



Iowa NASA EPSCoR

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Request for Proposals

<http://www.ia.spacegrant.org/EPSCoR.htm>

Background: Iowa became eligible to participate in the NASA EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) program in December 2008. This is the first official proposal solicitation under this new program. The Iowa NASA EPSCoR (INE) process consists of several parts in order to build up a cadre of principal investigators (PIs) who can submit competitive NASA research proposals that help state-wide research competitiveness and economic development.

Part One: PIs interested in seeking NASA EPSCoR research funding should seek ways to build ties to NASA centers and researchers and with others in Iowa who are already doing this. One of the more likely places to begin the search for collaborators is with one of the four Iowa Space Grant Consortium (ISGC) Base Programs (<http://www.ia.spacegrant.org/HE.htm>) or the ISGC Research Program (<http://www.ia.spacegrant.org/RES.htm>). Through this collaboration, the PI may develop a new concept paper for the next INE call for research proposals.

Part Two: If none of the above areas are of interest or relevant to the PIs field, the PI may submit a concept paper for a research project as explained in the Request section below.

Part Three: A component of the research project concept might include a request for funding of a **travel grant** to a NASA Center or technical conference or meeting in order to learn what research topics are of interest to NASA. Travel grants are requested when the PI recognizes a need to build relationships with NASA where none or only weak ones exist. The cost of a trip must be matched with 15.7% from non-federal funds. Thus, if a trip is expected to cost \$2,000, NASA could provide \$1,686 (maximum amount allowed) and the traveler would need to provide \$314 from non-federal sources.

Part Four: A component of the request might also include a request for funding of a **research fellowship** to a NASA Center or contractor facility for an extended period. Such fellowships are expected to generate significant collaborations and highly competitive research project concept papers. The cost of the fellowship must be matched with 15.7% from non-federal funds. Thus, if the research fellowship is expected to cost \$20,000, NASA could provide \$16,861 (maximum amount allowed) and the research fellow would need to provide \$3,139 from non-federal sources.

Travel grants and research fellowships are not required in project concept submissions. If included, any combination of travel grants or fellowships is allowable. However, it is not likely that a PI would receive more than one travel grant and fellowship in one concept paper. Travel grants and research fellowships must be completed prior to 31 August 2010.

Any PI receiving support is expected to submit a report of their activities within 30 days of the completion of the travel or fellowship (the format will be provided upon notification of award). The PI is also expected to submit a concept paper in the next round of INE proposal concept paper submissions or the next ISGC research competition.



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A peer-review process will be conducted to down-select the concept papers to less than approximately 16 semi-finalists. Up to nine research fellowships and up to seven travel grants will be distributed among the semi-finalists as appropriate. The semi-finalists will be invited to expand their concepts into a proposal outline that will be provided, if selected. A second down-selection will occur and four finalists will be named. These finalists will each receive \$1,000 to develop a full proposal to a level of detail that is ready for submission to NASA as one of only two INE research proposals allowed from Iowa. The actual date of submission to NASA is not yet known, but is expected to be early in 2010.

Part Five: The top prize in this INE competition is the selection as one of the two Iowa research proposals to be submitted to NASA at the next NASA EPSCoR research call for proposals. There is no assurance that submitting a research proposal to NASA will result in funding. However, the maximum award allowable from NASA is \$750,000 to be spent over a three-year period.

Request: Brief (two pages maximum) concept papers are requested from any PI in Iowa who is involved in research to lead a new research project for a period beginning in the Fall of 2010 through at least Fall 2013. The tentative prospective budget is up to \$750,000 to be spent over a three year period. Full dollar-for-dollar match is required. The match can be from cash or in-kind, including the waiver of indirect. PIs must include a statement from their contracts officer confirming the willingness to cost-share the indirect charges if included as part of the cost share. If indirect is charged, it must be included from within the maximum \$750k budget. **NASA funds cannot be used to fund equipment, foreign travel, foreign organizations, or facility modifications.** Based upon a review of these concept papers, a few (~16) of the best concept proposals will be selected for invitation to submit a proposal outline with a few more details of the project. Four finalists will then be awarded \$1,000 and invited to develop full proposals. Prospective proposers are encouraged to attend one of the pre-proposal meetings listed in the Schedule section below and to discuss their ideas with [Dr. William Byrd](#), the Iowa NASA EPSCoR Director (515-294-3106), to see if their ideas fall within the scope of this opportunity.

Criteria: An effective research project is one that - builds connections to NASA Centers and NASA research activities (or other prospective future funding sources), aligns with *documented* NASA and State needs and priorities, involves collaborators from multiple disciplines, involves multiple organizations (where appropriate), provides adequate matching funds, and has a high potential for becoming self-sustaining when NASA EPSCoR funding ends. The involvement of students in research is allowed, but not required. Connections with industry are especially encouraged.

Schedule: Concept papers are due to the [Iowa NASA EPSCoR office](#) (electronic submission preferred) by 4:30 pm 19 October 2009. The schedule of due dates and announcements follows –

15 September 2009	-	First pre-proposal meeting in Cedar Rapids	Meeting Details are on the INE web site
16 September 2009	-	Second pre-proposal meeting in Des Moines	
18 September 2009	-	Third pre-proposal meeting in Cedar Falls	
19 October 2009	-	Concept papers due	
30 October 2009	-	Semi-finalists announced	
30 November 2009	-	Semi-final outlines due	
11 December 2009	-	Finalists announced	
08 February 2010	-	Final proposals due	
26 February 2010	-	Two Iowa NASA EPSCoR proposals announced	
TBA 2010 -	-	Two INE proposals submitted to NASA	