

Title: Sandy Supplemental Internal Competition for Instruments and Observing Systems Research

Background: On January 29, 2013, the President signed Public Law 113-6, the FY2013 Disaster Assistance Supplemental, to “improve and streamline disaster assistance for Hurricane Sandy, and for other purposes”. Within that law, OAR received \$50M for “laboratories and cooperative institutes research activities associated with sustained observations weather research program, and ocean and coastal research”.

OAR notified Congress that approximately \$5.5M of this funding would be used by OAR and its partners to identify instruments and observing systems that have the potential to significantly improve storm predictions and/or decrease the cost of storm-related observations. These funds will be competed to bring the best new observing technologies forward to directly improve observations for improved forecast ability.

Scope: A variety of in situ and remote sensing platforms and instruments--including floats, drifters, dropsondes, gliders, radars and new observing technologies--can provide the observations that are key to understanding and/or predicting the structure of severe storms and potentially improve forecasts. For the purposes of this competition, “storm” shall include short-lived events (e.g., hurricanes, extra-tropical storms, mid-latitude local storms) that have acute socio-economic impacts on US and its territories. The focus of this effort will be the evaluation of instruments and systems during field tests or demonstrations. These projects will test the best new observing technologies that have the greatest potential to improve atmospheric and/or ocean observations for improved forecast ability. Projects that significantly overlap other past, in-progress, or funded work will be given low priority. Evaluations and/or evidence of improved analysis and/or forecast capability should be a consideration of any submitted LOI/proposal. Cooperative Institutes (CIs) and NOAA laboratories are encouraged to partner on these projects to ensure relevance to NOAA’s mission and to aid in the transition of promising results into operations.

Description: **No more than two Letters of Intent (LOIs) are being accepted from each OAR laboratory and CI for review, except ESRL where each division may submit up to two LOIs,** to determine whether or not a full proposal should be submitted for further consideration. LOIs will be evaluated by a panel of NOAA employees. If necessary, non-NOAA employees may be asked to review an LOI because of their expertise in the subject of the LOI. An e-mail response to the LOI will be sent to the identified PI within 2-3 weeks after the LOI's due date describing the review team’s decision of whether or not a full application should be submitted. Some LOIs may be accepted for funding without the need to submit a full proposal if the project is felt to be meritorious and the project scope is limited enough to be described fully in the LOI. In those cases, a full budget will be requested. Full applications will be accepted only for LOIs deemed the highest priority.

An LOI may repeat an earlier idea submitted for Sandy supplemental funds or be a new idea. Leveraging of other funds and activities is encouraged.

Due Date for Letters of Intent: June 19, 2013

Tentative Due Date for Full Proposal: August 7, 2013

Expected Start Date (for Lab activities): October 1, 2013

Expected Start Date (for CI activities): November 1, 2013

Eligible Applicants: OAR Laboratories and NOAA CIs

Funding Availability: Approximately \$5.5 million will be available for approximately 5-8 new awards. It is anticipated that most awards will be at a funding level between \$500,000 and \$700,000 for the entire project period.

Project/Award Period: The Sandy supplemental law directs that all CI project funding must be expended within two years from the date that the award is signed. NOAA has requested an extension to three years for this activity, but NOAA does not know whether that extension will be granted. NOAA entities must expend all funds by September 30, 2014. Funds not expended by NOAA or CIs will be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

Funding Instrument: If selected for funding, NOAA laboratories will receive funding through intra-agency transfer. CIs that are selected will be funded with a separate financial assistance award. (This process is consistent with the procedure approved by the NOAA Research Council on May 17, 2011, for processing competitive awards with a NOAA CIs.) If selected for a full proposal submission, all CIs must attach a cover letter to the proposal stating his/her desire to have the proposal associated with the CI. This letter should specify the name of the cooperative institute, the CI cooperative agreement number, and the NOAA-approved research theme and task that applies to the proposal. The proposal will use the F&A rate associated with main CI agreement. If the proposal is selected for funding, NOAA will notify the university that a separate award will be issued with its own award number. However, the award will include two Special Award Conditions (SACs): (1) the existing University/NOAA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would be incorporated by reference into the terms of the competitive award, and (2) any performance report(s) for the competitive project must follow the timetable of the funding program and be submitted directly to the funding program. Report(s) will be copied to the CI's administrator when due, to be attached to the main cooperative agreement progress report as an appendix. This will allow the CI to coordinate all the projects submitted through the CI, since the terms of these awards will specify that this is a CI project via the MOA.

Content and Format of LOI:

The purpose of the LOI process is to provide information to potential applicants on the relevance of their proposed project in advance of preparing a full application. Full applications will be accepted only for LOIs deemed relevant. LOIs should be submitted by e-mail to John Cortinas (john.cortinas@noaa.gov) by **5:00 PM ET on June 19, 2013**.

The LOI should provide a concise description of the proposed work and its relevance to this announcement. The LOI should be no more than two pages in length, use 12-point font, have 1-inch margins, and should include the components listed below.

- (a) A tentative project title
- (b) Name(s) and institution(s) of all Investigator(s), and the Lead Principal Investigator
- (c) Statement of the problem.
- (d) Brief summary of work to be completed, methodology to be used, data sets needed or to be collected, and approximate cost of the project
- (e) Relevance to the competition/demonstrable outcomes of the proposed activities
- (f) Anticipated total cost of the proposed work
- (g) Anticipated total funding provided to non-Federal partners (e.g., CIs)

If these components are not included or the LOI is submitted late, the LOI will not be considered.