



NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the U.S. Geological Survey's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	USGS- 17-FA-0281
Project Title	Reduction of Earthquake Losses in the Extended Mediterranean Region (RELEMR) Program
Recipient	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior De Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC) of Spain
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$97,500.00
Cost Share	N/A
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$97,500.00
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Period of Performance	1 Year
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA # and Title	15.808
USGS Point of Contact	Jeff Doebrich, USGS, OIP (703) 648-6103 <jdoebric@usgs.gov>

OVERVIEW

The Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (hereafter – “CSIC”) proposes to work with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), and a number of Spanish and international organizations dedicated to the understanding of seismology and earthquake hazard mitigation to host a workshop in Madrid, Spain in the Fall of 2017. The Reduction of Earthquake Losses in the Extended Mediterranean Region (RELEMR) Program Workshop will bring Middle East Countries together to address two main concerns. The first is to discuss regional seismology in order to develop a better understanding of how and where earthquakes occur in the Mediterranean region so that their threat can be better evaluated. The second is to discuss strategies to mitigate the damage earthquakes cause to life and property.

The USGS will provide a Federal Assistance Award to CSIC who will provide a forum for discussion of the current state of the earthquake hazard reduction in each RELEMR country. Within that workshop study forum scientists will work cooperatively to share regional seismicity data and information with countries throughout the Middle East region.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

CSIC will be responsible for hosting this RELEMR workshop, the goals of which will include:

- Promote a better understanding of the distribution, size, frequency, and cause of damaging seismic events in the Mediterranean region; and
- Promote a better understanding of ways to mitigate the loss of life and damage to property due to earthquakes in the Mediterranean region.

CSIC will:

- Provide invitations to between 40 and 60 invited guests from Middle East Countries. The countries that will be represented in the invitation list include Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, the UAE, and Yemen. Although focused on attendees from Middle East countries, invitations will also be extended to specialists from several European Countries and from the United States. The invitation list will be coordinated with and approved by the USGS, UNESCO and CSIC. The invitations will be issued by CSIC and UNESCO;
- Provide airfares, lodging, and subsistence for selected invitees;
- Provide a three-day technical program in collaboration with and approved by the USGS and UNESCO; and
- Provide a day-long field trip, including transportation and meals.

USGS INVOLVEMENT

The USGS activity under this grant will be to work cooperatively with scientists from CSIC, MNCN, and UNESCO to organize the workshop study forum to allow for data and information sharing of regional seismology from countries within the Middle East Region. The USGS agrees to the following activities:

- Take the lead on determining invitees to the workshop from Middle East and Mediterranean countries;
- Collaborate with UNESCO in developing a final workshop agenda;
- Provide expertise in earthquake early warning (EEW) and participate in EEW technical sessions; and
- Organize reports from participating countries with an emphasis on seismic attenuation and its impacts on ground shaking.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.

In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives;
- (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity;
- (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;
- (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;
- (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.
- (6) Cooperative Agreements - USGS Unique Authority cited at Section 632(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), 22 U.S.C. Sec. 2392(b) or DOI Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 1457b (not-for-profit organizations).

USGS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

- (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support

capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications.

Single Source Justification Description:

CSIC is well qualified to implement this workshop. CSIC is home to the Department of Geology at the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (MNCN), one of the most relevant research institutes of the natural sciences in Spain. The institute hosts more than 70 research scientists (total staff around 300 including technicians and lab personnel) and has five research departments engaged in different disciplines such as geology, climate change, paleobiology, ecology, environmental biology, biodiversity, etc. The scientists within the Department of Geology serve as one of Spain's principal sources of information concerning natural disasters and response to those disasters. Finally, CSIC, through different institutes, e.g., Instituto de Ciencias de la Tierra 'Jaume Almera' and MNCN, has a long history of engagement with the RELEMR program and has hosted several of its workshops and meetings.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Cooperative Agreements - USGS Unique Authority cited at Section 632(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), 22 U.S.C. Sec. 2392(b) and DOI Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 1457b (not-for-profit organizations).

43 U.S.C. 1457b: The Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with a State or political subdivision (including any agency thereof), or any not-for-profit organization if the agreement will: (1) serve a mutual interest of the parties to the agreement in carrying out the programs administered by the Department of the Interior; and (2) all parties will contribute resources to the accomplishment of these objectives. At the Discretion of the Secretary, such agreements shall not be subject to a competitive process.