**REQUEST FOR A 4-5 PAGE PRE-PROPOSAL**

**EPSCoR Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN)**

**Suborbital Flight Opportunity Announcement Number:** **NNH22ZHA002C**

**Due to NM NASA EPSCoR by February 18, 2022**

New Mexico is eligible to submit one proposal under the NASA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Research Suborbital Flight Opportunity Announcement Number NNH22ZHA002C.

Please send your 4-5-page pre-proposal to Cristina Esquivel at [cmesquiv@nmsu.edu](mailto:cmesquiv@nmsu.edu). Your pre-proposals should be prepared with the intention of submitting a full proposal. **Your pre-proposal is due by February 18, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. MT. This is a hard deadline; no extensions will be provided.**  Please note that the final proposal will be due to NSPIRES by April 8, 2022. [You can access the NASA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Suborbital Flight Opportunity Announcement by clicking this link.](https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/viewrepositorydocument/cmdocumentid=857820/solicitationId=%7B4B3D113D-5353-DB80-07EA-64CCC33FB4E2%7D/viewSolicitationDocument=1/Final_SFO%20NOFO_EPSCoR_with%20appendix%20E%20-%201-22.pdf)

This solicitation is an opportunity to propose a suborbital flight aboard a commercial suborbital vehicle funded by the Space Technology Mission Directorate’s Flight Opportunities program. Proposals shall state how suborbital flight will influence/mature the results/quality of any prior ground-based research or technology development and will provide insight into how the suborbital flight fits into a larger scientific research or space technology development context, as applicable. Each NASA-funded EPSCoR proposal is expected to perform scientific and/or technical research in areas that support NASA’s strategic research and technology development priorities and contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities of higher education, and economic development of the jurisdiction receiving funding. See NASA Strategic Plan: <https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/nasa_2018_strategic_plan.pdf>

The proposer’s organization will directly purchase the proposed flight(s) on a currently available U.S. commercial vehicle. The proposer is responsible for choosing which vehicle best meets their needs. The proposer is not restricted to flight providers previously funded by the Flight Opportunities program. However, the proposal shall only utilize vehicles whose providers have conclusively demonstrated successful flight(s) – test flights or commercial flights that were launched and recovered successfully with payload intact and have achieved the minimum flight capabilities. See *Table 1 Minimum Demonstrated Flight Capabilities of Eligible Vehicle Classes* on Pages 10-11 of CAN.

The proposer is limited to proposing to use one (1) flight provider in one (1) vehicle class. For Suborbital Rockets, Rocket-Powered Lander Vehicles, and High-Altitude Balloons, the maximum number of allowable flights is one (1). For aircraft following reduced-gravity flight profiles, up to 4 flights (one flight is one take-off/landing) may be proposed, to be performed within the proposed project duration. Human-tended flights other than for aircraft following reduced-gravity flight profiles are not allowed for this solicitation.

Be aware that the selected pre-proposal will need to include a Data Management Plan (DMP) in the proposal stage. Any research project in which a DMP is not necessary shall provide an explanation in the DMP block. Example explanations:

* This is a development effort for flight technology that will not generate any data that my entity can release, so a DMP is not necessary;
* The data that our entity will generate will be ITAR; or
* Explain why the proposed project is not going to generate data.

The proposal type that requires a DMP is described in the NASA Plan for Increasing Access to Results of Scientific Research. See Pages 13-14 of CAN and access the [NASA Plan for Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research](http://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/NASA_Data_Plan.pdf).

**Pre-proposal elements should include (4-5 pages):**

Cover sheet not contained in page count

* Research Title
* Intrinsic Merit – Up to 1 page (Page 23 of CAN)
  + Include clear goals and objectives, include scientific and/or technical merit for proposed idea, provide baseline information on your team’s current research.
* NASA Alignment and Partnerships – Up to 1 page (Page 23 of CAN)
  + Consider value of proposed research to NASA and jurisdiction. Consider the impact of partnerships and collaborations.
* Management and Evaluation – Up to 1 page (Page 24 of CAN)
  + Include list of personnel; the PI is the jurisdiction director and indicate the intended outcomes and metrics to assess progress.
* Budget Justification: Narrative and Details – Up to 2 pages (Table and justification) (Page 25 of CAN)
  + A budget template will be provided by the NM NASA EPSCoR office.
  + In the budget table and justification, include the science budget (up to $250,000) and in a separate line item within the same budget indicate the launch provider cost plus F&A.
  + Preparation guidelines for the budget can be found on Appendix C on Page 37 in the [NASA Guidebook for Proposers](https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/2021_ed._nasa_guidebook_for_proposers.pdf).
  + The maximum funding that can be requested from NASA by a jurisdiction is $250,000 per proposal (it excludes fight provider costs). This amount is to be expended over three years in accordance with the budget details and budget narrative in the approved proposal.
  + Cost-sharing is not required.

Once NM NASA EPSCoR receive the pre-proposals, our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will select the proposed project determined to have the best competitive elements of being funded by NASA. **Selected team will be notified by February 28, 2022.**

Each funded NASA EPSCoR proposal is expected to establish research activities that will make significant contributions to the strategic research and technology development priorities of one or more of the Mission Directorates, and contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of the jurisdiction receiving funding. Prior EPSCoR awards are posted on the NASA New Mexico EPSCoR jurisdiction website for your review at: <http://nmnasaepscor.com/>

NASA Guidebook for Proposers (2021 Edition) can be reviewed at:

<https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/2021_ed._nasa_guidebook_for_proposers.pdf>

The members of the TAC are chosen by NMSU, UNM, and NM Tech. They are members of a statewide body of collaborators and also include external evaluators. As this is a statewide program; NASA requires the lead institution to involve research universities statewide. The full proposal is submitted to NASA where they are competitively reviewed. The role of the NM EPSCoR TAC is to assure the proposal most likely to be awarded is well written, feasible, and demonstrates how a suborbital flight fits into the larger scientific research or space technology development of NASA and the jurisdiction.

More information about the Flight Opportunities program can be found at:

<https://www.nasa.gov/flightopportunities>

More information about NASA STMD can be found at:

<http://www.nasa.gov/spacetech>

**Pre-Proposal Evaluation**This section ismeant to help you understand the big items that will make your proposal successful not only in the pre-proposal process, but also help you prepare for and to write the full proposal should your proposal be selected by the TAC. **Pre-proposal evaluation will be based on: intrinsic merit, NASA alignment and partnerships, management and evaluation, and budget justification (narrative and details.)**

**Evaluation Criterion – Pages 22-25 of CAN**

All proposals will be peer reviewed via NSPIRES and by representatives of the Flight Opportunity (FO) office and NASA Science Technology Mission Directorate (STMD). The EPSCoR Program Office will ensure that all proposals are evaluated based on:

* Intrinsic Merit
* NASA Alignment and Partnerships
* Management and Evaluation
* Budget Justification – Narrative and Details

The evaluation will follow the normal EPSCoR two-part process: An EPSCoR representative will review all submitted proposals for compliance with the solicitation requirements. An STMD/FO representative will review proposed flight provider eligibility and flight feasibility. All compliant proposals are subsequently evaluated by a team of NASA Subject Matter Experts against the evaluation criteria outlined in this Section. Following this, all evaluated proposals will be presented to a Mission Directorate review panel for funding recommendations.

Successful 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, as well as contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities of higher education, and economic development of the jurisdiction.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria: Intrinsic Merit, 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. **Note:** *Each proposer shall provide specific information on how it determined the relevance of the proposed effort to NASA and the jurisdiction.*