

## INTRODUCTION

### • INTRODUCTION TO THIS *GUIDEBOOK*

This *Guidebook* describes the policies and procedures for the Broad Agency Announcement known as the NASA Research Announcement (NRA) that will be used by the Office of Space Science (OSS) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Until otherwise noted in the individual NRA, all proposers who plan to respond to a NRA issued by NASA's OSS should adhere to the guidelines contained in the main *OSS Guidebook* Chapters 1, 2, and 3. The appendices provide ancillary information about the NRA policies, as well as the policies and procedures for the review of proposals and the implementation of awards. Note that it is expected that this January 2001 edition of the *OSS Guidebook* will be replaced by a *Guidebook* that will be applicable to all program offices at NASA Headquarters that issue NRA's sometime later in 2001.

This *OSS Guidebook* can always be found by opening "Research Opportunities and Data" from the menu on the OSS homepage at <http://spacescience.nasa.gov> or by directly opening the WWW location:

<http://spacescience.nasa.gov/research/ossguidebook/>

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### • INTRODUCTION TO NASA'S SPONSORED RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent Federal Agency of the United States (U.S.) created by the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958. The NASA Mission, as stated in the NASA Strategic Plan (<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/nsp>) is:

- To advance and communicate scientific knowledge and understanding of the Earth, the solar system, and the universe;
- To advance human exploration, use, and development of space; and
- To research, develop, verify, and transfer advanced aeronautics and space technologies.

In pursuit of these goals, NASA's programs are organized into five Strategic Enterprises called:

- Space Science,
- Earth Science,
- Biological and Physical Research,
- Human Exploration and Development of Space, and
- Aero-Space Technology.

These Enterprises pursue these goals using a wide variety of ground, aeronautical, and space-based programs. Examples of such programs are manned and unmanned missions to explore and study the planet Earth, the Solar System, and the universe; life,

microgravity, and applications research using the Earth-orbiting Shuttle and Space Station; and ground- and space-based programs and facilities to develop advanced aeronautics and space systems of all kinds.

In the pursuit of these goals, NASA funds thousands of proposals each year to study the natural phenomena of the Earth and the cosmos, life sciences, materials sciences, and advanced technologies that have application for aeronautic and space transportation systems. In addition, NASA solicits proposals to foster aggressive programs aimed at education and public outreach and to ensure maximum participation by small businesses and small disadvantaged businesses in NASA programs. Further material about all of NASA's many interests and programs may be found through links starting at the NASA homepage at <http://www.nasa.gov/>.

NASA carries out these research activities by soliciting proposals through a variety of announcements, including the Announcement of Opportunity (AO), the NASA Research Announcement (NRA), and the Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN). Awards through these various solicitations fund thousands of scientists, engineers, and educators each year at U.S. nonprofit and commercial organizations, as well as Federal research institutions including NASA's field Centers.

- STATEMENTS OF POLICY

NASA's Partnership with the Research and Education Communities. Funding for NASA-related research and development projects is a privilege accorded to qualified science, engineering, and educational personnel by NASA acting on behalf of the people of the United States through Congressional action. NASA's proposal and selection processes works only because the various research communities and NASA program officers together maintain the highest level of integrity at all stages of the processes. As a general rule, recipients of NASA research awards largely manage their own research projects with minimal oversight by the Agency. Throughout the entire process—starting with the identification of program objectives, the preparation and peer review of submitted proposals, the conduct of the research itself, and finally the exposition of new knowledge through publications, public outreach, and education—NASA's sees itself as a partner with the scientific, engineering, and educational communities in making its programs relevant and productive.

Inclusive Solicitation of Proposals. NASA welcomes proposals in response to its NRA's from all qualified sources, and especially encourages proposals from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's), Other Minority Universities (OMU's), and small disadvantaged businesses (SDB's) and women-owned small businesses (WOSB's). In accordance with Federal statutes and NASA policy, no eligible applicant shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NASA on the grounds of race, color, creed, age, sex, national origin, or disability.

- NASA WORLD –WIDE WEB (WWW) HOME PAGES

Links to all material posted on the World Wide Web concerning NASA and its programs may be found through the NASA homepage at <http://www.nasa.gov/> (Note: all of the NASA postings on the Internet may be searched through the NASA search engine found at <http://www.nasa.gov/search/>).

- NOTIFICATION OF RELEASE OF NASA RESEARCH SOLICITATIONS

Links to all open and recent past OSS NASA Research Announcements (NRA's) may be accessed by opening "Research Opportunities and Data" from the menu on the NASA OSS home page at <http://spacescience.nasa.gov/>. In addition, many programs at NASA Headquarters and field Centers also maintain an Internet site listing their unique program requirements.

As an additional service to the interested research community, NASA's Enterprises each maintain electronic notification systems for their research program announcements. Directions for subscribing to these electronic services may be found by selecting the menu item "Subscribe to E-mail Announcements" from the various WWW home pages listed above and following the instructions therein. The types of Announcements for which these electronic notifications will provide alerts are:

Announcement of Opportunity (AO) – A specific research opportunity for which relatively well-defined science investigations are solicited, usually in association with a specific NASA space mission that may (but does not always) involve the provision and operation of experiment hardware and that is typically funded by a unique Federal budget appropriation;

NASA Research Announcement (NRA) – A general research opportunity that solicits relatively nonspecific research, technology, or education projects that are funded by NASA's yearly, on-going budgets;

Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) – A unique research programs that involve a relatively high degree of interaction between the Agency and the selected recipient(s) to achieve NASA's desired objectives (e.g., to develop a research institute, an extensive educational/public outreach activity, or a specified technology capability); and

NASA Announcement (AN) – A program in which selections of investigations are made on a competitive basis but for which no monetary award is made (e.g., to acquire new data from an operating space science mission).

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