

## Proposal logistics:

Q: What is the earliest and latest start date for the awarded projects?

A: Please see page 28 on the NOFO. September 1 of 2023 must be the start date for all projects. Proposers can outline projects that range from 1-4 years in duration. High ranking proposals which are not funded in FY 23 can be held for funding in future years if funding becomes available.

Q: How are funds distributed?

A: Please see page 21 of the NOFO. Funds from NOAA will be distributed as grants.

Q: How many projects will get funded or total dollar amount?

A: Please see page 12 of the NOFO. The maximum allocation amount for all projects supported in this call is \$30M. This program expects to fund between 10-20 proposals.

Q: Is there a range of funding dollars for this?

A: Please see page 12 of the NOFO. The ceiling for an individual proposal is \$2M. Projects focusing only on community engagement will have a ceiling of \$100K.

Q: When will successful applicants be notified?

A: Please see page 28 of the NOFO. Successful applicants will be notified in June 2023.

## Proposal eligibility:

Q: To fulfill the partnership criteria, how should partners be represented on the proposal? Must all partners be paid to fulfill the partnership requirements?

A: According to the text of the NOFO, partnerships are required to include PIs from the relevant groups. Here is the relevant text:

Under the Required Elements section,

*"For more information on sectors (government, academic, private) that must be represented through PI affiliation on each proposal to qualify see Section III, Eligibility Information."*

Under the Eligibility Information section,

*"To be eligible under this NOPP funding opportunity, each proposing team must be comprised of participants from at least two of the following three sectors."*

For the purposes of this call, given the text in the Required Elements section, "participants" as described in the Eligibility Information section denotes PIs.

PIs do not necessarily need to be funded directly by this proposal, but should be substantively contributing to the overall project or effort. If their salary is not included, we encourage PIs to list it as leveraged funding. Here is the relevant text from the NOFO:

Under the Eligibility Information section,  
*"While a cost share of funding is not required, applicants are requested to provide a description of complementary funding and in-kind contributions from project partners."*

Q: Can federal employees be lead PIs, including those from the funding agencies?

A: Yes, federal employees are eligible to be PIs including those who receive funding from the funding agencies (NOAA OAP, GOMO, IOOS, DOE FECM, WTPO, Navy ONR, etc.). Staff from the funding offices involved in drafting the NOFO are ineligible to apply. Given that this proposal requires partnership for eligibility, for the ease of submission this program recommends that the non-federal partner submit the proposal in grants.gov.

Q: To further clarify, are DOE labs allowed to serve as lead investigators?

A: DOE labs should be listed as sub awardees or can submit as the lead via the normal [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) processes and the instructions listed in the NOFO.

Q: Can this call fund foreign collaborators?

A: This call cannot directly fund foreign collaborators, but institutions that receive funding through successful proposals in this program may transfer funding to international collaborators through subawards. This is known as secondary or indirect support; foreign collaborators cannot receive primary or direct support.

Q: Can this call fund work in international waters?

A: At present there is no restriction on submitting proposals that would take place outside US waters, however we note that regardless of the location proposers need to submit a permitting plan consistent with the guidance in the NOFO, as we suggested from the webinar. From the webinar transcript...

*"The Environmental Compliance Material section is where applicants proposing, piloting and or experimental research of any kind will include any existing permits and or a permitting plan. **If the project is being proposed in international water[s]** you must also include permits and or a permitting plan."*

Q: How can PIs form partnerships and/or discover the capabilities of government agencies (and other partners) in the field?

A: As the funding agency, this program may not actively assist PIs in networking to form partnerships. However a form to enhance collaboration created by CEA Consulting can be accessed here: <https://forms.gle/xZocBbitnMD2tbNf7> and responses to the form are available here: [tinyurl.com/NOPPmCDRnetworkdatabase](https://tinyurl.com/NOPPmCDRnetworkdatabase)

Q: What is meant by "proposals not funded in the current fiscal period may be considered for funding in the next fiscal period without NOAA or NOPP repeating the competitive process outlined in this announcement."

A: Projects not selected to be funded in FY 23 may be selected in FY 24 or 25 if additional funds become available without undergoing additional competition. If more funds become available to this program next fiscal year, funds could be awarded to highly ranked projects that are next in line to be funded from the FY23 NOFO.

Q: What is the policy regarding PIs submitting multiple proposals and/or being included as a funded PI on multiple proposal submissions?

A: There are no limits listed in the NOFO, however the program managers suggest keeping in mind the number of proposals this program anticipates funding (~10-20) and being reasonable with promising time. In other words, if more than one of the proposals in which you are a PI is funded, please consider carefully whether you can deliver all of the work proposed.

Q: What, if anything, does a commercial partner need to provide?

A: The nature of the partnership is at the discretion of the PIs.

Q: Would there be a disadvantage if proposers focused on only one of the research priorities, not multiple?

A: Successful proposals will address at least one of the key priorities listed in the NOFO. This program recommends closely reviewing the list of priorities on pages 6-7 in the NOFO to formulate proposals.

Q: Must ocean acidification mitigation be addressed in the proposal and/or will an applicant lose points if the proposal does not mention ocean acidification?

A: The multiple priorities listed in this call can be found on pages 6 and 7. Not all priorities focus on ocean acidification mitigation.

Q: How developed does a mCDR technology need to be?

A: The goal of this call is not to fund basic research, but to fund applied research. Please review pages 6 and 7 to determine if a technology is appropriate for this call.

### **Proposal requirements:**

Q: When are the MRV and Environmental Monitoring components required?

A: Proposals to test a mCDR approach in the field require these components. More information about these components can be found on pages 16 and 17 in the NOFO.

Q: If the proposed project does not deploy a mCDR strategy, but relies on a previously funded experiment, is a MRV plan required?

A: Given that the NOFO states on pg. 16 that only proposed projects testing or deploying an mCDR strategy require MRV plans, in this case a MRV plan would not be required. However, to limit confusion, we are providing the following standard language to include where an MRV plan would be included. This language states: "While the proposed project builds on an existing funded project to test a mCDR strategy (type of strategy), the scope of this proposed work does not aim to pilot a MRV strategy. However, we ensure that the previously funded project does detail a MRV strategy that we can provide upon request."

Q: How far back and who should be included in the prior accomplishments section?

A: An answer to this question can be found in the NOFO at the bottom of page 19. Please report on the ONE award most closely related to this research in the last five years for each PI and co-PI.

Q: If our company already has an mCDR solution and does not require funding but needs assistance with the permitting, might this program assist us in the permitting process?

A: In order to apply to this call and pilot an mCDR strategy, a permitting plan must be included. Helpful information can be found on pages 10-12 of the NOFO to create this permitting plan.

Q: For budget items that vary in cost (e.g. ship time) how can proposers best factor those into the budget?

A: Please include a line item for costs based on an estimated cost for the product (or ship) preferred. If estimating costs, please keep this in mind in formulating the final budget and budget justification.

- Ship time rates are generally derived from quotes from vessel operators.
  - A list of UNOLS operators can be found at: <https://www.unols.org/ships-facilities/unols-vessels>
  - Note that some operators have additional requirements, for example as here: <https://scripps.ucsd.edu/ships/planning>
  - UNOLS general planning / proposal guidance is here: <https://www.unols.org/ship-schedules/cruise-planning-information>

Q: Are field trials required for this NOFO or will laboratory experiments considered?

A: See page 17 for more details. No, field trials will not be required.

Q: Are Letters of Support acceptable?

There is nothing in the NOFO that would prevent an applicant from submitting Letters of Support. They are not required. If you choose to submit Letter(s) of Support please upload them with your general application as additional documents in Grants Online.

### **Other questions:**

Q: Industry partners are often interested in retaining IP. Does this opportunity have specific policies about IP or does this opportunity use some default federal award language about IP?

A: Please see page 32 of the NOFO for standard award language regarding IP.

Q: Is there a list of grants provided last year under this program?

A: This is the first year for this program.

Q: Is there a mandate to publish in Open Access journals?

A: There is no current mandate to publish in Open Access journals as a part of this NOFO, but there is a mandate for sharing research results publicly. Successful

applicants will work with the program managers to make sure project data is shared publicly.