



**National Aeronautics
and Space Administration**

**March 9, 2001
CAN 01-OSS-01**

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT NOTICE

OFFICE OF SPACE SCIENCE (OSS) EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH (E/PO) BROKER/FACILITATOR PROGRAM

- 2001 -

Notice of Intent Due:
Proposals Due:

April 9, 2001
June 7, 2001

OMB Approval No. 2700-0087

**OFFICE OF SPACE SCIENCE (OSS)
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH (E/PO)
BROKER/FACILITATOR PROGRAM
- 2001 -**

Cooperative Agreement Notice
Soliciting Space Science Education Proposals
Submitted On Or Before
June 7, 2001

CAN 01-OSS-01

Release Date: March 9, 2001
Notice of Intent: April 9, 2001
Proposal Submission Deadline: June 7, 2001

Office of Space Science
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, DC 20546-0001

**OFFICE OF SPACE SCIENCE
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH
BROKER/FACILITATOR PROGRAM
- 2001-**

SUMMARY OF SOLICITATION

NASA's Office of Space Science (OSS) announces a new opportunity to receive proposals from organizations interested in serving as regional Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) Broker/Facilitators. The regional Broker/Facilitators, first established in 1998, are one of the critical supporting elements of the broad OSS approach to implementing a comprehensive space science E/PO Program. The Broker/Facilitator concept was first described in the OSS E/PO Implementation Plan (see below) and is discussed further in Appendix A of this Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN).

OSS is currently carrying out a major national program in space science education aimed at fulfilling the mandates in the NASA Strategic Plan to partner with the educational community and industry to inspire America's citizenry and create increased learning opportunities; to involve the educational community in our endeavors to inspire America's students, create learning opportunities, and enlighten inquisitive minds; and to share the experience of expanding the frontiers of air and space with the broadest array of America's citizenry.

The content of the OSS E/PO program has been most recently described in the FY 2000 OSS E/PO Annual Report. The planning and development of the program has been based upon an OSS E/PO Strategy and a follow-on OSS E/PO Implementation Plan developed in collaboration with the Office of Human Resources and Education and the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. These documents describe OSS's approach to contributing to NASA's overall commitment to improving education and the public understanding of science. Information on the overall Space Science program (which provides the scientific context for the E/PO effort) and additional information on recent E/PO accomplishments can be found in the 2000 OSS Strategic Plan. Answers to frequently asked questions concerning the OSS E/PO program can be found in the OSS E/PO Explanatory Guide. All of these documents are available from the OSS website at <http://spacescience.nasa.gov>.

The Broker/Facilitator program is aimed at expanding the impact of OSS's E/PO programs by encouraging and facilitating the development of partnerships between the space science and education communities and by providing meaningful opportunities for underserved and underutilized groups to participate in OSS research and education programs. Additional copies of this CAN, entitled "Education and Public Outreach Broker/Facilitator Program," may be downloaded from the OSS webpage at <http://spacescience.nasa.gov> by following the links under "Research Opportunities" or obtained from the program officer, Dr. Philip Sakimoto, at the address given below.

In accordance with the plans described above, OSS has established a national Space Science E/PO Support Network (originally known as the “Ecosystem”). The Broker/Facilitators are one fundamental component of this Support Network. The Broker/Facilitators serve as bridges between the space science and education communities (including formal education, informal education, and public outreach organizations) and as agents to foster, facilitate, and nurture the process of channeling the expertise of the space science community into directions that will best benefit the educational process and contribute to the public understanding of space science. Their underlying goal is to undertake, explore, and critically examine a variety of approaches to helping space scientists become involved in effective E/PO activities. Their principal objective is to assist space scientists in becoming effectively involved in space science E/PO activities through identifying appropriate opportunities and through creating and sustaining suitable partnerships between the space science and education communities. Their core functions are to serve as a regional point-of-contact and clearinghouse for professional scientists and educators seeking information on and involvement in the OSS E/PO program; to foster, facilitate, and nurture E/PO partnerships between space scientists and educators; to assist space scientists in identifying and formulating E/PO projects and programs; to inform educators about and assist them in developing opportunities to work with the space science community; and to assist space science E/PO product developers in developing, evaluating, archiving, and disseminating appropriate materials. All of these functions are vital components of an organized process to arrive at strategic decisions as to how to make best use of limited human and financial resources.

An initial set of five regional Broker/Facilitators was established through an open competition in 1997. The current solicitation seeks to continue the Broker/Facilitator program with new awards planned to be issued coincident with the expiration in early 2002 of the initial awards. With the new awards and in accordance with areas identified for particular focus in the 2000 OSS Strategic Plan, OSS intends to put greater emphasis on reaching all segments of the American public and the education system. Therefore, proposals that include a consideration of mechanisms for effective outreach to underserved/underutilized groups are strongly encouraged.

Subject to the submission of qualified proposals, NASA intends to select up to seven proposals to be funded in the range of \$250K to \$325K per year for up to five years. Experience to date indicates that such funding levels (which represent a slight expansion from the support levels of the first set of Broker/Facilitators) should be adequate for carrying out the Broker/Facilitator functions. Proposals for amounts above the upper limit will not be considered. NASA reserves the right to adjust these intended funding levels as necessary to meet unforeseen program constraints.

Participation in this program is open to all categories of U.S. organizations, including educational institutions, industry, nonprofit institutions, and other Government agencies. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's), other minority educational institutions, and small businesses and organizations owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals or women are particularly encouraged to apply.

Individual institutions as well as consortiums of institutions are welcome and encouraged to propose. See Section C.1.1 for further information on eligibility.

All Broker/Facilitators for the period from 2002-2006 will be selected from responses to this announcement. Therefore, current holders of Broker/Facilitator awards must submit proposals in response to this CAN if they wish to be considered for continuation as Broker/Facilitators. In accordance with NASA policies, such proposals will be treated as “new” and will not receive any special consideration in terms of preferential handling, review, or priority for selection. Therefore, there are no additional special policies or instructions concerning proposals submitted by holders of current awards. A listing of the current Broker/Facilitators and links to their Web sites may be found at <http://spacescience.nasa.gov> by following the links to “Education and Public Outreach” and then “E/PO Support Network.”

Experience to date with the current set of Broker/Facilitators has also clearly shown that diverse approaches have been important in making unique state or regional connections, taking advantage of special regional opportunities, and bringing a rich mix of talent and experience to bear on connecting the worlds of space science and education and public outreach. OSS intends to build on this experience by purposely selecting proposals with a wide variety of approaches undertaken by a variety of types of organizations in carrying out the Broker/Facilitator role. Since the intent of the Broker/Facilitator approach is to make these services available to many audiences in all parts of the country, geographic distribution and the diversity of audiences to be served will also be explicitly considered in the selection process.

The function of the Broker/Facilitators is primarily a service one, centered on engaging the space science community in educational activities and on building partnerships between the space science and professional education communities. Therefore, proposals in response to this CAN should be centered on such service functions in order to receive consideration in the evaluation process. In particular, proposals that are directed towards supporting a stand-alone and/or internal education program will be considered nonresponsive to this announcement and will not receive further consideration.

Awards will be made as Cooperative Agreements, since considerable interaction with NASA OSS will be required. Selected proposers will have to work closely with NASA, with each other, and with other institutions (especially with other members of the OSS Education Council—see Appendix A) in carrying out their responsibilities.

Appendix A contains a more detailed description of the OSS Education and Outreach Broker/Facilitator Program. Appendix B provides NASA guidance for responding to CAN's, and Appendix C provides amendatory guidance to Appendix B for the format and submission requirements for proposals to be submitted to this CAN. Interested proposers should read Appendix C carefully in its entirety before writing their proposals. Special attention is directed to the requirement for the electronic submission of both a Notice of Intent to propose and a combined Cover Page/Proposal Summary for the proposal itself.

Recommendations for funding will be based on results of the peer evaluation by suitable panels of educators and scientists of each proposal's merits and prospects for successfully addressing the stated goals of this announcement, as well as on the considerations for both geographic diversity and diversity in approaches described above. Specific criteria to be used in the evaluation of proposals are given in Appendix C. In all cases, the Government's obligation to make awards under this CAN is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds, as well as the receipt of proposals that NASA determines are acceptable for award.

The following summary information applies to this CAN:

- Program announcement identifier: CAN 01-OSS-01
- Date of CAN issue: March 9, 2001
- Notices of intent (NOI) to propose:
 - Due date: April 9, 2001
 - Internet URL for electronic submission: <http://props.oss.hq.nasa.gov>
 - For web assistance: E-mail: dtripp@hq.nasa.gov
- Electronic submission of Cover Page/Proposal Summary:
 - Internet URL for electronic submission <http://props.oss.hq.nasa.gov>
 - For web assistance: E-mail: dtripp@hq.nasa.gov
- Paper submission of Final Proposal:
 - Required number: The signed original plus 15 copies
 - Due date: June 7, 2001
 - Address for submission: OSS Education and Outreach
Broker/Facilitator Program
NASA Peer Review Services
500 E Street, SW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20024
 - Phone for commercial delivery: 202/479-9030
- Selecting Official: Assistant Associate Administrator
for Education and Outreach
Office of Space Science
- Announcement of selections: Goal: August 2001
- Initiation of new awards: Goal: January 2002

- Further information
 - CAN Goals and Content

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While NASA attempts to ensure that its research announcements are distributed to the broadest possible audience of interested parties, this announcement for the OSS Education and Outreach Broker/Facilitator Program may not reach everyone who may be interested. Therefore, we request that you alert any of your colleagues, whether in your institution or in others, that may be potentially interested in this announcement.

Recipients of this announcement interested in learning about other opportunities offered by OSS should note that NASA OSS maintains an electronic notification system to alert interested subscribers of the impending release of its research program announcements. Subscription to this service may be accomplished by accessing the OSS homepage on the World Wide Web at URL <http://spacescience.nasa.gov>, selecting the menu item *Get E-mail Announcements* and then following the instructions within the subsection entitled *Space Science Research Announcement Notices*. Owing to the increasing multidisciplinary nature of OSS programs, subscription to this electronic service will notify subscribers of all future NASA program announcements that are released, regardless of the OSS science theme or type of announcement (anticipated to be 10 to 15 items per year). Regardless of whether you subscribe to this service or not, all current OSS Cooperative Agreement Notices and research solicitations may always be accessed and downloaded by linking through *Research Opportunities* on this OSS homepage menu.

The Office of Space Science is committed to using the inspirational nature of space science and the resources of the space science community to enhance science, mathematics, and technology education and the understanding of science and technology education by all Americans. The OSS Education and Outreach Broker/Facilitators play a fundamental role in realizing this commitment. Your interest in responding to this Announcement is sincerely appreciated.

Edward J. Weiler
Associate Administrator
Office of Space Science

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