

**Request for Pre-proposals
for DoD EPSCoR
(DEPSCoR) Program**

May 6, 2008

TO: Research administrators and faculty interested in DEPSCoR funding

FROM: Fred Choobineh, Director, Nebraska EPSCoR

RE: Request for pre-proposals for **Dept. of Defense (DOD) EPSCoR Program**
Deadline: Thursday, July 24, 2008, 5:00 p.m.

The DoD EPSCoR (DEPSCoR) announcement for the FY 2009 competition is expected within a few months. The State EPSCoR Committee anticipates submitting state proposals to the Army Research Office in October. State proposals may contain **three to five** individual research proposals each for a 36-month effort. Time does not permit an opportunity for development of full proposals for external review and feedback; thus, the State EPSCoR Committee requests receipt of pre-proposals from faculty interested in submitting a full proposal to the DEPSCoR program. The EPSCoR Committee will select research projects to be developed into full proposals based on the receipt of pre-proposals as detailed below:

I. General Information for Nebraska DEPSCoR Program:

Who may submit: Faculty of universities in Nebraska.

Eligible projects: DoD agencies primarily fund research projects that meet their research needs as outlined in their broad agency announcements. The web sites at the end of this memo provide information on various DoD EPSCoR eligible research programs. DoD agencies are interested in funding research that meets their specific needs/interests rather than funding centers, labs, or programs that do not meet stated needs/interests no matter how important or interesting the institutions or PIs believe these programs to be. A proposal must address one focused technical issue. Please note: submission of a pre-proposal to Nebraska EPSCoR serves as your acceptance to serve on a future Nebraska EPSCoR review panel when requested to do so.

Funding limit and duration: DEPSCoR grant proposals can request funding for a three year period. Grants should request a minimum of \$350,000 but not more than \$600,000 (excluding the required match). Most funded prior grants have been for amounts of less than \$500,000 over three years. Start date is usually June 1.

Matching Requirements: DEPSCoR awards require an annual minimum non-federal investment of one-to-two (i.e. at least one dollar from state, institutional, and/or private sector sources to be matched by each two dollars of DEPSCoR support requested). Matching funds may support salaries, operating expenses, or new equipment. The review process will take into account the magnitude and scope of the non-federal investment in support of the state's DEPSCoR objectives.

II. Pre-proposal Evaluation Criteria:

The State EPSCoR Committee will select **3 - 5** pre-proposals to be developed into full proposals for submission to the DEPSCoR competition based on the following criteria:

- Congruence of the proposed project with the research interests of one or more DoD agencies and programs as evidenced by a letter from at least one specific DoD agency program manager expressing interest in funding the proposal.
- Principal investigator's qualifications to accomplish project goals.
- Quality and feasibility of the proposed project.
- Clear presentation of the goals and the expected outcomes/benefits of the research project.
- Reasonableness of the budget and the source of the required match.
- The added value of the project to Nebraska's research capabilities and competitiveness and/or fostering research collaborations across disciplines or with the private sector in the state.

III. Pre-proposal Content:

The main body of the pre-proposal must be prepared using font size 11 or greater with 1 inch margins. Failure to adhere to font, margin, and length requirements will result in disqualification of your pre-proposal without review. A complete pre-proposal must include Parts A, B, C, and D as described below:

A. Budget:

Complete the Nebraska EPSCoR Proposal Budget and Approval Form available from our web site <http://epscor.unl.edu/forms>. The budget form will be the pre-proposal cover sheet.

B. The main body:

The **main body** of the pre-proposal can not exceed **5 pages**; any references must be included within this page limit. The main body must include the following four mandatory sections (additional sections may be added when necessary).

- The **first** section must provide a general description of the project. A general background and objectives should establish the basis of the proposed research.
- The **second** section must be devoted to the significance, anticipated major outcomes and expected results.
- The **third** section must provide a clear statement about the relationship of the proposed research to the research interest of the DoD agency program(s) and prior contacts of the PI with the cognizant program officer.
- The **fourth** section must provide a budget justification of not more than one page.

C. Curriculum Vita:

Provide a **two-page CV** for the PI and significant collaborators. Do not append full CVs. This CV must include:

- your position, degrees, and experience (publications in general terms, but also in specific terms as related to the proposed research project or recent efforts) and any special background information of which you wish the Nebraska EPSCoR Committee to be aware.
- any grant(s) received within the last five years including the name(s) of each granting agency and the amount of each grant.

D. A letter of interest/support from one or more DOD program officers or division directors of AFOSR, ARO, or ONR.

Pre-proposals not conforming to the above specifications and late submissions will **not** be reviewed. Any submission after 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date below will be considered late and will **not** be accepted.

Nebraska EPSCoR seeks as many competitive pre-proposals as possible. If you have questions, you may call our office at 402-472-8946, or email epscor@unl.edu.

IV. Pre-proposal Submission Requirements and Deadlines:

Note that both **print** and **electronic PDF** submissions are required.

Print Submission: The original pre-proposal, **in print** and **with appropriate signatures**, must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, July 24, 2008**, in the Nebraska EPSCoR office at W192 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0557.

Electronic Submission: The pre-proposal must also be submitted electronically in **PDF** format via the Nebraska EPSCoR web site at <http://epscor.unl.edu/rfps> no later than **5:00 p.m., July 24, 2008**. When you submit electronically, you will see:

- a **budget** field for submission of Part A
- a **proposal** submission field for the rest of the proposal's components (Parts B, C, and D). Parts B-D must be submitted as **one PDF** document.

Pre-proposals selected for development into full proposals to be submitted to DEPSCoR by the State EPSCoR Committee will be identified by about late August. Full proposals for those selected to be forwarded by the Nebraska EPSCoR Committee will then be due in late September or early October 2008.

V. Useful web sites:

U.S. Army Research Office:

<http://www.aro.army.mil>

Office of Naval Research:

<http://www.onr.navy.mil>

Air Force Office of Scientific Research:

<http://www.afosr.af.mil>

Last year's DEPSCoR BAA (2009 BAA not available yet):

<http://www.arl.army.mil/main/main/default.cfm?Action=6&Page=8>