

ROSES-2015 A.45 Earth Science Applications: Socioeconomic Benefits Clarifications and Frequently Asked Questions

Updated March 14, 2016: Added Q23.

1. Is the Notice of Intent a commitment to bid?

No. NASA requested Notices of Intent for this solicitation, but it did not require them. They do not represent a commitment to bid.

2. Can an organization or proposal team submit a full proposal if it did not submit a Notice of Intent?

Yes. NASA requested Notices of Intent for this solicitation, but it did not require them.

3. Can a person be involved in and included on more than one proposal?

Yes. NASA Earth Science places no restrictions on the number of proposals that a person can be involved in and included on.

4. Can the personnel change from the Notice of Intent to the full proposal?

Yes. For this solicitation, the people listed on the Notice of Intent is non-binding. The peer review panel will only consider the people included in the full proposal.

5. Will the peer review panel consider the Notices of Intent?

No. The peer review panel will not receive, consider, nor review the NOIs.

6. Will NASA accept a Notice of Intent after the deadline of January 22, 2016?

Yes. The January 22, 2016 deadline was the date requested by NASA for NOIs submitted through the NSPIRES system. Proposal teams can submit an NOI after January 22 by sending it via email (PDF attachment preferred) to LFriedl@nasa.gov with the subject line "ROSES-15 A45 SEB – NOI".

7. Our proposal team is focused on one particular topic and determining the socioeconomic benefits from the use of Earth observations to address that topic. Is this narrow focus consistent with the solicitation?

Probably not. See Section 3.1 regarding the purpose and objectives of this solicitation. For example, one of the key objectives is for “greater number of applications of assessment methodologies across themes, sectors, decision types, and other meaningful factors.” NASA suggests that a program of activities narrowly focused on one particular topic will likely be less relevant to the objectives of this solicitation.

8. The solicitation indicates that the ESD Applied Sciences Program focuses on particular societal benefit areas. Are proposals to this solicitation limited to only those themes for articulating the socioeconomic impacts of Earth science applications?

No. Proposal teams should decide the appropriate set of themes and societal benefit areas to achieve the objectives of the solicitation (Section 3.1). Proposal teams may include theme(s) and

societal benefit area(s) other than (or in addition to) the current set of the ESD Applied Sciences Program's Applications Areas.

9. Remote sensing and Earth observations can provide information on social and economic drivers of Earth system change. Are investigations pursuing applications of such information aligned with the objectives of this solicitation?

No. While this is a worthy pursuit, that is not the focus of this solicitation. This solicitation is focused on techniques to determine the value and benefits (in social and economic terms) from the use of Earth observations to inform decisions and associated actions.

See the Note at the end of Section 2.1. Proposal teams interested in such pursuits are encouraged to look at other elements in ROSES-2015 and ROSES-2016, which is planned for release by the end of February 2016.

10. In this solicitation, is NASA accepting proposals to examine Earth science research questions in which the answers may have social and economic dimensions and impacts?

No. While this is a worthy pursuit, that is not the focus of this solicitation. See the Note at the end of Section 2.1. Proposal teams interested in such pursuits are encouraged to look at other elements in ROSES-2015 and ROSES-2016, which is planned for release by the end of February 2016. See also question 9.

11. Our team wants to apply social and economic data to examine their impacts on Earth system science change. Are such interests and pursuits aligned with this solicitation?

No. While this is a worthy pursuit, that is not the focus of this solicitation. See the Note at the end of Section 2.1. Proposal teams interested in such pursuits are encouraged to look at other elements in ROSES-2015 and ROSES-2016, which is planned for release by the end of February 2016. See also question 9.

12. In this solicitation, is NASA accepting proposals to conduct specific applications of Earth science to inform decision making, where the data applied may include social and economic data in addition to Earth observations?

No. While this is a worthy pursuit, that is not the focus of this solicitation. See the Note at the end of Section 2.1. Proposal teams interested in such pursuits are encouraged to look at other elements in ROSES-2015 and ROSES-2016, which is planned for release by the end of February 2016. See also question 9.

13. Our team wants to integrate social and economic data into on-going Earth science activities, such as climate model developments. Are such interests and pursuits aligned with this solicitation?

Probably not if the pursuit is focused primarily on advancing the climate models rather than advancing impact analysis techniques. See Sections 3.1 and 3.2. Proposal teams interested in such pursuits are encouraged to look at other elements in ROSES-2015 and ROSES-2016, which is planned for release by the end of February 2016. See also question 9.

14. Does NASA Earth Science and the Applied Sciences Program have or plan to issue a solicitation(s) for small, targeted impact analyses and/or for individual project impact analyses?

NASA Earth Science and the Applied Sciences Program are considering this; however, there are no solicitations in work or currently planned. The Program may re-examine this topic following the selection of award(s) for this ROSES-2015 A.45 solicitation.

15. Do we need to have an economist on the proposal team who specializes in or is already familiar with quantifying the benefits of Earth observing data?

No. While having such a person(s) may be advantageous, there is no requirement to have a person(s) with such skills and familiarity on a proposal team a priori. NASA Earth Science and the Applied Sciences Program recognize that there currently may be few economists that focus on quantifying the benefits of Earth observing data. It is NASA's desire that, through this solicitation, familiarity with Earth observations by economists will increase. One of the objectives of the solicitation is to build connections between the Earth science and economics communities so both sides are more familiar with what the others do.

16. For the Community Outreach element, what are the primary audiences? Does the outreach include the general public?

See Sections 3.2, 3.3.2, and 3.4.1. The primary audiences are a) the Earth science community to help inform them about key terms, concepts, and techniques associated with socioeconomic impact analysis and b) the social science community (social, economics, decision science, etc.) to help inform them about Earth science, which might support their activities. The community outreach part should be seen as an effort to build awareness, familiarity, and capacity. The general public could be part of the overall communication and outreach efforts, especially to build appreciation of the value of Earth observations; however, the general public is not the primary audience. (As per Section 5.6, NASA Earth Science will use results gained through this solicitation in public outreach activities.)

17. In Section 5.2, the solicitation indicates that there will be a decision point after three years. How will the continuation be decided?

NASA will conduct a full peer evaluation of all awards after the first three years in order to qualify for continued funding. NASA Earth Science and the Applied Sciences Program will conduct a peer review of the award(s) to assess the fulfillment of the solicitation objectives, and it will use the results of the assessment in the programmatic decision on continuation. If the assessment shows that the objectives are not being met, NASA will assess if the shortfall is fixable or whether a new solicitation would be a better approach to achieve the objectives.

18. Who submits a final proposal?

The Principal Investigator's organization and the AOR for that organization is the one to submit the full proposal. People and organizations who are unfamiliar with submitting proposals to NASA Earth Science are strongly encouraged to review the submission procedures and requirements. The Summary of Solicitation and NASA Guidebook for Proposers has information on submitting proposals to NASA.

19. The duration of the award is listed as 5 years (3 years plus 2 year extension). Should we construct and propose a five-year plan (schedule, milestones, budget, etc.) or a three-year plan with an explanation of what we would do if given a two-year extension?

Construct and propose a five year plan.

20. Our team is proposing to the Community Outreach element. Can the audience for outreach include international?

Yes, it can include international. As in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, the audience for outreach is the Earth science community. While the primary Earth science community that NASA supports is domestic, the broader Earth science community is international. It is up to the proposal team to describe the outreach approach(es), which would include geographic scope of audience, and argue why that approach is an effective way to serve the objectives.

21. Our team is proposing to both elements in one proposal. Do we need to have separate and distinct portions of our proposal for each element?

No. A team proposing to both elements may choose to present distinct portions but this is not required. The important thing is to present how the proposal addresses the objectives, including the two elements. While covering the topics in Section 5, proposal teams have flexibility in how to construct the proposal and articulate how they address the objectives and two elements.

22. Section 4 gives budget guidelines for the two elements of the solicitation. Our team is proposing to both elements in one proposal. Does a proposal to both elements need to follow the budget guidelines for each element?

No. For a team proposing to both parts in the same proposal, the budget figures for each element do not apply. Such teams should propose the budget profile (up to the max) to achieve the overall objectives and address the elements. In addition, such teams have flexibility with and variation in the budget profile to address the elements. The explanation of variation can go into the budget justification to help reviewers and NASA understand the reasoning.

Note: We provided the budget figures in Section 4 to give a sense of the budget for those proposal teams planning to submit to one element or the other.

23. The solicitation mentions frameworks in places, such as Sections 3.3 and 3.4. Can you clarify what is meant or the objective for framework(s)?

Through this solicitation, we are seeking a “program of activities” to serve the objectives (and its two elements). A framework is meant as a systematic way to address the dimensions, such as methods, themes, decision types, etc. There are numerous ways to construct and convey a framework. For example, a framework could be conveyed as a matrix of the dimensions, with the proposal team describing the systematic way it would address all or appropriate dimensions. This example is simply notional and is not a specific suggestion or an implied recommendation for a construction. Overall, it is up to the proposal team to describe a framework(s) for its particular proposed work.

Submissions are done via the NSPIRES system, <http://nspires.nasaprs.com/>. A help desk is available at nspires-help@nasaprs.com or [202.479-9376](tel:202.479-9376). Proposal teams and the AOR are urged to access the NSPIRES system well in advance of the proposal due date to familiarize themselves with its structure and enter the requested identifier information.