2022 Alabama NASA EPSCoR Seed Grant RFP
April 13, 2022

Alabama NASA EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Development
(RID) Program Announcement of Opportunity

5 Grants beginning June 29, 2022 with a 1-year PoP (with four
possible 1 year renewal based on progress)

The Alabama Space Grant Consortium has received new money for a new phase of our NASA EPSCoR Seed Grant Program. There are funds for five $16K grants ending June 28, 2022. NASA requires 1:1 matching for this program. These are 1-year grants with possibility for renewal for four more years if satisfactory progress is demonstrated.

Deadline for Submission of Proposals: Proposals must be received by **COB May 25, 2022**. These must be formal submissions with institutional signatures. Please send an electronic copy to brooke.graham@uah.edu.

Purpose of Seed Grant Program: The purpose is to provide an impetus to recently hired faculty at Alabama's research universities to develop a research program in an area that is of interest to NASA (see below). Faculty, preferably with student assistance, will use the funds to acquire new data or to develop new methods that will increase their competitiveness in obtaining awards from NASA and other technical agencies. We are particularly aware of the difficulties experienced by young faculty who have used up their "start-up" package, but have not yet obtained significant funding by winning competitive awards.

Who May Apply: This program is designed to provide seed grants to recently hired faculty/Alabama researchers for R&D that has a demonstrated tie-in to a NASA Center. Projects must involve Research or Technology, and are open to any area relevant to NASA. The project PI must be a faculty member at one of Alabama's institutions of higher education. Post-doctoral associates, graduate students, and undergraduates should be involved as needed.

Value: Up to $16K NASA funds per project.

Number of Awards: Up to 5 awards may be made.

Period of Performance: Awards will be issued for a 12-month period of performance. June 29, 2022 – June 28, 2023

Matching: NASA funds must be matched 1:1 with non-Federal funds. Match may be cash or in-kind, student and faculty labor, tuition, supplies and materials, travel and waiver of indirect costs, etc. Matching funds may not include other Federal funds and must be expended during the period of the grant.

Equipment: NASA funds cannot be used for equipment.

Travel: NASA funds may not be used for foreign travel.

Eligible Scope (Relevance to NASA's Mission):
Projects proposed must be clearly aligned with NASA's strategic plan:
https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/fy_22_strategic_plan.pdf and websites for the Mission Directorate Offices. Talk to your campus director or give Dr. Dale Thomas a call if you need assistance. Specific relationships with individuals and/or programs at a NASA field centers are encouraged, and should be detailed. It is not necessary to create a formal collaboration, but the interaction should be real.

Students: Employment of students, graduate or undergraduates in the research is encouraged. Give details of how these students are recruited and how paid (hourly, scholarship, tuition-waiver, etc.).

Diversity: A guiding tenet of NASA's education and employment policies is that the next generation technical aerospace workforce should more closely reflect the gender and minority makeup of the U.S. population. Applicants should describe their efforts to address this need.

Proposal Format:
1) Title page: Title, Proposer, address and contacts for the proposer, address and contacts for the contracts officer at the proposer's institution.

2) ***Signatures Page***: (may be same as 1) above); proposer's signature and that of officer certifying institutional commitments.

3) ***Abstract***: 500 words or less.

4) ***Technical Approach***: Limit 5 pages.
Briefly explain the technical background (state of the art), where you think advances need to be made, what you will do in this limited program, and why you are qualified to do it. Explain the relevance; how it relates to NASA's requirements, and the nature of any interactions with NASA personnel and other key players in the field you have made and will pursue. Briefly state how this grant will help you in developing your research plan.

Give a list of objectives with a schedule. This should all be simple and specific. Proposers should write their descriptions mindful that their proposal will be evaluated by broadly experienced technical reviewers, not to specialists in the proposer's field. The technical section of the proposal should be no more than 5 pages, 12-point type, single spaced.

5) ***Budget***: Give brief explanation of your budget, if necessary for clarity, along with the figures. Show the NASA and matching funds separately. Be clear and specific. No special format is required. NASA funds may be used for salaries, student stipends, supplies, equipment, travel, etc., with the exceptions noted above. Give pay rates, hours, specific products to be bought, etc. The same specificity applies to the expenditures proposed for the matching funds. Your proposal

will be assessed by the reviewers on the clarity and reasonableness of the budget. Reasonable does not mean cheap, rather that the expenditures should match the work proposed.

6) ***Current and Pending***: List proposals submitted, awarded, denied or pending during the past 12 months. List: title, agency, amount, date submitted, and status.

7) ***Proposer's Curriculum Vitae***: Limit 1 page.

8) ***Biography/References***: Limit 1 page.

9) ***How have you approached the diversity issue given above?*** Give a brief statement. It is a national priority to increase diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), from university students, faculty, and staff to industry employees. Traditionally, minority groups and women have been underrepresented in the STEM disciplines as student and faculty as well as in the workplace after graduation. All proposers are encouraged to help recruit diverse participants to their proposed projects.