dynamics and land subsidence and its impacts on aquatic ecosystems
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-059**

Research Focus Area: The role of urban development on land subsidence and aquatic ecosystems; biophysical coupling and feedbacks within the aquatic-land interface
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-060**

Research Focus Area: Impacts of hazards related to climate extremes, such as storms and heat waves, on biogeophysical aspects of the coast; etc.
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-061**

Research Focus Area: Impacts of upstream activities on coastal communities
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-062**

Research Focus Area: Integration of existing and upcoming observational and modeling assets into a conceptual or (better) digital aquatic-land framework that enables the dynamical coupling of key processes within the aquatic-land interface.
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-063**

Research Focus Area: Exposure and vulnerability to geohazards (e.g., infrastructure and flooding, landslides, etc.), land cover/use change and their impacts on water
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-064**

Research Overview: NASA SMD Earth Science Division (ESD) seeks topics to address coastal and ecosystem resilience, and equity and environmental justice.
This research focus area seeks to expand and build on the recently-established Coastal Resilience program, selected under ROSES22, and the work solicited under ROSES21 equity and environmental justice and ROSES22 IDS environmental and climate justice. Climate change impacts all aspects of the Earth and human systems, and highly populated coastal communities (adjacent to inland water bodies and the ocean) are among those experiencing its most disruptive consequences. Extreme weather events on land (droughts/floods), erosion, loss of marshes and wetlands, rising oceans and other direct human-induced changes threaten coastal communities, ecosystems, national and global economies. Furthermore, land changes from human activities such as groundwater/hydrocarbon extraction/injection, levee construction, river/sediment management, and urban development can have compounding effects with the naturally occurring land processes such as tectonics, sediment compaction, erosion, etc., with each process modifying the land surface elevation and coastal geomorphology. Combined, these complex and interconnected aquatic-land processes impact biogeochemistry and ecology, affect ecosystem structure and function, and threaten biodiversity.

NASA ESD recognizes a need to develop and learn from relationships with environmental justice (EJ) and climate justice (CJ) and underserved communities, as well as organizations familiar with working alongside these communities. EJ and CJ refer to communities in geographic locations around the globe with significant representation of minoritized populations, low-income persons, and/or indigenous persons or members of Tribal nations, where such individuals experience, or are at risk of experiencing, more adverse human health, environmental, and/or climate change impacts.

NASA Earth Science and satellite-based Earth observations can play an important role in addressing questions at the intersection of Earth observations and EJ/CJ, and are critical to understanding and predicting land/aquatic interface environments that undergo natural and human-induced changes. Understanding both direct and indirect human-induced changes is equally important in informing studies of coastal resilience and addressing high priority EJ/CJ needs.

Proposals seeking to respond to this EPSCoR Research Topic must address research that contributes to furthering support priorities related to coastal resilience and EJ/CJ, and will provide the foundational information and evidence-based knowledge that will help inform solutions to increase resilience of coastal communities and high priority needs as exemplified below. NASA is specifically interested in proposals that make significant use of remote sensing data to advance our understanding of key physical, biological, biogeochemical, geological, and hydrological coastal processes and their interactions within the interface of the aquatic-land-human system, and to enhance our understanding of how these processes will be compounded in rapidly changing coastal environments.
Examples of potential topics suitable for the EPSCoR research on coastal resilience include the exploration of the underlying physical, biological, and/or geological mechanisms within the aquatic-land framework and potential feedback processes and impacts on coastal ecosystems and underserved communities. Examples of coupled coastal processes may include but are not limited to:

1. Impacts of human activity on coastal physical, geomorphological and ecological variability;
2. Sea level rise, coastal erosion/retreat, and salt-water intrusion, and their impacts on ecosystems;
3. Linkages between aquatic dynamics and land subsidence and its impacts on aquatic ecosystems;
4. The role of urban development on land subsidence and aquatic ecosystems; biophysical coupling and feedbacks within the aquatic-land interface;
5. Impacts of hazards related to climate extremes, such as storms and heat waves, on biogeophysical aspects of the coast; etc.
6. Impacts of upstream activities on coastal communities
7. Integration of existing and upcoming observational and modeling assets into a conceptual or (better) digital aquatic-land framework that enables the dynamical coupling of key processes within the aquatic-land interface.
8. Exposure and vulnerability to geohazards (e.g., infrastructure and flooding, landslides, etc.), land cover/use change and their impacts on water

The proposed investigations should be of regional (beyond local, 1,000+ km) focus, preferably in areas of high potential population growth, e.g. U.S. East, West, or Gulf coasts, Island Nations, and other low-lying regions across the globe that are impacted by climate change and/or socio-economic disadvantages. Proposals must provide a rationale for their region of choice. Proposals targeting the EJ/CJ topics are encouraged to integrate socio-economic data in their proposal.

Proposed investigations must utilize remotely sensed observations (e.g., MODIS, Landsat, etc.) for data analysis and as a primary research tool; however, other NASA data products from airborne campaigns, ground-based stations, or model output may be used for the proposed research. Proposers are also encouraged to use data acquired via the NASA Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Program (CSDAP). A description of NASA's fleet of Earth observing satellites and sensors can be found at https://science.nasa.gov/missions-page/, with more details about related airborne missions at https://airbornescience.nasa.gov/. Information about data access and discovery can be found at https://earthdata.nasa.gov/.

This research opportunity will not fund the acquisition of new in situ data, but seeks to further leverage the large quantities of remotely sensed and/or in situ data that NASA has already collected over the years.

3.11 Entry Systems Modeling Project

Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

Research Focus Area: Nitrogen/Methane Plasma Experiments Relevant to Titan Entry
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-065**

POC: Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Provide experimental data to characterize TPS material response under simulated Titan entry conditions.

Research Focus: Research Focus: Data is needed to validate models for the material response of thermal protection system (TPS) materials under simulated Titan entry conditions, with the atmosphere being predominately nitrogen (N2) and a small amount of methane (CH4). The conditions should be traceable to conditions relevant to the upcoming Dragonfly mission. Furthermore, an understanding of how coatings, e.g. NuSil, are impacted (or not) by the presence of methane and in a non-oxidizing environment is of interest. Relevant facilities for such measurements could include ArcJets or Plasma Torches. Data of interest would include thermocouples imbedded in TPS materials (e.g. PICA, SLA) and non-intrusive surface temperature measurements. Characterization of the post-test materials is also of interest. Understanding the material response of NuSil/PICA in a Titan atmosphere is important to maximize the science return for the DrEAM instrumentation suite.

Research Focus Area: Predictive Modeling of Plasma Physics Relevant to High Enthalpy Facilities
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-066**

POC: Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Develop predictive models for arc and plasma processes used in the generation of high enthalpy flows in shock tube and arcjet facilities at NASA.
Research Focus: This proposal seeks predictive modeling of processes occurring in facilities that generate high enthalpy flows at NASA, including Arcs and Plasma Torches. The objectives may differ depending on facilities being modeled. For instance, the Electric Arc Shock tube uses an Arc to produce a high velocity shock waves. Acoustic modes in the arc driver may determine velocity profiles in the tube while ionization processes produce radiating species that may heat driven freestream gases. In plasma torches, studies of recombination of Nitrogen and Air plasma flows have relevance for predicted backshell radiation modeling. Modeling in arc jets may improve estimates of enthalpy profile uniformity and mixing of arc gas with add air.

Research Focus Area: Mechanical Properties of Ablative TPS Materials during Char Formation
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-067**

POC: Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Provide mechanical property data to enable models that couple pyrolysis and char formation with thermostructural analysis for predicting the stress state of ablative TPS materials of interest to Entry Descent and Landing projects and missions at NASA.
Research Focus: This proposal seeks mechanical and/or strength measurements of ablative, porous thermal protection system (TPS) materials. The properties should be determined as a function of char conversion, with the char conversion occurring under controllable, repeatable conditions. Both degree and rate of char formation on the final properties would be desirable. The data would be made available to the TPS materials modeling groups at NASA to improve coupled ablative and thermostructural models.

3.12 Office of Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO)

Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD)

Research Focus Area: Development and elaboration of Functional aids and testing paradigms to measure activity for use by parastronauts during spaceflight
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-068**
POC: Victor S. Schneider vschneider@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Development and elaboration of Functional aids and testing paradigms to measure activity for use by parastronauts during spaceflight. This may include egressing and exiting space capsules and donning and doffing spacesuits and other aids for parastronauts. The European Space Agency is establishing a parastronaut feasibility project. Since NASA offers its international partners access to NASA supported spacecraft and the International Space Station, NASA wants to establish appropriate functional testing measures to determine the time it takes fit astronaut-like subjects compared to fit parastronaut subjects to egress and exit simulated space capsules and simulated donning and doffing spacesuit. Research proposals are sought to establish appropriate functional testing.

Research Focus Area: Evaluation space capsule and spacesuit activity in stable and fit lower or upper extremity amputees and compare their responses to non-amputee fit individuals
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-069**
POC: Victor S. Schneider vschneider@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Evaluation space capsule and spacesuit activity in stable and fit lower or upper extremity amputees and compare their responses to non-amputee fit individuals. The European Space Agency is establishing a parastronaut feasibility project. Since NASA offers its international partners access to NASA supported spacecraft and the International Space Station, NASA wants to obtain research data measuring the time it takes fit astronaut-like subjects compared to fit parastronaut subject to egress and exit simulated space capsules and simulated donning and doffing spacesuit. Research proposals are sought to obtain data measuring the functional testing indicated.

3.13 Human Research Program

Human Exploration and Operations (HEO) Mission Directorate (HEOMD)

Precision Health Initiative

Research Focus Area: Pilot studies to adopt terrestrial precision health solutions for astronauts
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-070**

POC: Corey Theriot corey.theriot@nasa.gov , 281-244-7331

The term "precision health" (similar to precision or personalized medicine in clinical settings) refers to the strategy of collecting and analyzing an individual's unique health status along with environmental and lifestyle data to identify key factors that can ultimately improve the health and performance of each crewmember in an individualized manner.

The Precision Health Initiative seeks to identify innovative methods to maintain an individual astronaut's health and optimal mission performance, requiring in-depth understanding of individual molecular profiles and how they relate to health and performance. The practice of Precision Health encompasses the use of detailed phenotyping of an individual, using both clinical and molecular measures, along with the integrated analyses of those data to draw conclusions about an individual's response to the environment, diet, medications, exercise regimen, etc. This topic seeks proposals for preliminary pilot studies that identify vetted and approved precision health techniques from terrestrial settings that can be applied with little to no modification to crewmembers that will be exposed to the stressors of spaceflight: space radiation, altered gravity, isolation/confinement, distance from Earth, and hostile/closed environments. For this solicitation, the term "technique" encompasses any clinical practice, strategy, test, or process that provides a clinically actionable medical outcome or unique knowledge of an individual's health status.

Research Focus: While most terrestrial precision medicine techniques focus on diagnosis and treatment of disease states, NASA is most interested in preventive measures that maintain crew health and performance during exposure to spaceflight stressors resulting in human health and performance risks as described in the Human Research Roadmap (https://humanresearchroadmap.nasa.gov). Proposed precision health techniques should have compelling evidence of efficacy for the crew population and be approved for terrestrial clinical practice by appropriate governing bodies, and proposals should address incorporation into the existing NASA operations, workflow, and infrastructure. Any proposed precision health techniques using genetic information must comply with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) rules that preclude use of genetic information in employment decisions, which for NASA means that genetic data cannot be used to inform or influence crew selection or crew mission assignments.

Systems Biology Translation

Research Focus Area: Pilot studies to demonstrate the utilization of full systems biology approaches in addressing human spaceflight risks

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-071**

POC: Corey Theriot corey.theriot@nasa.gov, 281-244-7331

Research Overview: The environment astronauts are exposed to, particularly during future deep space missions, pose unique risks to human health and performance as well as research challenges that are fundamentally interdisciplinary. Systems biology frameworks offer inclusive approaches for the analysis and simulation of complex biological phenomena. The onset of new data sources and the availability of new tools for data analysis lead to a natural evolution towards the use of systems biology to understand complex biological responses to spaceflight. The anticipated outcome is a comprehensive understanding of the intricate interactions among biological system responses to spaceflight stressors by leveraging work across multiple disciplines. Additionally, improved identification of critical and influential system pathways corresponding to clinically and experimentally observed symptoms leads to the translation of results to human applications more quickly and economically. To develop these new capabilities and approaches, the NASA Human Research Program is interested in proof of concept development of systems biology research approaches: with particular interest in augmenting an existing HRP risk mitigation plan (such as Spaceflight Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome) and developing a clean-sheet mitigation approach for a cross-cutting risk factor (such as inflammation). HRP human health and performance risks are described in the Human Research Roadmap (https://humanresearchroadmap.nasa.gov). This topic seeks proposals for preliminary pilot studies that establish systems biology frameworks that utilize omics datasets, biochemical data, bioinformatics, and computational modeling to evaluate responses in biological systems due to exposure to spaceflight environments.

Research Focus: The research topic focuses on proposals that establish the use of comprehensive systems biology approaches to understand biological responses to spaceflight. Particular focus should address (but not limited to) one of the following topics:

- Resolving aspects of the Spaceflight Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome (SANS) risk to include multiple tissue (i.e., ocular and brain) responses.
- Assessment of the cross-risk factor of spaceflight-induced inflammation and inflammatory responses to include systemic as well as tissue specific responses in acute and chronic phases.

Space Radiation

Space radiation exposure is one of numerous hazards astronauts encounter during spaceflight that impact human health. High priority health outcomes associated with space radiation exposure are carcinogenesis, cardiovascular disease (CVD), and central nervous sytem (CNS) changes that impact astronaut health and performance.

Research Focus Area: Tissue and Data sharing for space radiation risk and mitigation strategies

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-072**

POC: Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov
Janice Zawaski janice.zawaski@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Research proposals are sought to accelerate risk characterization for high priority radiation health risks and inform mitigation strategies the NASA Human Research Program (HRP) Space Radiation Element (SRE) by sharing animal tissue samples and data. The proposed work should focus is on translational studies that support priority risk characterization (cancer, CVD, CNS), development of relative biological effectiveness (RBE) values, identification of actionable biomarkers, and evaluation of dose thresholds for relevant radiation-associated disease endpoints. Cross-species comparative analyses of rodent data/samples with higher order species (including human archival data and tissue banks) are highly encouraged.

- Data can include but is not limited to behavioral tasks, tumor data, physiological measurements, imaging, omics', etc. that has already been, or is in the process of being, collected.
- Tissue samples can include, but are not limited to, samples that have already been, or are in the process of, being collected and stored as well as tissues from other external archived banks (e.g., http://janus.northwestern.edu/janus2/index.php).
- Relevant tissue samples and data from other externally funded (e.g., non-NASA) programs and tissue repositories/archives for comparison with high linear energy transfer (LET), medical proton, neutron and other exposures can be proposed.

- A more detailed list of samples and tissues available from SRE can be found at our tissue sharing websites:
  - https://lsda.jsc.nasa.gov/Document/doc_detail/Doc13726
  - https://lsda.jsc.nasa.gov/Document/doc_detail/Doc13766
  - https://lsda.jsc.nasa.gov/Biospecimen by searching "NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL)" in the payloads field.
  - Instructions for accessing the tissue sharing information are posted at: https://spaceradiation.jsc.nasa.gov/tissue-sharing/.

Research Focus Area: Space radiation sex-differences
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-073**
POC: Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Research proposals are sought to define the mechanisms underlying sexual dimorphism following exposure to space radiation. Research should focus on translational biomarkers relevant to changes in cognitive and/or behavioral performance, cardiovascular function, and the development of carcinogenesis **in non-sex-specific organs**. Due to limited time and budget, researchers are encouraged to utilize radiation sources located at home institutions at space relevant doses (0-5 Gy of photons or proton irradiation). A successful proposal will not necessitate the use of the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL) at Brookhaven National Laboratory at this phase. Collaborations between investigators and institutions for the sharing of data and tissue samples are highly encouraged. Samples available for use by SRE, can be found at https://lsda.jsc.nasa.gov/Biospecimen by searching "NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL)" in the payloads field (SRE approval required). Instructions for accessing the tissue sharing information are posted at: https://spaceradiation.jsc.nasa.gov/tissue-sharing/.

Research Focus Area: Compound screening techniques to assess efficacy in modulating responses to radiation exposure
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-074**

POC: Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov
Brock Sishc brock.j.sishc@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Research proposals are sought to establish screening techniques for compound-based countermeasures to assess their efficacy in modulating biological responses to radiation exposure relevant to the high priority health risks of cancer, CVD, and/or CNS. Techniques that can be translated into high-throughput screening protocols are highly desired, however high-content protocols will also be considered responsive.

Research Focus Area: Inflammasome role in radiation-associated health impacts

Research Identifier: **RFA-075**

POC: Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov
Janapriya Saha janapriya.saha@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Research proposals are sought to evaluate the role of the inflammasome in the pathogenesis of radiation-associated cardiovascular disease (CVD), carcinogenesis, and/or central nervous system changes that impact behavioral and cognitive function. Although innate inflammatory immune responses are necessary for survival from infections and injury, dysregulated and persistent inflammation is thought to contribute to the pathogenesis of various acute and chronic conditions in humans, including CVD. A main contributor to the development of inflammatory diseases involves activation of inflammasomes. Recently, inflammasome activation has been increasingly linked to an increased risk and greater severity of CVD. Characterization of the role of inflammasome-mediated pathogenesis of disease after space-like chronic radiation exposure can provide evidence to better quantify space radiation risks as well as identify high value for countermeasure development.

Research Focus Area: Portable, non-ionizing radiation based, high resolution disease detection imaging
Research Identifier: **RFA-076**

POC: Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov
Janice Zawaski janice.zawaski@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Research proposals are sought to develop portable, non-ionizing radiation based, high resolution imaging technologies for disease detection in rodent models with potential scalability to humans. Conventional imaging modalities including 2D planar x-rays, micro computed tomography (CT), positron emission tomography (PET), magnetic resonance (MR), ultrasound, and bioluminescence/fluorescence imaging require either large-scale equipment that is generally immobile, or require highly trained personnel to accurately identify disease. Furthermore, the resolution of these standard techniques limits detectability of small changes in small-animal models. To accelerate radiation risk characterization and mitigation the NASA Human Research Program Space Radiation Element is seeking development of portable, non-ionizing radiation-based, high resolution imaging modalities for the early detection and continuous monitoring of disease development and progression for use in rodent models with potential scalability to human systems and use in space flight.

3.14 Planetary Division

Science Mission Directorate (SMD)

SMD requests that EPSCoR includes research opportunities in the area of Extreme Environments applicable to Venus, Io, Earth volcanoes. and deep-sea vents.

Venus has important scientific relevance to understanding Earth, the Solar System formation, and Exoplanets. For EPSCoR technology projects, Venus' highly acidic surface conditions are also a unique extreme environment with temperatures (~900F or 500C at the surface) and pressures (90 earth atmospheres or equivalent to pressures at a depth of 1 km in Earth's oceans). Furthermore, information on Venus' challenging environmental needs for its exploration can be found on the Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) website: https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/.

In particular, the technology requirements and challenges related to Venus exploration are discussed in the Venus Technology Roadmap at:

https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/documents/reports/VEXAG_Venus_Techplan_2019.pdf

Research Focus Area: High-Temperature Subsystems and Components for Long-Duration (months) Surface Operations

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-077**

POC: Montbach, Erica N. (GRC-MA00) erica.n.montbach@nasa.gov
Michael Lienhard michael.a.lienhard@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Venus has important scientific relevance to understanding Earth, the Solar System formation, and Exoplanets. Venus' highly acidic surface conditions are also a unique extreme environment with temperatures of ~500 C at the surface and pressures of ~90 earth atmospheres (or equivalent to pressures at a depth of 1 km in Earth's oceans). Additional information on Venus' challenging environmental needs for its exploration can be found on the Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) website: https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/.

Advances in high-temperature electronics and power generation would enable long-duration missions (months) on the surface of Venus, where the sensors and all other components operate at Venus' surface ambient temperature. Development of high-temperature electronics, memory, transmitters, sensors, actuators, and power sources designed for operating in the Venus ambient would be enabling for future missions. Additional technology requirements and challenges related to Venus exploration are discussed in the Venus Technology Roadmap at:
https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/documents/reports/VEXAG_Venus_Techplan_2019.pdf

Venus surface landers could investigate a variety of open questions that can be uniquely addressed through in-situ measurements. The Roadmap for Venus Exploration describes a need to investigate the structure of Venus's interior and the nature of current activity, and potentially conduct the following measurements: a. Seismology over a large frequency range to constrain interior structure; b. Heat flow to discriminate between models of current heat loss;

and c. Geodesy to determine core size and state.

Landers with sample return capability would be of great interest.

Research Focus Area: Aerial Platforms for Missions to Measure Atmospheric Chemical and Physical Properties
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-078**

POC: Montbach, Erica N. (GRC-MA00) erica.n.montbach@nasa.gov
Michael Lienhard michael.a.lienhard@nasa.gov

Research Overview: More than three decades ago, two small (3.5 m) VEGA balloons launched by the Soviet Union completed two-day flights around Venus, measuring wind speeds, temperature, pressure, and cloud particle density.

Aerial platforms have a broad impact on science for Venus. Examples of science topics to be investigated include:
a. the identity of the unknown UV absorber and atmospheric chemistry (i.e. phosphine);
b. properties of the cloud particles in general;
c. abundances atmospheric gas species (including trace gases and noble gases);
d. the presence of lightning; and
e. properties of the surface mapped aerially.

Aerial vehicles that are able to operate at a variety of high and low altitudes in the middle atmosphere are needed to enable mid-term and far-term Venus missions addressing these issues. A platform able to operate close to the Venusian surface would be able to provide close surface monitoring but would require major development to operate in the hot dense lower atmosphere. Miniaturized guidance and control systems for aerial platform navigation for any altitudes are needed to track probe location and altitude. Sensors for atmospheric chemistry and other science that can be accomplished on aerial platform missions are needed.
Further Information on can be found on the Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) website: https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/ in the "Aerial Platforms for the Scientific Exploration of Venus" and the Venus Technology Roadmap at:
https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/documents/reports/VEXAG_Venus_Techplan_2019.pdf

Research Focus Area: In-situ Astrobiology Instruments
Research Identifier**:** **RFA-079**

POC: Montbach, Erica N. (GRC-MA00) erica.n.montbach@nasa.gov
Michael Lienhard michael.a.lienhard@nasa.gov

Research Overview: The determination of whether other bodies in our solar system are, or were habitable, are important science questions identified in "An Astrobiology Strategy for the Search for Life in the Universe” at https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/25252/. Additional information on promising destination in the solar system towards the search for conditions suitable for life can be found in "Origins, Worlds, and Life: A Decadal Strategy for Planetary Science and Astrobiology 2023-2032 (2022)" at https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26522/.

NASA may employ instruments similar to those used on Earth to detect biomarkers and/or to determine evidence of habitability in the solar system. The concentration of organic material at destinations of interest may be very low, necessitating innovative sample handling and processing techniques to perform sample analysis. Maintaining positive and negative controls, ensuring that samples are not destroyed or contaminated, and reading highly dilute and/or small samples are also technology challenges in this area. This topic seeks the development of innovative technologies that significantly improve instrument measurement capabilities for future planetary science missions that will look for bio habitability in the search for life.

3.15 Planetary Protection

Science Mission Directorate (SMD)
Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD)

Office of Safety & Mission Assurance

Research Focus Area: Addressing Knowledge Gaps in Planetary Protection for Crewed Mars Mission Concepts - Microbial and Human Health Monitoring

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-080**

POC: J Nick Benardini James.N.Benardini@nasa.gov

Research Overview: Planetary Protection is the practice of protecting solar system bodies from contamination by Earth life and protecting Earth from possible life forms that may be returned from other solar system bodies. NASA’s Office of Planetary Protection (OPP) promotes the responsible exploration of the solar system by implementing and developing efforts that protect the integrity of scientific discovery, the explored environments, and the Earth.
As NASA expands its exploration portfolio to include crewed missions beyond low Earth orbit, including planning for the first crewed Mars mission, a new paradigm for planetary protection is needed. Together with COSPAR, the Committee on Space Research, NASA has been working with the scientific and engineering communities to identify gaps in knowledge that need to be addressed before an end-to-end planetary protection implementation can be developed for a

future crewed Mars mission[1].

For this EPSCoR Rapid Research Response Topic, NASA is interested in proposals that will address identified knowledge gaps in planetary protection for crewed Mars mission concepts, facilitating a knowledge-based transition from current robotic exploration-focused planetary protection practice to a new paradigm for crewed missions.

Research Focus: The capability to detect, monitor and then (if needed) mitigate the effects of adverse microbial-based events, whether terrestrial or Martian in origin, is critical in the ability to safely complete a crewed return mission to and from the red planet.

OPP is interested in proposals that would be the first steps on a path to develop -omics based approaches (including downstream bioinformatic analyses) for planetary protection decision making, with a particular emphasis on assessing perturbations in the spacecraft microbiome as indicators of key events such as exposure to the Mars environment, or changes in crew or spacecraft health.

Additionally, OPP is interested in technologies and approaches for mitigation of microbial growth in space exploration settings. This includes remediation of microbial contamination (removal, disinfection, sterilization) in spacecraft environments in partial or microgravity as well as on planetary surfaces.

Research Focus Area: Addressing Knowledge Gaps in Planetary Protection for Crewed Mars Mission Concepts - Natural Transport of Contamination on Mars

Research Identifier**:** **RFA-081**

POC: J Nick Benardini James.N.Benardini@nasa.gov

Research Overview: The threat of harmful biological contamination at Mars is a balance between the release and spread of terrestrial biota resulting from the spacecraft surface operations, and the lethality of the Martian environment to these organisms. To understand and manage the risk of such contamination, the OPP is interested in studies of the following:

- Modeling and experimentation to describe the surface/atmospheric transport of terrestrial microorganisms as they would be released from spacecraft hardware at the Martian surface.
- Modeling and experimentation to describe the subsurface transport of terrestrial microorganisms as they would be released from spacecraft hardware onto the Martian surface.
- Modeling and experimentation to describe the lethality of the Mars environment to terrestrial organisms as they would be released from spacecraft hardware at the Martian surface.

[1] Further information on the COSPAR meeting series on planetary protection knowledge gaps for crewed Mars missions can be found in the Conference Documents section of the OSMA Planetary Protection web site, in particular the report of the 2018 meeting at: https://sma.nasa.gov/docs/default-source/sma-disciplines-and-programs/planetary-protection/cospar-2019-2nd-workshop-on-refining-planetary-protection-requirements-for-human-missions-and-work-meeting-on-developing-payload-requirements-for-addressing-planetary-protection-gaps-on-nat.pdf?sfvrsn=507ff8f8_8

Proposed research could focus in individual (indicator) organisms or populations of organisms. Of particular interest is the resistance of terrestrial organisms to the Martian UV environment under conditions relevant to release from crewed spacecraft (in clumps, attached to dust particles, or as part of a biofilm matrix).

Additional Information: All publications that result from an awarded EPSCoR study shall acknowledge NASA OSMA. If the NASA GeneLab Data Systems (genelab.nasa.gov) is used, GeneLab shall be referenced in the resulting publication and included in the keyword list. All -omics data obtained from these studies shall be uploaded to the NASA GeneLab.

Appendix 4 : Contacts/Inquiries

For inquiries regarding technical and scientific aspects of NASA's Research Focus Areas in this NOFO, please contact:

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Electrified Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL), Material Characterization and Modeling Aeronautic Research Mission Directorate (ARMD) John M. Koudelka, Project Manager john.m.koudelka@nasa.gov NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) Susan A. Gorton, Project Manager susan.a.gorton@nasa.gov NASA GRC Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov NASA GRC Dr. Mark J. Valco, mark.j.valco@nasa.gov NASA GRC Robert Goldberg robert.goldberg@nasa.gov NASA GRC Justin Littell justin.d.littell@nasa.gov NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) Mike Pereira mike.pereira@nasa.gov NASA GRC Trenton M. Ricks, PhD trenton.m.ricks@nasa.gov NASA GRC Dr. Steven M. Arnold steven.m.arnold@nasa.gov NASA GRC		
Research Focus Area	**Point of Contact**	**Id**
Safe and Efficient Electro-mechanical Powertrains for Electrified Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) Vehicles	Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov Dr. Mark J. Valco, mark.j.valco@nasa.gov	**RFA-001**
Electric motor technologies appropriate for eVTOL with high torque density and, concurrently, such motors being free of partial discharge and having a continuous power rating in the range 50 – 400 kW.	Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov Dr. Mark J. Valco, mark.j.valco@nasa.gov	**RFA-002**
High reliability, robustness, and fault-tolerance for inverter-motor systems as needed for safety-critical eVTOL propulsion.	Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov Dr. Mark J. Valco, mark.j.valco@nasa.gov	**RFA-003**
Lubrication and cooling technologies specifically optimized for long life and highly efficient eVTOL motors, including interest in single-fluid approaches for inverters, motors, and gearboxes.	Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov Dr. Mark J. Valco, mark.j.valco@nasa.gov	**RFA-004**

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Development of Characterization Techniques to Determine Rate and Temperature Dependent Composite Material Properties for the LS-DYNA MAT213 Model	Robert Goldberg robert.goldberg@nasa.gov Justin Littell justin.d.littell@nasa.gov Mike Pereira mike.pereira@nasa.gov	**RFA-005**
Multiscale Modeling of Heterogeneous Materials with NASMAT	Trenton M. Ricks, PhD trenton.m.ricks@nasa.gov Dr. Steven M. Arnold steven.m.arnold@nasa.gov	**RFA-006**

Clean Energy, Climate Change and Orbital Debris
Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

John Scott, PhD. john.h.scott@nasa.gov NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC)
Jeffrey Sweterlitsch, PhD jeffrey.j.sweterlitsch@nasa.gov NASA JSC
Bo Naasz, PhD Bo.j.naasz@nasa.gov NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC)

Research Focus Area	Point of Contact	Id
Clean Energy and Emissions Technologies	John Scott, PhD. john.h.scott@nasa.gov	**RFA-007**
U.S. Climate Change Research Program	John Scott, PhD. john.h.scott@nasa.gov	**RFA-008**
Earth-observing capabilities to support breakthrough science and National efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (including CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, HFCs)	Jeffrey Sweterlitsch, PhD jeffrey.j.sweterlitsch@nasa.gov	**RFA-009**
U.S. Climate Change Research Program focusing on carbon capture and utilization	Jeffrey Sweterlitsch, PhD jeffrey.j.sweterlitsch@nasa.gov	**RFA-010**
Addressing Orbital Debris: Control the long-term growth of debris population	Bo Naasz, PhD. Bo.j.naasz@nasa.gov	**RFA-011**

Space Technology / Aeronautic Research
Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)
Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD)

Dr. Ronald Noebe ronald.d.noebe@nasa.gov NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC)

Research Focus Area	Point of Contact	Id
Development of advanced soft magnetic materials for high-power electronic systems	Dr. Ronald Noebe ronald.d.noebe@nasa.gov	**RFA-012**
Development of high-temperature refractory alloys and coating systems	Dr. Ronald Noebe ronald.d.noebe@nasa.gov	**RFA-013**

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Development of materials for extreme environments	Dr. Ronald Noebe ronald.d.noebe@nasa.gov	**RFA-014**

In Space Manufacturing /On Demand Manufacturing of Electronics (ODME)
Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD)
Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD)
Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

Jessica Koehne, Ph.D. Jessica.E.Koehne@nasa.gov NASA Ames Research Center (ARC)
Curtis Hill curtis.w.hill@nasa.gov NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC)

Research Focus Area	Point of Contact	Id
Advanced Manufacturing of Sensors and Electronics	Jessica Koehne, Ph.D. Jessica.E.Koehne@nasa.gov	**RFA-015**
Additive manufacturing and additive manufacturing of electronics	Curtis Hill curtis.w.hill@nasa.gov	**RFA-016**
LEO manufacturing support (additive, advanced materials, thin layer processing)	Curtis Hill curtis.w.hill@nasa.gov	**RFA-017**
Lunar manufacturing of solar cells and sensors	Curtis Hill curtis.w.hill@nasa.gov	**RFA-018**
Materials development for additive manufacturing	Curtis Hill curtis.w.hill@nasa.gov	**RFA-019**

Center for Design and Space Architecture
Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD)
Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD)

Robert L. Howard, Jr., Ph.D. robert.l.howard@nasa.gov NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC)

Research Focus Area	Point of Contact	Id
Crew-worn restraints and mobility aids for microgravity spacecraft cabin environments	Robert L. Howard, Jr., Ph.D. robert.l.howard@nasa.gov	**RFA-020**
Crew quarters internal architectures compatible with both microgravity and fractional gravity domains	Robert L. Howard, Jr., Ph.D. robert.l.howard@nasa.gov	**RFA-021**
Repair, Manufacturing, And Fabrication (RMAF) Facility for the Common Habitat Architecture	Robert L. Howard, Jr., Ph.D. robert.l.howard@nasa.gov	**RFA-022**

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Astrophysics Science Mission Directorate (SMD) Dr. Hashima Hasan, hhasan@nasa.gov NASA Headquarters (HQ) Dr. Mario Perez, mario.perez@nasa.gov NASA HQ		
Research Focus Area	**Point of Contact**	**Id**
Astrophysics Technology Development	Dr. Hashima Hasan hhasan@nasa.gov Dr. Mario Perez mario.perez@nasa.gov	**RFA-023**
NASA Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS) Science Mission Directorate (SMD) NASA Headquarters Biological and Physical Sciences Division NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) / EM41 Douglas Gruendel Douglas.J.Gruendel@nasa.gov NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Diane Malarik Diane.C.Malarik@nasa.gov NASA Headquarters (HQ) Brad Carpenter bcarpenter@nasa.gov NASA HQ Mike Robinson michael.p.robinson@nasa.gov NASA HQ Sharmila Bhattacharya SpaceBiology@nasaprs.com NASA HQ Dr. Lisa Carnell; lisa.a.scottcarnell@nasa.gov NASA HQ		
Fundamental Physics	Mike Robinson; michael.p.robinson@nasa.gov	**RFA-024**
Soft Matter Physics	Mike Robinson; michael.p.robinson@nasa.gov	**RFA-025**
Fluid Physics	Brad Carpenter bcarpenter@nasa.gov	**RFA-026**
Combustion Science	Brad Carpenter bcarpenter@nasa.gov	**RFA-027**
Materials Science	Brad Carpenter bcarpenter@nasa.gov	**RFA-028**
Growth of plants in inhospitable “deep space-relevant” Earth soils or conditions	Sharmila Bhattacharya SpaceBiology@nasaprs.com	**RFA-029**
Commercially Enabled Rapid Space Science Project (CERISS)	Dr. Lisa Carnell lisa.a.scottcarnell@nasa.gov	**RFA-030**

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Commercial Space Capabilities (CSC) Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD) Marc Timm, Program Executive marc.g.timm@nasa.gov NASA Headquarters (HQ) Warren Ruemmele, Project Executive warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC)		
Research Focus Area	**Point of Contact**	**Id**
In-Space Welding	Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov	**RFA-031**
Materials and Processes Improvements for Chemical Propulsion State of Art (SoA)	Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov	**RFA-032**
Materials and Processes Improvements for Electric Propulsion State of Art (SoA)	Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov	**RFA-033**
Improvements to Space Solar Power State of Art (SoA)	Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov	**RFA-034**
Small Reentry Systems	Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov	**RFA-035**
Other Commercial Space Topic	Warren Ruemmele warren.p.ruemmele@nasa.gov	**RFA-036**

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Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)
NASA Digital Transformation (DT) Science Mission Directorate (SMD) **NASA Digital Transformation Officer** **Jill Marlowe** jill.marlowe@nasa.gov NASA Headquarters (HQ) **NASA Digital Transformation – Portfolio Integration** **Patrick Murphy** patrick.murphy@nasa.gov NASA HQ NASA Digital Transformation – Zero Trust Foundations; Strategy and Architecture Office (SAO) Mark Stanley mark.a.stanley-1@nasa.gov NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) Cybersecurity Engineering Office (CSE) Dennis daCruz dennis.m.dacruz@nasa.gov NASA HQ NASA Digital Transformation – AI/ML Foundation Ed McLarney edward.l.mclarney@nasa.gov NASA LaRC Martin Garcia martin.garcia@nasa.gov NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) Mark Page mark.page@nasa.gov NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Scott Tashakkor scott.b.tashakkor@nasa.gov NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) Snorre Stamnes snorre.a.stamnes@nasa.gov NASA LaRC Shan Zeng shan.zeng@nasa.gov NASA LaRC Yongxiang Hu yongxiang.hu-1@nasa.gov NASA LaRC Kelsey Buckles kelsey.d.buckles@nasa.gov NASA MSFC Ignacio López-Francos ignacio.lopez-francos@nasa.gov NASA Ames Caleb Adams caleb.a.adams@nasa.gov NASA Ames Research Center (ARC) Ariel Deutsch ariel.deutsch@nasa.gov NASA ARC Nikunj Oza nikunj.c.oza@nasa.gov NASA ARC Jules Casuga jules.casuga@nasa.gov NASA ARC Frank Delgado francisco.j.delgado@nasa.gov NASA JSC David Meza david.meza-1@nasa.gov NASA HQ

Research Focus Area	Point of Contact	Id
Zero Trust, Cybersecurity Mesh Architecture, and Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Realtime Cyber Defense	Mark Stanley mark.a.stanley-1@nasa.gov	**RFA-037**
Applied AI Ethics	Ed McLarney edward.l.mclarney@nasa.gov	**RFA-038**

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Scaled Video ML Object Detection and Alerts	Ed McLarney edward.l.mclarney@nasa.gov Martin Garcia martin.garcia@nasa.gov Mark Page mark.page@nasa.gov	**RFA-039**
Verification of AI/ML algorithms for Spacecraft	Scott Tashakkor scott.b.tashakkor@nasa.gov	**RFA-040**
Augmenting and Analyzing Requirements with Natural Language Processors	Scott Tashakkor scott.b.tashakkor@nasa.gov	**RFA-041**
AI/ML algorithms to obtain and improve 3-dimentional remote sensing of the Earth's aerosols, clouds, oceans and lands using advanced lidar and polarimeter data	Snorre Stamnes snorre.a.stamnes@nasa.gov Shan Zeng shan.zeng@nasa.gov Yongxiang Hu yongxiang.hu-1@nasa.gov	**RFA-042**
ICAN-C-Obscured Vision Enhancement	Kelsey Buckles kelsey.d.buckles@nasa.gov	**RFA-043**
Lox Methane HS Video Analysis	Kelsey Buckles kelsey.d.buckles@nasa.gov	**RFA-044**
Motion Mag in the Dark	Kelsey Buckles kelsey.d.buckles@nasa.gov	**RFA-045**
Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Detection Using Computer Vision	Kelsey Buckles kelsey.d.buckles@nasa.gov	**RFA-046**
Using Multispectral Neural Radiance Fields (NeRFs) for Ground Detection & Characterization of Lunar Micro Cold Traps	Ignacio López-Francos ignacio.lopez-francos@nasa.gov Caleb Adams caleb.a.adams@nasa.gov Ariel Deutsch ariel.deutsch@nasa.gov	**RFA-047**
High-Resolution 3D Mapping of Lunar Shadowed Regions Using Neural Radiance Fields (NeRFs)	Ignacio López-Francos ignacio.lopez-francos@nasa.gov Caleb Adams caleb.a.adams@nasa.gov Ariel Deutsch ariel.deutsch@nasa.gov	**RFA-048**

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Study the deployment of Large Language Models (LLMs) for Systems Engineering and Project Management at NASA	Ignacio López-Francos ignacio.lopez-francos@nasa.gov Caleb Adams caleb.a.adams@nasa.gov Ariel Deutsch ariel.deutsch@nasa.gov	**RFA-049**
Collaborative platforms for capturing data analytics workflows	Nikunj Oza nikunj.c.oza@nasa.gov	**RFA-050**
Uses of generative AI to dynamically create Photo realistic 3D content in real-time for use in XR applications	Jules Casuga jules.casuga@nasa.gov Frank Delgado francisco.j.delgado@nasa.gov	**RFA-051**
Use of a Brain Computer Interface (BCI) system as a novel computer interface	Jules Casuga jules.casuga@nasa.gov Frank Delgado francisco.j.delgado@nasa.gov	**RFA-052**
Cognitive State Determination System to Support Training, Education, and Real-Time Operations in an XR environment	Jules Casuga jules.casuga@nasa.gov Frank Delgado francisco.j.delgado@nasa.gov	**RFA-053**
Automatic XR friendly procedure creation using videos	Jules Casuga jules.casuga@nasa.gov Frank Delgado francisco.j.delgado@nasa.gov	**RFA-054**
Video based mocap system	Jules Casuga jules.casuga@nasa.gov Frank Delgado francisco.j.delgado@nasa.gov	**RFA-055**
Retrieval Augmented Dialog LLM	David Meza david.meza-1@nasa.gov	**RFA-056**
Earth Science Science Mission Directorate (SMD) NASA SMD Earth Science Division (ESD) Earth Science Remote Sensing Yaitza Luna-Cruz yaitza.luna-cruz@nasa.gov NASA Headquarters (HQ) Laura Lorenzoni laura.lorenzoni@nasa.gov NASA HQ Nancy Searby nancy.d.searby@nasa.gov NASA HQ		
Research Focus Area	**Point of Contact**	**Id**

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Impacts of human activity on coastal physical, geomorphological and ecological variability	Laura Lorenzoni laura.lorenzoni@nasa.gov Nancy Searby nancy.d.searby@nasa.gov	**RFA-057**
Sea level rise, coastal erosion/retreat, and salt-water intrusion, and their impacts on ecosystems	Laura Lorenzoni laura.lorenzoni@nasa.gov Nancy Searby nancy.d.searby@nasa.gov	**RFA-058**
Linkages between aquatic dynamics and land subsidence and its impacts on aquatic ecosystems	Laura Lorenzoni laura.lorenzoni@nasa.gov Nancy Searby nancy.d.searby@nasa.gov	**RFA-059**
The role of urban development on land subsidence and aquatic ecosystems; biophysical coupling and feedbacks within the aquatic-land interface	Laura Lorenzoni laura.lorenzoni@nasa.gov Nancy Searby nancy.d.searby@nasa.gov	**RFA-060**
Impacts of hazards related to climate extremes, such as storms and heat waves, on biogeophysical aspects of the coast	Laura Lorenzoni laura.lorenzoni@nasa.gov Nancy Searby nancy.d.searby@nasa.gov	**RFA-061**
Impacts of upstream activities on coastal communities	Laura Lorenzoni laura.lorenzoni@nasa.gov Nancy Searby nancy.d.searby@nasa.gov	**RFA-062**
Integration of existing and upcoming observational and modeling assets into a conceptual or (better) digital aquatic-land framework that enables the dynamical coupling of key processes within the aquatic-land interface	Laura Lorenzoni laura.lorenzoni@nasa.gov Nancy Searby nancy.d.searby@nasa.gov	**RFA-063**
Exposure and vulnerability to geohazards (e.g., infrastructure and flooding, landslides, etc.), land cover/use change and their impacts on water	Laura Lorenzoni laura.lorenzoni@nasa.gov Nancy Searby nancy.d.searby@nasa.gov	**RFA-064**
Entry Systems Modeling Project Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov NASA Ames Research Center (ARC)		
Research Focus Area	**Point of Contact**	**Id**
Nitrogen/Methane Plasma Experiments Relevant to Titan Entry	Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov	**RFA-065**

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Predictive Modeling of Plasma Physics Relevant to High Enthalpy Facilities	Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov	**RFA-066**
Mechanical Properties of Ablative TPS Materials during Char Formation	Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov	**RFA-067**
Office of Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO) Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD) Victor S. Schneider vschneider@nasa.gov NASA Headquarters (HQ)		
Research Focus Area	**Point of Contact**	**Id**
Development and elaboration of Functional aids and testing paradigms to measure activity for use by parastronauts during spaceflight	Victor S. Schneider vschneider@nasa.gov	**RFA-068**
Evaluation space capsule and spacesuit activity in stable and fit lower or upper extremity amputees and compare their responses to non-amputee fit individuals	Victor S. Schneider vschneider@nasa.gov	**RFA-069**
Human Research Program Human Exploration and Operations (HEO) Mission Directorate (HEOMD) **Space Radiation** **Precision Health Initiative** **Systems Biology Translation** Corey Theriot corey.theriot@nasa.gov NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov NASA JSC Janice Zawaski janice.zawaski@nasa.gov NASA JSC		
Pilot studies to adopt terrestrial precision health solutions for astronauts	Corey Theriot corey.theriot@nasa.gov	**RFA-070**
Pilot studies to demonstrate the utilization of full systems biology approaches in addressing human spaceflight risks	Corey Theriot corey.theriot@nasa.gov	**RFA-071**
Tissue and Data sharing for space radiation risk and mitigation strategies	Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov Janice Zawaski janice.zawaski@nasa.gov	**RFA-072**
Space radiation sex-differences	Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov	**RFA-073**

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Compound screening techniques to assess efficacy in modulating responses to radiation exposure	Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov Brock Sishc brock.j.sishc@nasa.gov	**RFA-074**
Inflammasome role in radiation-associated health impacts	Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov Janapriya Saha janapriya.saha@nasa.gov	**RFA-075**
Portable, non-ionizing radiation based, high resolution disease detection imaging	Robin Elgart shona.elgart@nasa.gov Janice Zawaski janice.zawaski@nasa.gov	**RFA-076**

Planetary Science
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Research Focus Area	Point of Contact	Id
High-Temperature Subsystems and Components for Long-Duration (months) Surface Operations	Erica Montbach erica.n.montbach@nasa.gov Michael Lienhard michael.a.lienhard@nasa.gov	**RFA-077**
Aerial Platforms for Missions to Measure Atmospheric Chemical and Physical Properties	Erica Montbach erica.n.montbach@nasa.gov Michael Lienhard michael.a.lienhard@nasa.gov	**RFA-078**
In-situ Astrobiology Instruments	Erica Montbach erica.n.montbach@nasa.gov Michael Lienhard michael.a.lienhard@nasa.gov	**RFA-079**

Research Focus Area/Point of Contact (POC)		
Planetary Protection **Office of Safety & Mission Assurance** Science Mission Directorate (SMD) Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD) J Nick Benardini James.N.Benardini@nasa.gov NASA Headquarters (HQ)		
Research Focus Area	**Point of Contact**	**Id**
Addressing Knowledge Gaps in Planetary Protection for Crewed Mars Mission Concepts	J Nick Benardini James.N.Benardini@nasa.gov	**RFA-080**
Natural Transport of Contamination on Mars	J Nick Benardini James.N.Benardini@nasa.gov	**RFA-081**